

Missouri Western State University  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
English 104 Sections 10 and 13  
Section 10 [CRN 10189] meets 11-11:50 MWF Eder 210  
Section 13 [CRN 10194] meets at 12-12:50 Eder 216  
Fall 2009

Instructor: Dr. Karen U. Fulton  
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Office hours: 10-11 MWF, 2-3WT; other times by appointment

Required Texts: Anderson, Chris and Lex Runciman. *Open Questions*. Boston: Bedford, 2005

A one-inch or larger three-ring notebook with a supply of notebook paper (not spiral bound). It is important that you bring this to class on September 2, 2009 and every class thereafter.

#### The Course in Brief:

This course asks you to become part of a community engaged in reading, discussing and writing about how we make decisions that define us and that influence many groups and communities to which we belong. This sounds abstract, but the various readings and scenarios in *Open Questions* will offer many particulars. You shall use these readings as material for frequent in-class conversations and as the basis for a variety of writing assignments. And you shall use these assignments as opportunities to more thoroughly understand many of the writing aims and practices that you will adapt for use in courses later.

#### Grades:

Grades for this course will be determined on three factors:

1. Course participation (10%) Three times this semester you'll be asked to rate your own participation according to specific criteria, the form is posted on the O-drive (which we will go over today). If I agree with your rating, I'll record it as you've indicated. If I disagree, I'll ask you for more information. If you do not turn in an evaluation within one week of the due date, I'll make my own estimate of your participation.

2. Informal writes (20%) (which I will sometimes refer to as a process journal; it means the same thing). You are required to complete 25 informal writes this semester in order to receive a grade of C on this portion of the course. You are encouraged to do more on your own. In general, these are to be word-processed ½-1 page (definition and example of a page are also on O-drive) paragraphs that capture some point of your thinking about some aspect of this course. I will provide 25 prompts for you to begin from. They won't be read for grammar, punctuation, or spelling. They will be read according to what they are saying or trying to say. I will collect specific Informal Writes a few times during the semester, and on these, I'll make some return comment and put a check mark next to your name in the grade book.

At the end of the semester, you will turn in all your informal writes to me for an overall review. However, I will accept only one make-up for the last class day. In short you cannot "save up" your informal writes for the end of the term. You need to keep up with them and be prepared to hand in any one assigned at any time. You may want to keep them in the binder which you bring to class. Occasionally, I will assign an in-class informal write; obviously this will be handwritten and not word-processed. You will word-process them for the final collection.

If you miss a class when an informal write has been collected, it is your responsibility to email or hand me a word-processed copy no more than two class sessions later than when it was done in order for it to receive credit. All informal writes will be posted on the O drive in advance of when they are due (except for in-class informal writes).

3. Formal writing assignments (60%) You'll be asked to complete several papers this term.

Each will have its own process which might have preliminary assignments. The papers are weighted more heavily toward the end of the semester. Grades are given on a 100% scale, and 10% gradations. If at any time you have concerns about your progress or your grade, you owe it to yourself to come to my office during office hours and discuss this with me.

Here, in brief are the formal assignments:

1. A portrait of you as a writer. This portrait will be made up of pieces of individual writing which you will generate in class, as Informal Writes, and writings you have done earlier. The writer's portrait may contain poems you have written, thoughts that you have about the process, etc. (5 pages)

Due Date: September 14, 2009. Points 10.

2. Thesis paper #1: Description/Reflection Essay. Correct use of two sources from *Open Questions*. (5-6 pages).

Due Date: October 2, 2009. Points 15.

3. Thesis Paper #2: University as Community of Truth. Correct use of two sources from *Open Questions*. (6 pages)

Due Date: October 30, 2009 Points 15.

4. Thesis Paper #3: Final essay topic to be decided by the class. Correct use of two sources from *Open Questions* (6-7 pages).

Due Date: November 23, 2009. Points 20

#### Final Examinations

Section 10 (11AM) December 11, 2009 11:30 am.

Section 13 (Noon) December 9, 2009 11:30 am.

#### Grading Criteria:

For Class Participation, Journals, and for Formal Assignments are available in the Fulton ENG 104 folder on the O drive.

**Disability Policy:** It is the student's responsibility to make the instructor aware of any disability which may interfere with maximum learning. The instructor will work to accommodate the student.

**Attendance Policy:** More than 3 absences will result in the lowering of a student's grade; more than 6 will result in failure for the course. All missed work must be made up by the student. Under University Policy, if you have 3 unexcused absences at midterm (an unexcused absence is one that does not involve a University function), I must report you as FA. This will result in you being dropped from the class and your financial aid being refigured. If you have more than 6 absences by the time of the final, I must report you as FA.

Please see the University catalog page 23 for this policy in 100 and 200 level courses.

**Academic Honesty Policy:** Last, but most importantly, the University requires that you adhere to the Academic Honesty Policy which is described in the *Student Handbook*. The University and the Professor expect that any work turned in for grading will be the work of the student. If violations to the Academic Honesty Policy occur, the minimum consequence will be failure for the assignment. If the violation is sufficiently grave or repeated, the student will fail the course and be reported to the Provost. Two reports of Academic Dishonesty to the Provost will result in the student being separated from the University.