

Writing Seminar-INTD 105-07: World in the Age of Terror: Spring 2013 Syllabus

Class Location: Milne 105. Class Schedule: Wed and Fri, 1:00-2:15pm.

Instructor: Joanna Kirk (kirk@geneseo.edu)

Class Assistants: Andrei Poblaguev (aap9@geneseo.edu), **Gurp Singh** (gs12@geneseo.edu)
and **Nicole Juszczak** (ntj2@geneseo.edu)

Library Research Trainer: Librarian Justina Elmore (elmore@geneseo.edu)

Appointments outside class:

- With instructor ☺ during Sturges 123b drop-in office hours (no appointment needed)
Mon 1:30-2:30, Wed 3:30-4:00, Fri 2:30-3:00
- With class assistants ☺ ☺ ☺ by arrangement in person or email
- With our specialist librarian ☺ by email.

Course Description and Goals:

Fly Naked? So suggests Pulitzer Award-winning journalist Thomas Friedman. From enhanced airport screenings to wiretapping and waterboarding, the threat of Jihad and efforts to combat it have changed American and global society in the years since September 11, 2001.

Issues surrounding the causes of terrorism, the severity of the threat, and the use of counter-enforcement methods such as data-mining, extraordinary rendition, torture, and assassination have raised ethical questions throughout the past decade, questions that now resonate particularly strongly, in light of last year's tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attack, the targeted killing of Osama Bin Laden and other Al Qaeda operatives, the recent foiling of several terrorist plots, and the passage of legislation that some argue fundamentally undermines constitutional rights.

With a focus on Friedman's "Word Album" Longitudes and Attitudes: The World In The Age Of Terrorism, and other journalism, this section considers terrorism and counter-terrorism in the 21st century. By critically analyzing news, editorial and cartoon coverage, students will explore the distinction between fact, evidence and opinion, and develop skills in effective presentation of controversial issues.

Required Writing Style Guide, Topical Text and Additional Readings:

- **Longitudes And Attitudes: The World In The Age Of Terrorism (Friedman)**
Author: Thomas L. Friedman
Publisher: Anchor Books; 1st Anchor Books edition; ISBN 1400031257
Must get THIS edition of the book - published 2003 by Anchor Books.
- **The College Writer's Reference (CWR)**
Authors: Toby Fulwiler and Alan R. Hayakawa
Publisher: Pearson; 5th Edition; ISBN 0205712320
Must order this ISBN in order to acquire print text AND (no additional cost but nonetheless required) access to companion Pearson MyCompLab web site
- **Online readings** as listed in paper requirements documents
- **Additional readings** may be assigned during the course of semester

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

80 percent: **Six Graded Written Assignments:**

- Paper 1 = 5 percent
- Paper 2 = 5 percent
- Paper 3 = 15 percent
- Paper 4 = 20 percent
- Paper 5 = 20 percent
- Paper 6 = 15 percent

(See paper requirements documents for full assignment details on these papers.)

20 percent: **Individual Participation** earned through 32 available points:

- 12 points: collaborative and attentive peer editing (6 sessions, 1-2 points each)
- 20 points:
 - demonstrated completion of reading assignments
 - other effective preparation for classes and written assignments
 - active participation in discussions and debates (as a full class and within teams)
 - effort applied to writing exercises, pop quizzes, etc.
 - and other general contributions to class activity, individually and in teams

Extra credit opportunities: Up to **2 extra credit points** on final semester grade, earned through documented attendance at selected events (attendance forms posted on mycourses).

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

Punctuality: By remaining in this course, you agree to all examination dates and due dates for reading and written assignments as scheduled. In addition, you commit to regular, punctual, attentive attendance at class. In particular, the twelve paper deadlines (six hard-copy drafts for peer editing, and six electronic final versions for instructor) are absolute and immovable, unless you provide a legitimate, documented reason in advance. In the case of severe illness or other cause preventing advance notification, *post facto* documentation is required in order to avoid penalty on paper or peer-editing grade. **Papers submitted late without legitimate, documented justification will be penalized by one full letter grade for each 24 hours that the assignment is overdue, including non-class days.** (Note: first penalty kicks in immediately the online drop box for the paper closes.)

Active participation: By remaining in this course, you agree to contribute meaningfully to class discussions and activities, some of which will take place in teams, as assigned.

Academic honesty: Any act of plagiarism or cheating will result in a failing grade or zero on the assignment and/or notification of the Dean of Students. For more information, see <http://library.geneseo.edu/research/plagiarism.shtml>.

