



We don't see things as they are,
we see things as we are.
-- Anais Nin

CLL 290

Humanities, Writing and the Environment

SECTIONS 003 AND 008, SPRING 2010

M. FITZSIMMONS, INSTRUCTOR

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OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY/THURSDAY, 11 A.M. TO NOON

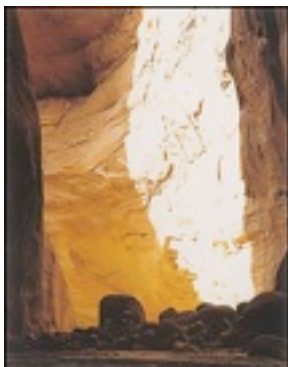
105B MOON LIBRARY



Welcome to CLL 290, the second in the sequence of writing/humanities courses at SUNY – ESF. CLL 290 focuses on the humanities and on rhetorical strategies, practices, and conventions of critical research for academic writing. Students who successfully complete CLL 290 will demonstrate the ability to: Compose texts that investigate a focused topic of inquiry around the environment; successfully complete a sustained research project involving writing and graphics; critically analyze various works of environmental literature; and research and write collaboratively.



In this course, you will build on the skills you developed in CLL 190, including analysis and argument, extending them through the extensive and critical use of research. In this class, research is a process, a means of discovery, a set of advanced skills you will use to learn about the things you are interested in. ***In particular, this section will use research and writing skills to investigate the ways our culture understands and constructs nature.***



Course Texts

Available at Follett's Orange Bookstore in Marshall Square Mall:

Listening to Earth: A Longman Topics Reader by Christopher Hallowell and Walter Levy

The Bedford Researcher, third edition by Mike Palmquist

Additional reading assignments will be made available throughout the semester through Blackboard (<http://blackboard.syr.edu>).

Brief overview of course projects and grading

You will write three formal essays -- an analysis essay, a research essay, and a critical essay. In addition, you will work with a group to produce a multi-genre project (zine). This work will be graded A-F on a 100-point scale.

The Informal Writing will include your written preparation for class, written reflections, drafts and invention work for formal papers, and student-led discussions. This work will be graded as outstanding, satisfactory or unsatisfactory (check plus, check, check minus), and summarized in a letter grade at the end of the semester.

Unit	%
Formal Writing	70%
Journal, Discussion and Informal Writing	30%

On Blackboard, you can find both the general grading criteria and the scales for both types of grading. Specific instructions and grading criteria will be posted with each assignment.

Attendance and Participation

CLL 290 is a course in language learning, and language is learned in communities; therefore, it is essential that you attend class and participate. Absences and lack of preparation for class will affect your classmates' work as well as your own. The work you do in class and the work you do to prepare for each class, is important to your own work as a writer and to the functioning of the class. In addition, our unit calendars are only a projection, and may be subject to occasional changes and revisions, as it seems appropriate, necessary, or just interesting. That is another reason why your attendance is vital.

If you must miss a class, you are responsible for work assigned or missed. Please realize, however, that class time cannot be reconstructed or made up, and that your performance, your work, and your final course grade will be affected by absences.

Blackboard

This course will use "Blackboard," a web-based program that allows students to access course documents, participate in discussions, post work for other students to read and respond to, and easily e-mail both the instructor and other class members. Blackboard can be accessed at <http://blackboard.syr.edu>; to sign in, you'll need your CMS username and password (the same ones you use to access your college e-mail account).

It is your responsibility to regularly check blackboard. All course documents and assignments will appear on Blackboard. You will be responsible for downloading assignments and readings: hard copies will not be distributed in class. In addition, you will be submitting your completed work through Blackboard. Finally, any announcements about the course or its work will be posted on Blackboard and you will be responsible for accessing them.

Submitting your work

Much of your work will be submitted electronically through Blackboard, but other times you will be required to have hard copies of your work in class. ***You are responsible for turning your work in appropriately as described on the course calendar and assignment sheets.***

No matter how submitted, all work you do for this class will be word-processed. Use an easily readable font, size 10 or 12. Include one-inch margins and follow MLA format. See the Purdue OWL if you need a reference for how to format a paper in MLA style.

Several times during the semester you will be asked to provide copies of your work for others in the class, usually your peer response or project group. You may also need to print materials for your presentation and/or discussion. Make sure you budget your printing allotments to allow for all of the printing you may need for this class.

Feedback

You will receive many different kinds of response during this course. Some will come from fellow students and some will come from me. Both are important; they tell you in various ways how your readers are responding to your writing. This will also help you learn how to assess your own work. When due in class, drafts of your formal work will be worth 2 informal writing assignments. This is true both when the drafts are for in-class workshops and when they are for my feedback. Also, note that the types of response you will receive will vary based on the where you are in the writing process – you can expect different sorts of comments on drafts than on the final paper.

Special Needs and Situations

If you require consideration for a special need or circumstance of any kind, please see me. The Writing Center in Moon Library is staffed by consultants with experience in a range of learning situations; I invite you to make use of the facility for brainstorming, organizing and writing your papers.

Use of Student Writing

Enrollment in this course constitutes your permission for your work to be used in assessment, research and teaching.

Ethics and Plagiarism

The academic community requires ethical behavior from all of its participants. For writers, this means that the work we claim as ours must truly be ours. At the same time, we are not always expected to come up with new ideas; we often build our thinking on the ideas of others. We are expected, however, to credit others with their contributions and to clearly indicate the boundaries of our own thinking. Failure to do so in the college and in this course will result in serious consequences for the offender, including failing the assignment, failing the course, or dismissal. If you have any questions or concerns about how to use the ideas of others in your work, please see me or work with a consultant in the Writing Center in Moon Library.