

advanced composition spring 2010

Teacher Nina LaCour Room 210 Days & Times M, T, F 8:55-9:45/ Th 8:00-9:40

Materials to bring to class each day:

-an advanced composition binder -both readers -lined paper -a pen -recommended: a thumb drive, external hard drive, OR your own laptop

Work:

The assignments for this class will be many and varied. They are designed to help you think critically about the works of fiction and nonfiction we will be reading, to explore different methods of communicating, and to strengthen your abilities as writers. Here is a list of assignments with their point value:

-writing exercises (You will do several writing exercises per week, some in class and some as homework. Each exercise needs to be titled, dated, and included in your composition binder. I will review your work each Thursday during class and give you an exercise grade for the week. Please note: I will not accept late exercises. Your exercises will help you generate ideas and material for your lengthier assignments.) 140 points/10 points per week until the last week

-blog postings (Once a week you will post an exercise of your choosing on the blog, www.pencil-in-pocket.blogspot.com, resulting in 13 posts over the course of the semester.) -blog comments (You will read and comment on each blog posting, resulting in around 10 comments per week.)

Blog comments and postings will, like the writing exercises, receive a weekly grade. 140 points/10 points per week until the last week

-a short story 100 points -a personal essay/memoir piece 100 points -a magazine-style nonfiction piece 100 points

-a podcast (You will adapt one of your previously written assignments for the podcast.) 75 points

-annotations on readings 60+ points -a comprehensive final 100 points

Participation:

Participation is an integral component of this class. It is also mandatory. Each student in this class must both share their writing and thoughtfully comment on their classmates' writing. You will be expected to read aloud in class and to post your work on the blog. I understand that most of you, at first, will feel nervous about sharing your writing. Let's work together to create a supportive and inspiring class environment.

If you feel unable to share or to comment, please let me know in the first week of the semester and I will work on placing you in another class.

Academic Honesty:

I fully expect that the work you turn in is entirely your own. If you are using other people's words or ideas, you need to credit them. Cheating, copying from a classmate, or attempting to disguise other people's words or ideas as your own may lead to expulsion. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please don't hesitate to ask me.

Keys to Success:

I am confident that all of you have the potential to succeed in this class. Below is a short list of suggestions to help you reach that potential. -Communication: Always let me know if you are having trouble meeting deadlines or following along in class. I will work with you to help you through any difficulties that you may have. -Tenacity: No matter how difficult an assignment is, don't give up! -Respect: Treat your classmates, yourself, and me with respect. Listen when others are speaking. Consider ideas that may differ from your own. Allow yourself to ask for help or clarification when you need it.