

Academic Writing (ACWR) 203 L01
Academic Writing for Specialized Audiences II
Theories of Us: Raising Your Voice
Winter, 2012
January 11 – April 11
Wednesdays, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm, CHE 118

Instructor: Laura Swart
Office Location: Native Center
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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

Welcome to Academic Writing 203, *Theories of Us: Raising Your Voice*. In this course, you will learn to employ the conventions of academic discourse and research writing. Through weekly focused readings, you will analyze written texts, formulate your ideas through discussions with peers, and discuss your findings in three in-class critical essays. The course will culminate in a major research project, in which you will investigate the essential issues of human existence.

Objectives of the Course

Through focused readings and inquiry-based writing assignments, this course will help you to

- ◆Read and think critically
- ◆Conduct primary and secondary research
- ◆Write critical/research papers using a range of strategies for developing research questions, finding information, exploring and organizing ideas, and drafting
- ◆Structure papers with an effective thesis, introduction, and conclusion; develop focused arguments; produce well developed paragraphs with strong topic sentences
- ◆Critically analyze, use and cite sources using APA format
- ◆Edit effectively for errors in sentence structure, grammar, word use, spelling, and punctuation

Internet and electronic communication device information

No electronic devices in the classroom, please.

Textbooks and Readings:

1. Young, Laura. Cut it Out

(available at the University of Calgary bookstore)

2. Griffin, John Howard. Black Like Me

(available at the University of Calgary bookstore)

Please bring *Black Like Me* to every class.

3. Additional handouts from the instructor

Assignments and Evaluation

NOTE: You will receive detailed written instructions for each assignment. I will meet with you regularly to discuss your progress.

In-class Critical Essays 60%

Each essay is an 800-word analysis of course readings

- ◆January 25, 11:00 am (20%)
- ◆February 15, 11:00 am (20%)
- ◆March 7, 11:00 am (20%)

Debate Project 40%

- ◆PART 1 (20%): Four-person debate on March 21 OR March 28

You will be given an assigned date for your debate. If you are late or absent for your debate, you will receive a grade of zero unless you are seriously ill or there is a death in your family. Written documentation outlining the reason for your absence will be required, and you will be given an in-class writing assignment worth 20%.

- ◆PART 2 (20%): Take-home essay (1000 words) outlining your research findings as they relate to Black Like Me (Due April 11).

Please keep a copy of your take-home essay. Hand in the essay directly to me if possible. If this is not possible, bring it to the Native Center and leave it with Cate Hanington. Also, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date and placed in my mailbox. Please email me if you use the drop box.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam from SS320 after classes have ended.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see <http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow>. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: www.efwr.ucalgary.ca

Grading System

The following grading system is used in the Department of Communication and Culture:

(Revised, effective September 2008)

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. F will be converted to zero.

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (MacEwan Student Centre 4th floor, efwr.ucalgary.ca) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link;
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

Students' Union

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Arts see
<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html>

Student Ombudsman

For details on the Student Ombudsman's Office see
<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points

For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

"SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see

The Department of Communication and Culture Research Ethics site:

<http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/ethics>

or the University of Calgary Research Ethics site:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/cfreb>