

English 703 – Research Methods in Writing & Rhetoric

Spring 2013

Tuesdays 1:00 – 3:30pm

Professor Christa Olson

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*office hours: Tuesdays 11:00am–12:00pm,
Thursdays 12:00 – 1:00pm
& by appointment*

Organized around a set of recent monographs published in *Composition & Rhetoric*, this “tools” course emphasizes the practical, ethical, and theoretical challenges of doing doctoral level research. The monographs we read will serve as touch-points for discussions and hands-on practice sessions, allowing us to engage a wide array of the methods and methodologies used in the field. The purpose of the course is to deeply engage the broad processes and questions of doing research rather than the specific techniques of any given method. As such, it aims to provide a foundation for future research, whatever direction that takes you.

Required Texts

To be purchased (available at Rainbow Books):

Dingo, Rebecca. *Networking Arguments: Rhetoric, Transnational Feminism, and Public Policy Writing*. U of Pittsburgh P, 2012.

Rice, Jenny. *Distant Publics: Development Rhetoric and the Subject of Crisis*. U of Pittsburgh P, 2012.

Wells, Susan. *Our Bodies, Ourselves and the Work of Writing*. Stanford UP: 2010.

Available through Learn@UW:

Fulford, Carolyn J. “Writing Across the Curriculum Program Development as Ideological and Rhetorical Practice.” Ph.d. Dissertation, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, 2009.

Lorimer, Rebecca. “Traveling Literacies: Writing Among Languages and Locations.” Ph.d. Dissertation, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2012.

Additional readings available on Learn@UW

Attendance & Participation

It goes without saying that your unbroken attendance in seminar is expected. It is important that you attend in all senses of the word (present, attuned, engaged, concerned). Evaluations will take into account excessive lateness, absence, or lack of ‘presence.’ Should your absence from seminar be unavoidable, please let me know as soon as possible.

Writing Assignments

Book Review. Aside from scholarly articles and books, reviews are among the most frequently published sorts of research writing. They may seem to be among the most narrow sort of research writing—often only discussing a single text—yet well-done reviews make clear how the

book is situated in and contributes to a much broader field. For this assignment you will write a review of a recent scholarly book of your choice—I recommend that you choose one on a topic area or methodology that you're likely to engage in future work. We will be reading book reviews for class and will discuss the genre directly, especially in early sessions. Your review should follow the genre conventions for book reviews in composition & rhetoric. Book reviews are due at the end of the semester but may be turned in for feedback at any point.

Research Fellowship Proposal. This brief paper mimics one of the most common genres in which scholars write about their research: the grant application. The following prompt for this assignment is taken, almost verbatim, from a typical call for applications.

Your proposal should include:

- *A Project Description* (no more than two single-spaced pages). The description should furnish a scholarly justification for the research proposed for support, explaining its purpose and significance, the materials to be investigated, the approach to be followed, the plan of work, and the expected outcome. The applicant should indicate his or her level of competence in the languages or other research tools at stake in the research. Finally, the applicant should indicate how he or she plans to disseminate the results of the research.
- *A Research Bibliography* (no more than one single-spaced page). Primary and secondary sources germane to the project should be listed. Applicants may use the research bibliography to document works cited in the project description.

If you are planning to apply for a specific fellowship in the near future, feel free to substitute the requirements for that proposal instead. Just remember to include the fellowship call along with your proposal. A draft of the proposal is due on Tuesday, March 19. A final, revised version is due at the end of the semester.

Seminar or Conference Paper Revision. To be honest, most of us write both seminar and conference papers at the last minute. We have great plans, but other work intervenes, the semester gets crazy, and the paper gets less attention than we'd hoped. And yet, for most of us, these early versions do eventually grow into something else—something better. The germ of a seminar paper becomes a conference paper; the conference paper (revised and extended) becomes a dissertation chapter; the dissertation chapter becomes an article draft, then a book chapter, then a talk... Such re-writing and re-vision is, in fact, a standard part of the research process. This final paper for ENG 703 makes that re-working a requirement. For it, you will take a paper previously written—a seminar paper or a conference paper, likely—and revise it, paying special attention to extending the research that went into the original. In other words, you won't just be re-wording the previous draft, you'll be supplementing its reach with new texts, new artifacts, and new scholarship. A draft of your revision is due on April 2 (for peer review on April 9). The final version should be an article-length paper (approx. 30 pages) that is as close to article quality as you can manage. My feedback will aim to get you even closer.

Disability Services

If you have a disability that may have an impact your work in this class, please meet with me early in the semester to arrange accommodations that will allow you to fulfill course requirements. If you are interested in receiving university services and accommodations for your disability, please contact the McBurney Center for Disability Services by phone at 263-2741 or email at FrontDesk@mcb.wisc.edu.

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Course Calendar

Introduction

Tuesday, January 22 – Preparatory Material

Read for today:

College Composition and Communication. Special Issue: Research Methodologies 64.1 (September 2012).

