

# Rhetorical Agency Across Genres

HON 222-01

Course Syllabus, Spring 2020

**Instructor:** Julie Jenner

**Meeting Time:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 11:00-11:50 pm

**Meeting Place:** Argyros Forum 205

**Instructor's e-mail:** [jenner@chapman.edu](mailto:jenner@chapman.edu)

**Office Hours:** by appointment

## Course Description

In this discussion and workshop-based seminar, writing is considered a social and rhetorical activity requiring creativity, process and collaboration. The course investigates different forms of writing and how language can be used to express and negotiate a particular point of view across different genres, modes and rhetorical situations. Students will engage with a variety of composing practices and texts and produce projects that are both critical and creative in response.

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## Written Inquiry Learning Outcomes

Student establishes active, genuine, and responsible authorial engagement; communicates a purpose—an argument or other intentional point/goal; invokes a specific audience, develops the argument/content with an internal logic-organization; integrates references, citations, and source materially logically and dialogically, indicating how such forms of evidence relate to each other and the author's position; and composes the text with: a style or styles appropriate to the purpose and intended audience, a consistent use of the diction appropriate to the author's topic and purpose, the ability to establish and vary authorial voice(s) and tone(s), a choice of form(s) and genre(s) appropriate to purpose and audience (forms may be digital and/or multimodal), and rhetorically effective use of document design.

## Honors Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completing a course in the University Honors Program students will have:

- obtained a starting point for integrative exploration of the development of cultures and intellectual achievements through a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives;
- sharpened their ability to critically analyze and synthesize a broad range of knowledge through the study of primary texts and through engagement in active learning with fellow students, faculty, and texts (broadly understood);
- understood how to apply more integrative and interdisciplinary forms of understanding in the advancement of knowledge and in addressing complex challenges shaping the world;

- developed effective communication skills.
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## Course Components

### Course Format

We will meet in class on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 am to 11:50 am unless directed otherwise. Exceptions might include any field trips, field work or individual conferences. Check updated course schedule or conference schedule for special meeting places.

### Required Texts

*Naming What We Know: Threshold Concepts in Writing Studies, Classroom Edition* (ISBN: 978-1-60732-577-2) by Linda Adler-Kassner and Elizabeth Wardle is a required text to purchase for the course. You will also be asked to engage with a variety of selected works that speak to topics in rhetoric and composition and/or serve as examples of the types of compositions you will be creating for the course. Links for these readings and viewings will be provided on Blackboard under the *Readings and Viewings* section or available through Kanopy ([chapman.kanopy.com](http://chapman.kanopy.com)).

### Technology Requirement

You will need to bring a laptop or comparable device to each class to engage in online discussions or for other in-class exercises. If need be, you can borrow a laptop free of charge, with valid student id, at a display in Argyros Forum. Please let me know if for any reason you are unable to meet this requirement. This course employs features of Blackboard, some of which are directly connected to your success in the course. It is your responsibility to learn to use all the web functions that are relevant to this course. You can access Blackboard through “My Chapman” on the Chapman University homepage.

### Tentative Course Schedule

The course schedule with in-class activities and homework assignments is posted on Blackboard. Please note that readings and assignment due dates are subject to change. Always consult Blackboard for most recent version of course schedule.

### Coursework at a Glance

The semester is organized into three general parts, each exploring different aspects and genres of composition and concepts in rhetoric and composition. In the first half of the course *Writing and Author*, we will begin engaging with concepts and vocabulary used in the discourse community of writing studies, as well as exploring through our discussions and projects how personal identity influences our composition and reading of texts. The second part of the course is titled *Writing and Discovery* and here we will explore the genre of the exploratory essay and the concept of writing to discover ourselves and the world around us. In the third part *Writing the World*, we examine the social structures around us for inspiration and information and to understand how and we might best negotiate our point of view within the greater social context.

## **Areas of Assessment**

Your progress in the course will be evaluated based on the following (4) areas. It is your responsibility to let me know immediately if there is a problem that interferes with your ability to meet the expectations of the class. This includes alerting me early in the semester of any special needs or accommodations you might have.

