

FD '02

**Chaminade University
Fall 2002**

Advanced Expository Writing, EN 362

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Hours: T, Th 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

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Course Description

Advanced Expository Writing, EN 362, provides students with a continuing practice in the composition of expository prose. The course focusses on the the central issues of non-fiction prose style and rhetoric yet emphasizes the fundamentally creative aspect of all writing. Additionally, the course aims to help students develop a sense of the essay as an art form. Texts for the course include major anthologized essays, as well as texts that examine rhetoric and style.

By the end of the semester, students should feel that they have a clearer and deeper sense of what they personally value in their own, as well as others', writing. Prerequisite for this course:

EN 102, Expository Writing, or equivalent.

Texts

The Art of the Essay

Rhetoric and Style: Strategies for Advanced Writers

The Elements of Style – on-line reference www.bartleby.com

Requirements

Reading journal (approximately 20%)

Three essays (approximately 60%)

Discussions, quizzes and miscellaneous assignments (approximately 10%)

Final exam (approximately 10%)

Reading journal

Students will keep a reading journal, either in conventional pen and ink notebooks or on their computers. Journals should contain free-form responses to the required readings. The requirement for the journal is a minimum of 30 pages for the term. Journals will be checked at the final exam.

Essays

Three essays of approximately 1500 words each will be due during each of the three units of the course. While students may want to do some background research, it is not a requirement.

In general, essays will be evaluated with regard to: 1. organization, 2. clarity, 3. correctness, 4. conciseness, and 5. creativity.

Discussions, quizzes and miscellaneous assignments

While participation in the quizzes is required, they will not be graded, and should be seen as preparation for the objective section of the final exam, as described below.

Final Exam

Self-assessment and Final Grade

The final grade for the course will be determined in part by the student's self-assessment and grade estimate, which will be submitted at the final exam.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

All material submitted in fulfillment of course requirements must be written by the registered student.

While students are encouraged to consult sources outside the required reading of the course, they are also responsible for clearly stating the nature of their sources. Statements of "common knowledge" are generally exempt from this scholarly requirement.

Plagiarism is defined as the presentation of someone else's ideas as your own. Plagiarism in this course will result in a grade of "0" for the assignment and possible failure for the course.

Course Outline

Course Introduction—August 27 - 29

Unit 1—September 3 - 24

Read

The Elements of Style

Rhetoric and Style: Strategies for Advanced Writers

"The Nature of Rhetoric" (1 - 20)

"The Nature of Style" (21 - 34)

"Style: Apparent and Concealed" (341 - 361)

The Art of the Essay

Lewis Thomas, "An Earnest Proposal" (333 - 336)

Donald Barthelme, "Not-Knowing" (484 - 497)

Joan Didion, "On Morality" and "On Going Home" (521 - 527)

Assignment 1—Due September 24, Tuesday

Rhetoric and Style: Strategies for Advanced Writers, "Exhortation and Dissuasion" (18), 1500 words

Unit 2—September 26 - October 29

Read

Rhetoric and Style: Strategies for Advanced Writers

"Audience: Dialogue and Monologue" (90 -107)

"Author: Self and Rhetorical Stance" (108 - 125)

"Context: Occasion and Situation" (136 - 142)

"Subjects: Commonplace and Significant" (143 - 163)

The Art of the Essay

Jonathan Swift, "A Modest Proposal" (41 - 47)

Henry Fielding, "An Essay on Nothing" (57 - 65)

Virginia Woolf, "How Should One Read a Book?" (222 - 230)

George Orwell, "Reflections on Gandhi" (298 - 304)

M.F.K. Fisher, "A Moment of Wisdom" (322- 326)

Martin Luther King, "Letter from Birmingham Jail" (441 - 455)

Assignment 2—Due October 29, Tuesday

Rhetoric and Style: Strategies for Advanced Writers, "Assignment C: Interpretation and Commentary" (185), 1500 words

Unit 3—October 31 – November 26

Read

Rhetoric and Style: Strategies for Advanced Writers

"Interpretation and Representation" (164 - 185)

"Invention, Experience, and Education" (186 - 217)

"Organization: Formal and Organic" (316 - 340)

"Revision and Spontaneity" (362 - 380)

The Art of the Essay

N. Scott Momaday, "The Way to Rainy Mountain" (529 - 534)

Paul Theroux, "Cowardice" (570 - 578)

Alice Walker, "Looking for Zora" (584 - 600)

Annie Dillard, "Life on the Rocks: The Galapagos" (601 - 614)

Gretel Ehrlich, "The Smooth Skull of Winter" (649 - 652)

"Essayists On Their Art" (689 - 711)

Assignment 3—Due November 26, Tuesday

Rhetoric and Style: Strategies for Advanced Writers, "Assignment A: Revisions, Concessions, and Reassessments"

(380) or "Assignment C: Scholarship and Authority," (380), 1500 words

Final Exam