Yancey, Kathleen Blake. “From the Editor: Speaking Methodologically”
Gold, David. “Remapping Revisionist Historiography”
Gaillet, Lynée Lewis. “(Per)Forming Archival Research Methodologies”
McKee, Heidi A. and James E. Porter. “The Ethics of Archival Research”
Carter, Shannon, and James H. Conrad. “In Possession of Community”
Huckin, Thomas, Jennifer Andrus, and Jennifer Clary-Lemon. “Critical Discourse Analysis and Rhetoric and Composition”
LeFrance, Michelle, and Melissa Nicolas. “Institutional Ethnography as Materialist Framework for Writing Program Research...”
Anson, Chris M, and Robert A. Schwegler. “Tracking the Mind’s Eye”
Lang, Susan, and Craig Baehr. “Data Mining”
Mueller, Derek. “Grasping Rhetoric and Composition by its Long Tail”
Rickly, Rebecca. “Review Essay: Making Sense of Making Knowledge”

Unit 1 – Historical Research

Tuesday, January 29

Read for today:

Wells, Susan. *Our Bodies Ourselves and the Work of Writing*

Emmons, Kimberly K. Review of Wells *Our Bodies Ourselves and the Work of Writing*

Hensley Owens, Kim. Review of Wells *Our Bodies Ourselves and the Work of Writing*

Wells, Susan. “*Our Bodies, Ourselves*: Reading the Written Body”

Wells, Susan. “Stories and their Structures: Narrative Forms in *Our bodies, Ourselves*”

Tuesday, February 5

Read for today:

Fleming, David. Excerpt from *From Form to Meaning*

Stock, David. Excerpt from “The Distribution of Rhetorical Education...”

Class meets today at the University Archives

Steenbock Library

550 Babcock Dr.

<http://archives.library.wisc.edu>

We’ll start in room 340, on the third floor.

Steenbock is a 15-20 minute walk from Helen C. along Observatory Drive. The #80 bus will also get you there (leaving from Memorial Union).

Tuesday, February 12 – Issues and problems in historical work

Read for today:

“The Politics of Historiography” (Octalog I)

Brooks, Kevin. “Reviewing and Redescribing ‘The Politics of Historiography’: Octalog 1, 1988”

“Octalog II: The (Continuing) Politics of Historiography”

“Octalog III: The Politics of Historiography in 2010”

Hallenbeck, Sarah. “Toward a Posthuman Perspective”

Solberg, Janine. “Googling the Archive”

Wang, Bo. “Rethinking Feminist Rhetoric and Historiography in a Global Context

Stroud, Scott R. “Pragmatism and the Methodology of Comparative Rhetoric”

Mao, LuMing. “Doing Comparative Rhetoric Responsibly”

Stroud, Scott R. “Useful Irresponsibility?”

Unit 2 – Grounded Theory

Tuesday, February 19

Read for today

Lorimer, Rebecca. “Traveling Literacies”

Tuesday, February 26

Read for today:

Charmaz, Kathy. “Grounded Theory: Objectivist and Constructivist Methods.”

Charmaz, Kathy. “Qualitative Interviewing and Grounded Theory Analysis

Clarke, Adele E. excerpts from *Situational Analysis: Grounded Theory after the Postmodern Turn*.

Tuesday, March 5

Read for today:

Creswell, John W. Grounded Theory excerpts from *Qualitative Inquiry & Research Design*

Merriam, Sharan B. Grounded Theory excerpts *Qualitative Research in Practice*

Magnotto Neff, Joyce “Capturing Complexity”

Unit 3 – Rhetorical Theory and Criticism

Tuesday, March 12

Read for today:

Rice, Jenny. *Distant Publics*

Edbauer, Jenny. “Unframing Models of Public Distribution”

Tuesday, March 19

Read for today:

Baskerville, Barnet. “Must we all be ‘Rhetorical Critics?’”

Darsey, James. “Must We All Be Rhetorical Theorists?”

Wanzer, Darrel “Delinking Rhetoric”

Additional readings TB-uploaded

Tuesday, March 26 – Spring Break

Unit 4 – Ethnographic/Qualitative Methods in Writing & Rhetoric

Tuesday, April 2

Read for today:

Fulford, Carolyn. “Writing Across the Curriculum Program Development as Ideological and Rhetorical Practice.”

Tuesday, April 9

Read for today:

Bencich, Carole, Elizabeth Graber, Jenny Staben, and Katherine Sohn. “Navigating in Unknown Waters”

Lillis, Theresa. “Ethnography as Method, Methodology, and ‘Deep Theorizing’”

Narayan, Kirin. Excerpts from *Alive in the Writing*

Prior, Paul. “Tracing Process”

Cintrón, Ralph. “Starting Places” and “Mapping/Texting” from *Angels Town*

Prendergast, Catherine. “Introduction. The First Language of Capitalism”

Tuesday, April 16

Read for today:

Powell, Katrina M and Pamela Takayoshi. "Accepting Roles Created for Us"

Cushman, Ellen, Katrina M. Powell, and Pamela Takayoshi. "Response"

Additional readings TB-uploaded

Unit 5 – Transnational Methods

Tuesday, April 23

Read for today:

Dingo, Rebecca. "Linking Transnational Logics"

Olson, Christa. "Places to Stand"

Hesford, "Global Turns and Cautions"

Additional readings TB-uploaded

Tuesday, April 30

Dingo, Rebecca. *Networking Arguments*

Dubisar, Abby. Review of *Networking Arguments*

In Closing

Tuesday, May 7 – Research Presentations