

REBELS & RISK-TAKERS: The Individual vs. Society

Writing 100/Spring 2008/ 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.

SUBJECTS OF STUDY: We will examine ancient explorers (Cook, Columbus etc.) vs. modern explorers (space) via “Guns, Germs & Steel” by Jared Diamond and “The Right Stuff” by Tom Wolfe; risk-taking as a cultural embrace (bullfighting in Pamplona etc.); mountain climbing to the extreme (British documentary “Touching the Void”). We will also examine other topics of risk as introduced by the instructor.

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.