

Appendix A: "Community and Literacy" Syllabus

English 329: Community and Literacy
Dr. William FitzGerald

Fall 2013

Armitage 108, TTh 11-12:20

Office: Armitage 420

Hours: T 3-4, Th 11:30-12:30 and by appointment

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Course blog: <http://communityandliteracy.wordpress.com/>

Overview

This course offers a hands-on encounter with the exciting and expanding field of literacy studies. In particular, we will explore what it means to be literate in the information age by studying practices of reading and writing, composing within and navigating digital environments, and negotiating local and global contexts of literacy. At the heart of this exploration, supported by a survey of key concepts and texts for understanding literacy, is a project in the collection and analysis of literacy narratives in collaboration with several community partners in Camden (in settings of schools, libraries, community centers). This activity both draws on and contributes to the Digital Archive of Literacy Narratives (DALN @ <http://daln.osu.edu/>), a leading site for documenting our varied personal experience with texts of all kinds, from poetry to video games, from school projects to political activism. In taking this course, you will learn how to conduct team-based field research that contributes to our academic understanding of twenty-first century literacies as well as the vitality of civic life in Camden and South Jersey.

Course Texts:

Rose, Mike. *Lives on the Boundary: A Moving Account of the Struggles and Achievements of America's Educationally Underprepared*. (Buy online to save \$\$)

In addition, multiple readings are available through electronic download.

Course Expectations

These are the following graded assignments:

- Literacy Log (10%),
- Literacy Narratives I and II (20%),
- Midterm Exam (15%)
- Free-range Research (5%)
- Collaborative Research project (30%);
- Questions, Discussions, and Postings (20%)

Participation

Attendance: This is a not a lecture course; regular attendance is vital. Excessive absence or lateness will weigh heavily on class participation. Miss more than four (4) classes and risk loss of course credit. Speak with me before or immediately after a missed class and check course blog to stay on track.

Late Papers and Assignments: All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late papers can expect to lose a letter grade for each class date. Homework exercises will not receive credit unless an absence is excused. Quizzes, however, may not be made up.

Communication: You are expected to maintain an active email account and to make use of the sakai site (email:) and our course blog: <http://communityandliteracy.wordpress.com/>

Class Discussion and Workshops: Engaged conversation based on preparation, thoughtful comments and active listening is critical to our success and yours. Also important are writing exercises and draft workshops. Come to class with texts in hand ready to work.

Quizzes: Expect occasional reading quizzes along with some in-class writing prompts.

Academic Integrity

I place a high value on professional ethics and expect students to conduct themselves with integrity in classroom performance, research and writing. Suspicion of cheating, plagiarism, the false representation of the work of others as one's own, or helping others to commit these acts will result in a formal accusation which, should it be substantiated, will result in a failing grade and possibly other sanctions. You are encouraged to clarify any misunderstandings about responsible research and proper documentation. Please consult the Rutgers University policy on academic integrity, found here: <http://www.camden.rutgers.edu/RUCAM/Academic-Integrity-Policy.php>

Accommodation

If you have a documented disability that requires accommodation, please speak with me as soon as possible so that together we can make appropriate arrangements.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS

(subject to modification; see course blog)

Week 1

9/3

Welcome and Course Overview

9/5

Yancey, "Writing in the 21st Century

(http://www.ncte.org/library/NCTEFiles/Press/Yancey_final.pdf)

<i>Week 2</i>	<i>What is Literacy?</i>
9/10	(DALN @ http://daln.osu.edu/); Ong, Diamond, Goody
	Summary of two DALN contributions
9/12	Graff and Gee (part 1); Literacy Log entry
<i>Week 3</i>	<i>Literacy as a Social Practice</i>
9/17	Gee (part 2);
9/19	Brandt; DALN interview questions
<i>Week 4</i>	<i>Literacy and Sponsorship</i>
9/24	Moss; DALN interview questions
9/26	Literacy Narrative (open draft session)
<i>Week 5</i>	<i>Literacy on the Boundary</i>
10/1	Rose, <i>Lives on the Boundary</i> ; Chapters 1 & 2; Literacy Narrative (3 pp. draft)
10/3	Rose, Chapter 3; Mirabelli
<i>Week 6</i>	<i>Literacy on the Boundary (cont.)</i>
10/8	Rose, Chapter 4; Literacy Narrative (revised, 4-5 pp.)
10/10	Rose, Chapter 5; IRB Certification (until completed)
<i>Week 7</i>	<i>Literacy on the Boundary (cont.)</i>
10/15	Rose, Chapter 6; Bartholomae, “Inventing the University”
	IRB Certification (cont.)
10/17	Rose, Chapter 7; Literacy Log (first 12 entries due)
<i>Week 8</i>	<i>Literacy on the Boundary (cont.)</i>
10/22	Rose, Chapter 8; Hall, “Oprahfication of Literacy”
10/24	Rose, Epilogue, Afterword; Gere, “Kitchen Tables”
	Midterm assigned
<i>Week 9</i>	<i>Frierian Approaches to Literacy</i>
10/29	Friere (tba)
10/31	Friere (cont.); Midterm Due
<i>Week 10</i>	<i>Community Literacy Centers</i>
11/5	Community Literacy Centers (tba); Begin Fieldwork
11/7	CLCs (tba); Goldblatt, “Alinsky’s Revielle”;

Fieldwork memo

<i>Week 11</i>	<i>Stories That Speak to Us</i>
11/12	Selfe, Dewit, Ulman, <i>Stories That Speak To Us</i> ; Gee, Video Games
11/14	Digital Storytelling; Literacy Narrative #2 (draft);
<i>Week 12</i>	<i>Fieldwork</i>
11/19	Fieldwork
11/21	Multi-literacies (tba); Literacy Log (complete)
<i>Week 13</i>	<i>Fieldwork (cont.)</i>
11/26	Multi-literacies (tba) Fieldwork progress memo
11/28	THANKSGIVING BREAK (no class)
<i>Week 14</i>	<i>Reports from the Field</i>
12/3	Final Paper (drafting); Fieldwork (reports) Literacy Narrative #2 due (optional post to DALN)
12/5	Final Paper (drafting); Fieldwork (reports)
<i>Week 15</i>	<i>Finished!</i>
12/10	Final Paper due