

**Academic Writing (ACWR) 203 – Lecture 01**  
**Advanced Writing for Specialized Audiences II**  
*Theories of Us: Raising Your Voice*  
**Winter, 2011**  
**Wednesdays, 11:00 – 13:50**  
**January 12 – April 13, 2011; no class February 23**

**Instructor:** Laura Swart  
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**Office Hours:** Fridays, 10:00 – 12:30 or by appointment

### **Course Description**

Welcome to Academic Writing 203, *Theories of Us: Raising Your Voice*. In this course, you will learn the conventions of academic discourse and research writing. Through weekly focused readings, you will analyze written texts, discuss your ideas with peers, and formulate written responses in a number of short pieces of writing, or “short writes.” The knowledge we construct in the classroom through writing and conversing will become the core of our major research project, a collaboration with Lonnie Graham, Professor of Fine Arts at Pennsylvania State University. We will develop a version of his “A Conversation with the World” currently exhibited in the San Francisco City Hall. Mr. Graham will help us to formulate a series of questions that address, in his words, “the essential issues of human existence,” and to disseminate our findings in an exhibit of photographic portraiture and written discourse.

### **Objectives of the Course**

Through focused writing assignments and an inquiry-based research project, this course will help you to

- ◆Read and think critically
- ◆Conduct primary and secondary research
- ◆Write a research paper 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

◆Work individually and collaboratively to present an oral, researched response to a selected research question

◆Edit effectively for errors in sentence structure, grammar, word use, spelling, and punctuation

◆Collaborate with peers and a professional photographer to create an exhibit of portraiture and discourse

### **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)

3. Additional handouts from the instructor

### **Assignments and Evaluation**

**Short Writes** **40%**

◆Every other Wednesday at 11:00 am

**Debate** **15%**

◆February 9

**Research Essay** **25%**

◆March 9

**Research Exhibit** **20%**

◆March 30

\*Note: You cannot rewrite short writes. If you are late or absent, you will receive a grade of zero. However, one additional short write will be assigned at the end of the course for those who opt to write it.

\*Please keep a copy of each submitted assignment. Hand in your assignments directly to me if possible. If this is not possible, bring them to the Native Center and leave them with Cate. 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.

\*There is no registrar-scheduled final exam for this course.

## 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 <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 [www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow](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: <http://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 (SS 106, [efwr.ucalgary.ca](http://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>