Writing Intensive Courses  Spring 2005

Building on the writing experiences in the MAP course, the spring Writing Intensive course (3 credits) will continue to strengthen the student’s ability to write academic papers in a variety of rhetorical styles. In addition, this course will place an emphasis on developing research skills. Like the MAP experience, the writing will be driven by the course content. These courses are open only to first-year students.

FYE 150-02  Writing and the Western Landscape or Writing Beyond the 98th Meridian  
Lauren Whitehurst

The American West is a landscape of extremes—geographically, culturally, politically, and mythologically. And it has long held the fascination of writers. How has American writing about western landscapes contributed to our ideas about the American West and shaped the way we interpret our environment? How are contemporary American writers continuing to define the West and the ways in which it is changing? And how do our conceptions of the West reflect our values and inform our identities, as members of specific communities and as Americans?

In this course, we will explore these questions through the work of such writers as Mary Austin, Edward Abbey, Gloria Anzaldua, Leslie Marmon Silko, Wallace Stegner, Willa Cather, Ivan Doig, N. Scott Momaday, Louise Erdrich, John Nichols, and/or others. As we examine the sensibilities of the western landscape rendered in various texts, we will touch on the topics of colonialism and power, gender, environmentalism, and race.

Students will be required to complete regular response writing and four paper assignments: a piece of descriptive writing about a western landscape; a critical examination of two texts (compare/contrast); an argument paper based on in-class readings; and a research paper. Students will also complete a final creative project.

FYE 150-06 From Phillo to French Fries: Food Writing Through the Ages  
Marika Brussel

Food, whether you love it or hate it’s central to everyone’s life. Through food, we can explore culture and society from the inside out. This class will focus on food writing, both in fiction and non-fiction. From Isak Dinesen’s Babbett’s Feast to the British food writer Elizabeth David and the more contemporary Laurie Colwin, writers love to talk about food. We will challenge ourselves and our preconceptions about culture, food, eating, and not eating through the readings and writing in this class. Good writing involves description and argument, and while description in food writing is inevitable, argument is more subtle.

Students will be expected to keep a food journal, write regular response papers to the readings, and 2-3 longer papers focusing on analytic and descriptive elements. The class will culminate in a research project that will revolve around food, writing, and our own creative work.
FYE 150-01 The Image and The Word: Writing on Art  
Ligia Bouton  
Artists often take the inspiration for their work from literature and poetry, and in return many writers have used pieces of visual art as the springboard for their texts. This class will explore the voices, both creative and critical, that translate the visual image into the written word, as well as the texts that have inspired visual art. Our discussions and readings will include Ovid, Shakespeare, Dante, the Bible, contemporary writers of all kinds dealing with the visual arts, and artists who work in diverse mediums from painting to electronic video installation. In addition the class will visit local galleries and museums in order to experience the art first hand. Writing assignments throughout the semester will allow students to address art and literature in a variety of different ways. This class will pay particular attention to the analytic, comparative and persuasive essay forms and will culminate in a final research project which will include both a written paper and an in-class oral presentation.

FYE 150-07 Identity and the Imagination: Contemporary Women and Creativity  
Ligia Bouton  
The diversity of aesthetic, ideological, racial, and cultural viewpoints of women artists today have resulted in art that both embraces and challenges traditional roles for women, for artists, and for feminists. This class will explore works by women in literature and the visual arts, and will consider how these genres have been transformed in the last 30 years by the full emergence of the female voice. Texts by writers such as Jeanette Winterson, Barbara Kingsolver, Annie Dillard, and Susan Sontag will be compared and contrasted with the artwork of women artists from around the globe working in a wide variety of mediums (installation, performance, film, photography, etc.). Analytic, comparative, and persuasive essay assignments throughout the semester will culminate in an independent research project that will include both a written paper and an oral presentation.

FYE 150-03 Consciousness and Nature  
Ann Peters  
We will examine the writing of scientists, nature writers, ecologists, and creative activators as we move toward our own theories of constructive activism in regard to the earth and sustainability. Close observation, clarity and critical thought will also be key as we learn to use language and structure more effectively in argumentative, descriptive and literary analysis essays. With the creative project, we will challenge our human nature, moving toward a semester-long novel activity and documenting it. For the research project, students will become agents of change as they research their chosen problem, examining theories and realities, finally arriving at solutions which could change or are changing the world.
FYE 150-05 Literature of war
Karen Cheeseman
From the ancient Greeks up to the present, war has always been a major theme for writers. Concentrating mostly on the 20th century, we will explore the genres of autobiography, fiction, memoir, letters, poetry and the journalism of war. Soldiers, sailors and the families left back home have written extensively about each war. Students will read novels, short stories, poetry and non fiction pieces to learn literary analysis. The student essays and the major research paper will reflect study of the theme.

FYE 150-04 Globalization and Its Discontents
Lisa Adler
Globalization is a tricky concept, yet it is something we should all try to understand because it affects us every day. The fact that “globalization” has come to mean so many things contributes to its trickiness. While many commentators focus on the economic aspects of globalization like investment, production and trade, others raise many different issues somehow connected to the concept of globalization including pollution, migration, drug-trafficking, and protest. A frequent topic is the globalization of Western culture through electronic media, fashion, and fast food. With so many meanings, the concept of globalization risks falling in on itself. Consequently, we face the reality that our understanding of globalization is elusive precisely at the moment when we need it to comprehend the world around us. The point of this class is to learn about globalization by writing about it.

Students will research issues surrounding globalization and write essays in response to its adherents and opponents. Writing assignments will focus on developing structure and argument in students’ written work. Students will also be asked to complete a significant research paper on some aspect of globalization to be chosen by the student. Throughout the semester students will be asked to complete smaller research projects utilizing the Internet, library, and public media sources. Students will be asked to purchase Robert K. Schaeffer’s Understanding Globalization: The Social Consequences of Political, Economic, and Environmental Change (2003: Rowman and Littlefield). There will also be further readings assigned throughout the semester.

FYE 150-08 Private Landscapes: Interior and Exterior Travel Writing
Bay Anapol
This writing intensive class will focus on both traditional travel writing, as well as travels in time, space and consciousness. We'll look at travel writing as both a narrative form and as a method of discerning human experience, while considering how writers can influence our feelings about a particular place. From Bill Bryson's amusing pieces on the dangers of Australia to Joan Didion's beautiful depictions of the 60's landscape in Slouching Towards Bethlehem, we'll examine how travel writing can evoke nostalgia, and add breadth to unfamiliar occurrences. By reading essays and stories from such writers as Virginia Woolf, Anne Beattie, Paul Theroux and Edith Wharton et al, we'll explore how a writer's inner landscape connects with the place described.
Students will be asked to successfully argue their opinions on paper, both in class and outside class. They'll complete a research paper about an intriguing place, a comparison/contrast paper drawing from at least two sources, a descriptive essay utilizing all the senses, a response paper arguing the point of view and validity of a travel piece about a familiar hometown or Santa Fe setting, as well as finish a final travel essay of their own.

**FYE 150-09 Seeking Justice: Reading Detective Fiction**
**Sheila Raeschild**

This course will study and discuss mysteries in an effort to explore the fascination with crime and crime fighting. Writing assignments will include varied rhetorical patterns to reflect on this theme. Students will also form groups to write mysteries they will then enact in class. The final paper will be a research project analyzing different aspects of this popular literary form.