

114B SYLLABUS

Approaches to University Writing 114B Spring 2014

Instructor: Susana Marcelo
Office Hours: TTH 9:45-10:45 a.m.
Office Number: Sierra Hall 194
Email: susana.aguilar.807@my.csun.edu

Ticket Number: 18978
Room Number: Sierra Hall 312
Class Time: TTH 12:00 – 1:45 pm

Required Books:



Additional reading material will be provided throughout the semester.

Required Supplies

- CSUN EMAIL
- Notebook

Additional Resources

- Learning Resource Center (LRC) Writing Lab: <http://www.csun.edu/lrc/writing/writinglab.html>
- Purdue University Owl: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>
- Grammar Girl: <http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/>
- MLA Works Cited Help: www.noodletools.com and Purdue Owl (see above)
- CSUN Calendar with Important Dates Noted: <http://www.csun.edu/anr/soc/calendar.html>

Introduction: You are a Writer! Yes, You!

Welcome to Approaches to University Writing 114B where everyone is a writer. Don't believe me? Do you text, tweet, or update your Facebook status? If you've got something to say, then that means you're a writer.

As a scholar, this course helps you enhance your writing and critical thinking skills for the success of your academic career and beyond. We will explore various visual and written genres through the theoretical lens of aesthetics and the

modern, transnational world. Students will create the following projects: narratives, micro-essays, reflections, and digital art.

Come to class with a good attitude and approach discussions with an open-mind. Sometimes we will discuss subjects that may be sensitive to others, so think before you speak. Be honest but not apathetic.

Course Description

Prerequisites: Successful completion of ENGL 114A. Expository prose writing with a focus on both content and form. Specific emphases include the exercise of logical thought and clear expression, the development of effective organizational strategies and the appropriate gathering and utilization of evidence. Includes instruction on diction, syntax and grammar, as well as the elements of prose style. Students receive credit for only 1 course chosen from AAS, CAS, CHS, ENGL, PAS and QS 114B. Individual tutoring is available through the Learning Resource Center.

Course Objectives

- Demonstrate competence in university writing
- Demonstrate the ability to use rhetorical strategies that include the appeal to audience, logic, and emotion
- Understand writing as a recursive process and demonstrate its use through invention, drafting, and revision (creating, shaping, and completing)
- Demonstrate the ability to use conventions of format, structure, style, and language appropriate to the purpose of a print or online text
- Demonstrate the ability to use library and online resources effectively

Student Learning Outcomes

- You will gain the ability to read critically
- You will gain the ability to write effectively in various genres
- You will gain knowledge of the cultural diversity of literatures

Classroom Conduct

- Have a sense of humor! Bring it to every class.
- Keep an open mind and listen to one another.
- Do not be rude, disruptive, or inconsiderate.
- Put all technological devices away before class begins.
- If your phone rings during class, you will have to bring cookies for everyone.

Attendance and Punctuality

University policy states that you cannot be absent more than three times, unless it is an emergency (documentation required from doctor/police report etc.). We all have sick days, so save your three absences for when you really need them.

When you are absent, do not ask me what you have missed. It is your responsibility to contact a classmate for notes and a recap. Additionally, you cannot make up any in-class work, such as WPE practice exams, peer-reviewed drafts, and quizzes.

You must also be on time and stay for the entire class. Arriving late or leaving early is disruptive, and this will count as half an absence.

If you are absent five times or more, you will be in danger of failing.

Participation

You are required to participate in class. This course is a workshop and roundtable discussion in one, so it's not enough to be present, you must also be proactive and engaged. Participation counts towards your grade. This makes a big difference between an *A* and a *B*, or between *C* and *D*.

Participation includes in-class assignments and coming to class prepared to discuss the readings.

Blogging

Please check your reading list weekly. Some readings will come from your textbook while others may come in pdf form or uploaded via hyperlinks. You must read all the readings assigned for that week.

Depending on the assignment, I will ask you to reflect on the readings and write a response or a brief essay as a blog post. Engage with the genre of online writing, especially in relation to academia. I will keep track of your improvement as I will evaluate how well you are responding to the assignments.

Course Expectations:

- Regular attendance and participation, which includes quizzes, in-class freewrites, etc.
- Learning Resource Center visits
- The Projects, including peer reviews and all essay drafts
- Final Portfolio: Must keep all your assignments!
- Bring all required materials to class—no exceptions.

Late and Emailed Work:

Turn in your work on time. Late work is not accepted unless you have an emergency and you have proper documentation. If so...read the following section carefully!

IMPORTANT: If You Need Help or You're Having Problems

I have an "open-door" policy, meaning that you must communicate with me regarding any problems or concerns. I cannot help you if you do not reach out to me.

We all have personal lives outside of the university and sometimes awful things just happen. If you experience an emergency, please see me right away or email me. Email is always best outside of class and my office hours. I am an email junkie and check it daily.

However, be responsible! Even when you think you've got it tough, someone out there probably has it tougher and is doing what they can to make things work. Despite dire circumstances, there have been students who still come to class on time and turn in all their work. So in other words, if you were being irresponsible (you cannot fool yourself), rectify your behavior. Learn from your mistakes. I cannot guarantee anything until I know your unique situation; therefore, please talk to me about it immediately. Do not wait!

Additionally, if you have a disability please let me know.

You're Too Smart to Plagiarize, Do Not Do It!

The CSUN catalogue defines plagiarism as "intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas or works of another as one's own in any academic exercise." We will review and discuss the issue of plagiarism in class. Remember, academic dishonesty by cheating or plagiarism can result in an *F* and is "an offense for which a student may be expelled,

suspended, or given a less severe disciplinary sanction.” If you are unsure if you’re plagiarizing, ask me. I will be more than happy to address your concerns.

The Projects

Just like the progressions, the projects are a series of interconnected reading, writing, and thinking exercises. This movement grows out of the specific assignments and collaborative nature of the projects and leads to projects that bear marks of distinction, direction, and development.

Project Text: This project asks you to interpret a major text through close reading and research.

Project Space: This project considers the socioeconomics and politics of space. We’re interested in how space shapes our conception of the world and people around us.

Project Web: For this project, you will ask and explore a pertinent research question regarding our perception of progress, technology, and human relationships. You will learn how to conduct thorough research using a variety of resources.

Final Portfolio: You will create an online business portfolio where you can use the writing you’ve done in this class as a writing sample.

GRADING SCALE:

I use the +/- grading scale. There is a total of 1000 points possible in this class. Final grades are determined as follows.

A: 940-1000	B+: 870-899	C+: 770-779	D+: 670-699	F < 600
A-: 900-939	B: 830-869	C: 730-769	D: 630-669	
	B-: 800-829	C-: 700-729	D-: 600-629	

Participation/In-Class Assignments = 50 pts

Project 1 = 300 points

Project 2 = 300 points

Project 3 = 300 points

Portfolio = 50 pts

Please note: Our class schedule and syllabus may change as the semester progresses; however, I will go over any and all changes with you and in advance.

Good luck with the semester!