

REBELS & RISK-TAKERS: The Individual vs. Society

Writing 100/Fall 2007/ Instructor Mark Will-Weber (E-mail: Coachwebs@aol.com)

You may arrange an appointment with the instructor either through e-mail or before or after class.

COURSE INFORMATION:

This course will engage the topic (“Rebels & Risk-Takers”) to create writing that is, first and foremost, organized and clear, but also writing that reflects the “voice” and flair of the student. A primary objective will to improve the student’s writing over the length of the course. The instructor will impress upon the student the importance of reading creative works of quality in order to improve critical thought process and—by example—improve the student’s own creative approach to writing.

TEACHING METHOD:

The primary method of teaching this course will be to start with several (two or three) “warm-up” papers and then—after receiving critical feedback on these initial efforts—progress to “rough drafts” and longer, graded assignments. Peer editing of rough drafts and an examination of sample papers will also be part of the learning process.

REQUIREMENTS:

The cornerstones of the course will be two required written papers/essays that relate to the topics we examine/discuss in class. It is understood the student will demonstrate reasonable knowledge (through both writing and class participation) on all assigned readings (non-fiction, fiction, poetry) and films we may watch.

GRADING:

The two major writing assignments—and the rough drafts leading up the finished paper—will account for approximately 70 per cent of the student’s final grade. The remaining 30 percent will come from class participation and the submission of several (4 or 5) non-graded smaller writing assignments. Class attendance *is* an important part of your class participation grade.

TEXT

All students are required to have the Bedford Handbook to bolster writing skills and “trouble-shoot” specific writing problems.

The instructor will supply all other materials needed for the class. Subjects we will study will include mountain climbing (the film documentary “Touching the Void”;

Jon Krakauer’s “Into Thin Air” and Aron Ralston’s “Between a Rock and a Hard Place”—both from Outside Magazine); bullfighting (journalistic essay from Ernest Hemingway and other writers; poem from Samuel Haza “Manolete and Islero”); and various other writers on “risk”—including Tom Wolfe (“The Right Stuff”) and Dostoyevsky (“The Gambler”).