

Writing 100, Section H
HOW THE WORD GETS OUT
Reeve 212
MWF 11:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.
Moravian College
Fall 2007

Professor Mary H. Snyder

Office hours: MF 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

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Course Content and Purpose

In this course, we will be exploring and examining "how the word gets out," and we will also be attempting different means to get our own words out. We will be narrowing our focus to "how the word gets out" about the future. We will be dividing our discussion of the future into the following three sections:

- **Where are we?** We will begin by looking at what is being written, studied, and filmed, about our society today. We will delve into a few of the most pressing issues, especially those issues that will affect the future or be affected in and/or by the future.
- **Where have we been?** We will study a text written in the past that can be interpreted as a warning and view this warning from our vantage point in the present.
- **Where are we going?** We will study a text written recently, and adapted into film, that provides a vision of the future that is not pleasant. We will make informed determinations about whether or not we believe this fiction could become true.

The goal of this course is to understand and produce thoughtful writing, prose that expresses and develops, explores and sustains ideas and their justifications. We'll be using our study of the future, and the dissemination of information through both nonfiction and fiction genres, by way of a variety of media to achieve this goal. We'll pay particular attention to the style of writing common to the academic community: writing that presents and develops an insightful claim about the world and supports that claim with sound reasoning and good evidence.

Texts/Films

An Inconvenient Truth
God Grew Tired of Us
Frankenstein (1818 version)
The Children of Men (film and text)
The Bedford Handbook
Handouts given in class

Grading

You will need a notebook of some type for this class. We will do writing exercises in class, depending on the class. Writing is a process, not merely a product. We will be focusing on various stages of writing, not only the final piece.

Your work will be evaluated as follows:

Informal writing - 100 points total, or 10% of your final grade

Formal writing - 700 points total, or 70% of your final grade

Assignment 1 (A1) - 150 points

Assignment 2 (A2) - 150 points

Assignment 3 (A3) - 200 points

Assignment 4 (A4) - 200 points

Participation in class - 200 points total, or 20% of your final grade

Total points = 1000

Each paper grade will be based on the following components leading up to each of the four formal writing assignments that will develop from written exercises, reading, film-viewing, class discussion, group work, and class workshops:

1. A first draft - 20 points
2. Peer review (of a partner or group member's paper) - 20 points
3. A neat and correctly formatted final draft - 100 points
4. A self-evaluation of the final draft of your paper - 10 points

These items will be included at the minimum. I will provide a list of the required pieces to be handed in with the final draft. This list will depend on the formal assignment, but the items above always will be included on the list for each assignment. Regardless of the items required, they must be paper-clipped

together or put in a folder. If these specifications are not satisfied, I will not accept your assignment. Your name must be on each piece of the assignment, and each piece must be labeled (e.g., first draft should be labeled as such, etc.).

I will hold conferences with you at mid-semester and you can meet with me during my office hours any time during the semester. I encourage it. In addition, I will give extra credit for work with a Writing Center tutor for any or all of the formal writing assignments.

You will receive a participation grade for each day of class, five points per class dependent upon your involvement in class. Five points per class totals 210 points for all classes. Since a total of 200 points is allotted for participation, you have two free days to be not as involved in class, maybe for an off day. Otherwise, I expect full engagement in class. If you do not attend class, it does follow that your participation grade will be a zero for that day. Also, as you would expect, poor attendance will negatively affect your grade for the course.

My Policy Regarding Late Assignments: I DO NOT accept late assignments. If you experience extenuating circumstances that prevent you from completing an assignment on time, you will need to have documentation of that circumstance and I reserve the right to make my decision. If it is an extenuating circumstance, you have 24 hours past the due date to hand in the assignment, both through email and a hard copy. Thus, no late assignments will be accepted unless proper documentation of an extenuating circumstance is provided and approved by me, and then only by getting the late assignment to me, both through email and hard copy, within 24 hours of the due date. A penalty for lateness will apply.

My Policy Regarding Email: I will not accept any assignments through email, unless as specified above, due to an extenuating circumstance. I will respond to any email messages as I deem necessary, and I recommend talking to me in class or during office hours of any concerns you have about this course. Email is not always reliable, or effective, in getting the response you need. That being said, please use email carefully and appropriately.

Assignment Schedule

Have assignments ready for specified day. I reserve the right to change the schedule should I feel it necessary for any reason, including both additions and/or subtractions. Also, further details will be given in class for all assignments listed; this is a general guide.

Week 1 - The news

- M 8/27: Introduction, syllabus
- W 8/29: Newspaper work
- F 8/31: Newspaper work
Informal writing assignment - Letter to the Editor

Week 2 - More indepth news

- M 9/3: Labor Day (no class)
- W 9/5: Letter to the Editor due
News magazines
Magazine essay handout
- F 9/7: Response to/analysis of magazine essay

Week 3 - Documenting our world another way

- M 9/10: Essay on global warming
- W 9/12: *An Inconvenient Truth*
- F 9/14: *An Inconvenient Truth*

Week 4 - Is the truth inconvenient? Is it the truth?

- M 9/17: Discuss film and first formal writing assignment (A1)
- W 9/19: A1 first draft due; peer review
- F 9/21: A1 final draft due

Week 5 - Documenting Africa

- M 9/24: Informal assignment on Africa
- W 9/26: *God Grew Tired of Us*
- F 9/28: *God Grew Tired of Us*

Week 6 - Proposing a Documentary

- M 10/1: Model for documentary proposal; discussion of assignment (A2)
- W 10/3: A2 first draft due; peer review
- F 10/5: A2 final draft due

Week 7 - The future in the past

- M 10/8: No class
- W 10/10: *Frankenstein, Vol. I*
- F 10/12: *Frankenstein, Vol. II*

Week 8 - Shelley's warning

- M 10/15: *Frankenstein, Vol. III*
- W 10/17: Discussion of *Frankenstein*
- F 10/19: The sciences of the past

Week 9 - Medical advances since Shelley's time

- M 10/22: "The Score"; response (informal writing)
- W 10/24: In class work
- F 10/26: In class work

Week 10 - Medicine today

- M 10/29: "Merced"; response (informal writing)
- W 10/31: In class work
- F 11/2: In class work

Week 11 - Research assignment - cloning, IVF

M 11/5: Discuss assignment (A3)

W 11/7: Research - library

F 11/9: Research - library

Week 12 - Drafting the research findings

M 11/12: A3 first draft due

W 11/14: A3 second draft due

F 11/16: A3 final draft due

Week 13 - The children of men

M 11/19: *The Children of Men*, Book One, Chapters 1-8

Discuss last formal writing assignment (A4)

W 11/21: Thanksgiving break

F 11/23: Thanksgiving break

Week 14 - More children of men

M 11/26: *The Children of Men*, Book One, Chapters 9-19

W 11/28: *The COM*, Book Two, Chapters 20-27

F 11/30: *The COM*, Book Two, Chapters 28-33

Begin film

Week 15 - The visual of a possible future?

M 12/3: Film

W 12/5: Finish film

F 12/7: A4 first draft due; peer review

Last day of class - What does the future hold?

M 12/10: A4 final draft due