Syllabus for WR 323:
English Composition III: Writing with Style in the Personal Essay

Instructor: Jennifer M. Love, Ph.D.  
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Chat Office Hour: By appointment  
OSU Online Writing Lab: Free online assistance with on your writing: http://cwl.oregonstate.edu/owl.php

Course Format: Ecampus (online)  
Term:  
Credits: 3

Course Description
This course invites you to read published personal essays (which will be available cost-free in online magazines) that demonstrate people's ability to write with engaging style and energy about their ideas and experiences. You will be asked to discuss with your classmate these published essays and the way the authors use language to clearly and gracefully articulate their worldviews. You will also asked to write and revise thoughtful essays of your own about your experiences and interests, conceiving of and developing your own style as you articulate your ideas.

Required Materials
• Online access to The Huffington Post: www.huffingtonpost.com/ (Free and open-access)  
• William Zinsser, On Writing Well, 30th Anniversary Edition (~$10 or less on Amazon.com)

Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities:
Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval, please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at http://ds.oregonstate.edu. DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.

Equity, Inclusion, and Respect for Diversity:
As a student in our WR 323 class, you are asked to respect Oregon State University's commitment to diversity. (Please see the college diversity statement below, viewable online at http://liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/diversity-statement.) Please strive to honor other people's differences, and, when you disagree with someone, please do so considerately.

OSU diversity statement: The College of Liberal Arts is a community that includes and values the voices of all people. As such, we recognize the social barriers that have systematically marginalized and excluded people and communities based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, socioeconomic background, age, disability, national origin and religion.

We are committed to the equity of opportunities, and strive to promote and advance diverse communities. We value and proactively seek genuine participation from these historically under-represented and underserved groups, and recognize them as an essential component of creating a welcoming and rich academic, intellectual, and cultural environment for everyone.
Learning Goals and Outcomes

OSU Baccalaureate Core Outcomes for all Writing II Courses:
- Apply multiple theories, concepts, and techniques for creating and evaluating written communication.
- Write effectively for diverse audiences within a specific area or discipline using appropriate standards and conventions.
- Apply critical thinking to writing and writing process, including revision.

Specific Learning Goals and Outcomes for WR 323:
- Demonstrate critical thinking about ideas through analytical reading and writing of written and visual text
- Demonstrate effective, style-aware, correct writing for specific audiences and purpose
- Demonstrate appropriate use of conventions for stylish written English at the 300-level
- Use a variety of writing processes effectively to generate ideas and compose, organize, and revise writing
- Demonstrate Information Literacy skills by effective and ethical location, selection, integration and utilization of source material, with works cited

Specific Requirements in WR 323

Requirement #1: Two substantial posts each week to our class's weekly Discussion areas. 200 points possible (10 points per post, 20 points possible most weeks); 20% of course grade
Description and purpose of this requirement: The weekly discussions allow us to have a meaningful class conversation about the reading and writing assignments for the week. Each week, please post to the required discussion(s) once by Wednesday at 11:59 p.m., and once again by Saturday 11:59 p.m. (During our first week of class (Week 0), your first post is due by Friday.)

Requirement #2: Three personal essays of around 4 pages (1000 words) each. Each essay consists of a First Draft and Polished Revision. 600 points possible (Three First Drafts = 75, 75, 100 points; Two Polished Revisions = 100, 100, 150 points); 60% of course grade
Description and purpose of this requirement: You will be asked to write and revise three essays this term, on topics relating to your own experiences and to the essays we are reading online. Writing these essays will allow you to explore a topic in depth, to engage in research on your ideas, and to present your ideas to your classmates and me using an accepted professional format. The essays also give you the opportunity to revise your work after receiving detailed feedback from a classmate and from me. You will be asked to submit your essays publicly (as well as in a private submission area) so that your classmates can read them.

Specific topic suggestions and other requirements for each of the assignments will be provided. The First Draft of each essay needs to be revised in accordance with the written feedback offered by your instructor and an assigned classmate in a Letter of Response. Revised essays that do not incorporate recommended changes for revision may lose points or may earn a 0 grade.

Requirement #3: Three Letters of Response. 150 points possible (3 x 50 points); 15% percent of course grade
Description and purpose of this requirement: Each time an essay draft is due, you will be asked to write a detailed Letter of Response (approximately one single-spaced page) to one
assigned classmate about her or his draft, offering this person specific feedback and suggestions as s/he revises the essay. Specific guidelines for these Letters of Response will be provided.

One of the benefits of an online class is that students can easily read and respond to other students' writing. Getting feedback from your classmates is a great way to make sure that you are writing with more than just one audience member in mind. In other words, you are writing for an audience that includes not just your instructor, but also your classmates. Plus, providing written feedback to your classmates strengthens your ability to revise your own writing.

**Requirement #4: An End-of-Term Letter of Reflection.** 50 points possible; 5% of course grade

*Description and purpose of this requirement:* Near the end of the term, you will be asked to write a thoughtful letter to me in which you reflect upon your reading, writing, responding, and revising in WR 323. This letter allows you to comment on the work you have done during the term, letting me know what you have found useful and challenging in your writing, reading, and revising.

**Requirement #5: Respectful Conduct in forum posts and other assignments for the class** (factored into your grade for your posts and other assignments)

*Description and purpose of this requirement:* Please show respect for the projects and activities you have been assigned, for your classmates, and for your instructors or those in similar managerial positions. Treating others respectfully will contribute to a positive atmosphere in our class and make interactions with your classmates more enjoyable. Respectful conduct is also mandated by the OSU Student Conduct Code.

**Grading in WR 323**

There is a total of 1000 points possible for the course, with points assigned as explained above.

Assignments are evaluated broadly based on the following criteria: (1) Quality of thinking, (2) Organization and coherence, (3) Style and technique, and (4) Use of conventions. A = 1000 - 935 / A- = 934 - 900 / B+ = 899 - 865 / B = 864 - 835 / B- = 834 - 800 / C+ = 799 - 765 / C = 764 - 735 / C- = 734 - 700 / D+ = 699 - 665 / D = 664 - 635 / D- = 634 - 600 / F = 599-0.