### **1. Participation** (*Attendance, Collaboration and Presentations*)

Your presence is crucial to your success in this class. Because we do a lot of group work, your peers depend on you being present and attentive. You show respect to the writing community by being informed and fulfilling your responsibilities to your classmates. Participation will be evaluated based on your performance on a combination of activities including overall attendance, collaboration and any presentations assigned throughout the semester.

#### Attendance

The University recommends as a minimal policy that students who are absent 20 percent of the course should be failed. For this course, you are allowed 3 unexcused absences absence you accumulate. I allow for 3 unexcused absences because I understand how life has a way of sometimes interfering with our regular schedules, so use these absences wisely. For each unexcused absence over the 3 allowed, your participation grade with be lowered 5 grade points. Even though I appreciate the heads up immensely, simply telling me in advance that you are going to absent for class does not excuse the absence; it merely explains it. For an absence to be considered excused, official documentation will need to be provided. Some examples of official documentation include a note from the campus health center or a doctor in case of sickness, a copy of the notice in case of jury duty or some other court hearing, or a note from an instructor regarding an absence due to performance or sport. Let me know immediately if you need clarification about the nature of the absence or its documentation.

I take attendance at the beginning of class each day. Tardiness is disruptive to class and is noted on the attendance roster. I understand having to be late due to unavoidable circumstances; however, if I notice your tardiness becoming excessive or habitual, I will be lowering your participation grade, three tardy arrivals being equivalent to one unexcused absence.

It is your responsibility to do all assigned reading and work for any missed class sessions including any discussion board exercises, and to contact me via email for class details. All assignments, due dates, handouts and readings will be posted on Blackboard in advance.

#### Collaboration

We are a community of writers and learners in this course and your point of view counts. You will engage with peers for group discussions, workshops of three essay projects as well as several group activities assigned throughout the semester. Giving and receiving feedback on works in progress is invaluable to growing as a writer and understanding writing as a social process.

### Presentations

You will be required to give at one informal presentation during the course of the semester. Guidelines will be posted under the *Assignments* section on Blackboard. The presentation will be graded credit/no credit as part of your participation grade for the course.

Students receive all participation points when they attend class regularly (not having more than three unexcused absences), are on time, are engaged learners, bring readings and necessary materials to class, avoid distractive use of technology (using phones in class), contribute regularly and in an informed manner to the class discussions, successfully collaborate with others, participate in any class activities such as assigned presentations, manifest professional behavior (also in email exchanges), and help others to do all of the above. Your participation grade will count 15% of your grade for the course.

## **2. Weekly Writing Posts**

You will be required to make weekly posts on Blackboard under the *Discussion* section). The content of these posts will range from creative exercises and proposals to responses to readings and viewings. This is a community space, so keep in mind that peers will have access as well to the material you post. Each of these entries will be graded on a credit/no credit basis and in total are worth 15% of your final grade. This means that if you complete the post as specified and turn it in on time, you will receive the percentage points allotted to each of the entries. My reason for evaluating in this manner is to give you the chance to be creative and take risks with your writing without having to fear a low grade. We also improve at writing by writing consistently. These posts are by no means intended as busy work or should be regarded as such; rather, they should be taken seriously and are designed to generate ideas for your graded projects as well as to encourage critical thinking and expose you to a diversity of writing genres during the course of the semester. See an updated course schedule on Blackboard and the discussion forum for due dates. All posts are to appear under their proper locations on Blackboard and must be posted no later than the due date to receive credit. Sometimes I will ask you to read and respond to your peers' posts; other times, I will be the only one responding to the text. No late posts will be accepted unless connected with an excused absence and have an approval for extension.

## **3. Projects (*Autoethnography, Exploratory Essay, Open Letter*)**

You're required to complete three composed projects for the course, including an auto-ethnography, an exploratory essay, and an open letter. Guidelines for all projects will be posted on Blackboard under *Projects* as they are assigned.

Projects are completed in two phases. The first phase is the draft. This version is submitted to peers and to me for workshop purposes only and not for points. After considering feedback on your draft from me and your peers, you will revise your draft and submit your revision for points. This completes the second phase. Please note that both phases must be submitted in order to consider the project as complete. Failure to turn in the draft phase on time will result in a 10-point penalty applied to the final grade for the project. The revision phase is subject to the late work policy described below in the Late Work Policy section. Each project will comprise 15% of your grade for the course.

