

ENG/EDU 501: Professional Writing Retreat Syllabus
Summer 2009
Missouri Western State University
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Journalism
Department of Education
Prairie Lands Writing Project Web Site: <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/plwp/>

How to Contact Your Teacher

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Graduate Catalog Description: ENG/EDU 501 Topics in Teaching Writing (1-2 credits each; may be repeated for a total of four credits; offered on demand). Writing seminar for teachers or pre-service teachers with senior standing at MWSU which addresses a particular issue related to literacy teaching. Prerequisite: Senior standing at MWSU with successful completion of EDU Junior Experience or BS or BA degree.

About This Course

This weekend-long course (Friday through Sunday), designed for professional development, is also intended as a means of self-reflection on the participant's teaching experience and as a way of enriching each participant's teaching—and writing—life. This course in particular encourages students to apply their teaching knowledge to various forms of written expression, both prose and poetic.

Methods of Learning

Primarily, each student will learn through writing. However, exposure to peer revision and one-on-one consultation with an editor will also enrich each person's knowledge base.

Textbook Information

This class requires no textbook. However, readings and other materials will be made available for review. All materials for the course can be found in the retreat folder/booklet, supplied at the beginning of the weekend.

Content

Throughout the weekend, participants will construct article(s) discussing and/or relating to their teaching experience. These articles may include but are not limited to: newspaper articles, magazine articles, newsletter pieces, lesson plans, etc. The course will focus heavily on writing time as peer evaluation groups and an editor are available for consultation. Participants may also use this class as a "testing" vehicle for writing pieces assigned within their own classrooms, such as poems, essays, letters, etc.

Official Policy Statements

This course adheres to all MWSU policies and regulations as set forth in the policy statements and catalogs of this institution.

Grading

Students will be evaluated primarily on the basis of their written work and contribution within both the peer writing groups and the class as a whole. A beneficial member of any writing group contributes positive yet critical feedback. Peer reviewers should follow the tenets of National Writing Project within the time of the retreat—everyone is a writer, conveying both positive feedback and ways in which the author's piece can be improved, focusing on process as well as product. No individual grades will be assigned for any activity, writing or peer group work; however, you will receive critical responses from the retreat editor, director and many retreat participants.

We plan, therefore, to assign only the grade of A. An "A" represents the following characteristics have been achieved:

- Community: You have participated fully in the activities of the retreat
- Expectations: You have met all expectations published in this syllabus.

· Writing: You email a draft of your writing completed from the weekend no later than Wednesday, June 18, to your instructor. NOTE: The deadline for withdrawing without penalty is Thursday, June 19, should you decide not to submit your writings.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a form of cheating. That all students do their own work is basic to their learning experience. To submit a paper that is in part or in whole the work of another unaccredited person is plagiarism. Students found guilty of plagiarism may fail the assignment and/or the course and be reported to the MWSU administration for inclusion in the student's permanent file under the guidelines of academic honesty.

Course Outline ***Subject to Change***

Friday, June 12

6.30 p.m. Introduction to course and participants
7.30 p.m. Workshop on how to respond to writing critically.
This is also the time when everyone should tell his/her article topic so that response groups can be formed.
9.30 p.m. Retire

Saturday, June 13

8.00 a.m. Group check-in and assignment of response groups
8.30 a.m. Individual writing time
12.00 p.m. Lunch
1.00 p.m. Individual writing time (response groups should meet)
5.00 p.m. Group check in (how's everyone doing?)
5.30 p.m. Dinner
6.30 p.m. Individual writing time
9.00 p.m. A time to be social....or keep writing...or retire

Sunday, June 14

8.00 a.m. Individual writing time (response groups should meet again)
10.30 a.m. Read around (each person reads for about 3 minutes)
12.00 p.m. Lunch
12.30 p.m. Go home, refreshed, renewed, and with a publishable piece of writing mostly finished—if not completed.

Total: 18 Clock Hours of Writing and Instruction

Assignment: Please email me a copy of your completed writing from the weekend no later than Wednesday, June 24, or you could receive an "F" grade in the course. The deadline for withdrawing from the class without penalty is Thursday, June 18, I think.