Please note that in order to be eligible to submit a final portfolio, you must have completed and turned in all three projects above. Refer to an updated course schedule on Blackboard for due dates.

#### **4. Final Portfolio**

The final for the course consists of revised work you prepared throughout the semester and a reflective letter and counts 25% of your final grade. You will be provided guidelines for composing the portfolio around mid-semester, and it will be due during our scheduled final exam time.

#### **Late Work Policy**

As mentioned above, late assignments will not be accepted without an excused absence and an approved extension. You must turn in all assignments on time to receive credit. Project drafts, if late, receive a one-time 10-point penalty that will be applied to graded revision phase of the project. Please note that 10 points will be automatically deducted for any project revision not posted on Blackboard by the beginning of class on the due date.

Drafts and revisions of your projects should be turned in on Blackboard discussion board as a thread under the appropriate forum heading. Blackboard tells me the exact time you have submitted the assignment, and this will be the time I will use to determine if your work is to be considered late or not. Don't wait until the last minute to submit work; give yourself extra time in case any problems arise. If by chance you are having any difficulties posting on Blackboard that day, send me a copy of your assignment by email, using your student email.

## Course Evaluation

Grades will be posted on Blackboard as they come available. The percentage breakdown is as follows:

Participation ( <i>attendance, collaborations, presentations</i> )	15%
Weekly Writing Posts	15%
Project #1: <i>Autoethnography</i>	15%
Project #2: <i>Exploratory Essay</i>	15%
Project #3: <i>Open Letter</i>	15%
Final Portfolio ( <i>includes exam day reading</i> )	25%
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Total	100%

A-100-94; A- 93-90; B+ 89-87; B 86-84; B- 83-80; C+ 79-77; C 76-74; C- 73-70; D+ 69-67; D 66-64; D- 63-60; F 59-0

## Individual Conferences

Obligatory individual conferences will be held twice during the semester, once mid-semester and again as the semester is coming to a close and you are preparing your final portfolio for the course. You will schedule a time to meet with me one-on-one. We will not hold regular class meetings during the conferencing days, but you are required to complete any assigned readings and assignments as directed in the course schedule. Conferences are a good time to discuss any concerns or challenges you are having with the class or with writing in general, or to discuss ideas for projects and revisions for the final portfolio. Outside of these mandatory meeting times, please feel free to schedule any other meeting times with me outside of class. Your success in this course is important to me.

## Field Work and Trips

There might be days when class will be conducted outside the usual classroom space. Locations will be announced in advance and posted on the course schedule.

## Guest Speakers and Special Events

As needed, I will make space in our course schedule for guest speakers and special campus events that inform the content of the course. Locations and times will be announced in advance and posted on the course schedule.

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## Additional University Policy

**Chapman University's Academic Integrity Policy.** "Chapman University is a community of scholars that emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work and academic dishonesty of any kind will be subject to sanction by the instructor/administrator and referral to the university Academic Integrity Committee, which may impose additional sanctions including expulsion. Please see the full description of Chapman University's policy on Academic Integrity

at [www.chapman.edu/academics/academicintegrity/index.aspx](http://www.chapman.edu/academics/academicintegrity/index.aspx).”

**Chapman University’s Students with Disabilities Policy.** “In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to contact the Disability Services Office. If you will need to utilize your approved accommodations in this class, please follow the proper notification procedure for informing your professor(s). This notification process must occur more than a week before any accommodation can be utilized. Please contact Disability Services at (714) 516-4520 or visit [www.chapman.edu/students/student-health-services/disability-services](http://www.chapman.edu/students/student-health-services/disability-services) if you have questions regarding this procedure or for information or to make an appointment to discuss and/or request potential accommodations based on documentation of your disability. Once formal approval of your need for an accommodation has been granted, you are encouraged to talk with your professor(s) about your accommodation options. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.”

**Chapman University’s Equity and Diversity Policy.** “Chapman University is committed to ensuring equality and valuing diversity. Students and professors are reminded to show respect at all times as outlined in Chapman’s Harassment and Discrimination Policy. Please see the full description of this policy at <http://www.chapman.edu/faculty-staff/human-resources/eoo.aspx>. Any violations of this policy should be discussed with the professor, the dean of students and/or otherwise reported in accordance with this policy.