Intended learning outcomes for Geneseo's Writing Seminar include developing the ability to:

- read significant texts carefully and critically
- recognize and respond to argumentative positions
- write sustained, coherent and persuasive arguments on significant issues
- write clearly, following the conventions of standard English.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION:**How to proceed in the case of absence from class:**

- 1) In the case of peer editing and paper due dates, you must communicate IN ADVANCE the reason you will be absent, both to your instructor and class assistant. IN ADDITION, in order to be permitted to submit your paper late without penalty, you must provide written documentation, such as a medical note from your doctor, or, in the case of the college Health Center, sign a form allowing your instructor to call to confirm. Failure to notify in advance and/or provide evidence will result in imposition of the late paper penalty referred to above, or loss of the opportunity to complete any activity assigned in class.

- 2) In the case of absence from a regular class, you may as a matter of courtesy choose to notify your instructor and class assistant but are not obliged to. If you wish to follow up afterward on content missed, make an appointment either with your class assistant or come to Sturges 123b during office hours (see above) to meet with your instructor. In either case, be sure to have completed all reading assigned for the class and be prepared to ask and be asked questions as an effective means to follow up.

Accommodations for students with disabilities:

SUNY Geneseo will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented physical, emotional or learning disabilities. Students should consult with the Director in the Office of Disability Services (Tabitha Buggie-Hunt, 105D Erwin, tbuggieh@geneseo.edu) and their individual faculty regarding any needed accommodations as early as possible in the semester

BRING LAPTOP AND STYLE GUIDE TO ALL CLASSES

(except *the four library research trainings* in Milne 104, see entries marked * below)

SEE DETAILED REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH OF THE SIX PAPERS – digital documents posted on myCourses and hard copy distributed in class

SCHEDULE (potentially subject to change):

Week and Focus Topics

Reading and other Assignments Due

1) Jan 23 and 25
Course introduction

Due Wed: **Read course syllabus and paper requirements (on myCourses)**
Intro to course, instructors, students, print texts, online materials, and Friedman

Fri: **Re-read Paper 1 requirements and begin assigned reading**
Library training #1 (general intro) – ***CLASS IN MILNE 104**

2) Jan 30 and Feb 1
Writing focus: prewriting and editing

Wed: **All reading for Paper 1 due** (Friedman intro and nine “Before” columns) **and bring hard copy notes or highlighted/noted copy of chosen column**
In-class discussion: Paper 1 topics and requirements, approaches to reading and noting/highlighting, academic style (CWR exercise), and peer-editing process (guidelines distributed)

Fri: **Paper 1 due in hard copy for peer editing** (+ inspiration from Lamott’s “Someone to Read Your Drafts”)

3) Feb 6 and 8
Writing focus: prewriting

Wed: **Final Paper 1 due for electronic submission in class, along with hard-copy peer-edited draft and read Paper 2 requirements**

Discussion about reading and noting, and planning/creating an outline: clustering, outlining exercises (CWR, student resume info, and Friedman “Before” columns; + more inspiration from Lamott: “Short Assignments” and “Radio Station KFKD”)

Fri: **Begin reading for Paper 2 before this class**

Discussion about planning/outlining continued, with reference to Friedman topics
Schedule announced for instructor-student conferences

4) Feb 13 and 15
One-on-one instructor-student conferences in Sturges 123b and Paper 2 preparation

Wed: Paper 1 returned before instructor-student conferences begin
Students to proceed with Paper 2 reading, noting and outlining
Some conferences may be scheduled for Wed office hour, 3:30-4:00

Fri: Instructor-student conferences continue, as scheduled
Wed and Fri: TAs available in Milne 105 for consultation

5) Feb 20 and 22

Writing focus: planning and creating an outline; and citation basics

Wed: **Paper 2 due for peer editing**

Discussion about Friedman summary and topic selection for paper 3 analysis

Fri: **Final Paper 2 due by electronic submission before start of class and bring hard-copy peer-edited draft**

*Library training #2 (plagiarism) – *CLASS IN MILNE 104*

6) Feb 27 and March 1

Writing focus: citation, continued; reorganization and outline expansion; and persuasive argument and evidence

Wed: *Library training #3 (citation) – *CLASS IN MILNE 104*

Fri: **Read and note/highlight articles Zakaria “Only Thing ... To Fear” and Weigel “The War Against Jihad” (consider style and evidence of both) Re-read paper 3 requirements, for class discussion on approaches to it**
Paper 2 returned by today

7) March 6 and 8

Discussion Paper 4 substance, team debate procedure, and in/appropriate sources (NO Wikipedia or similar!)

Wed: **Paper 3 due for peer editing and read Paper 4 requirements**

Preliminary introduction to Paper 4 topics

Fri: **Final Paper 3 due by electronic submission before start of class and bring hard-copy peer-edited draft**

*Library training #4 (research) – *CLASS IN MILNE 104*

8) March 13 and 15

(Mid-term grades out by March 13)

Writing focus: research and persuasive argument

Wed: **All reading for Paper 4 due**

Discussion about Paper 4 topics
Debate teams assigned

Fri: Team debate research/other prep
Paper 3 returned by today

9) March 20 and 22

No Classes: Spring Break ☺

10) March 27 and 29

Writing focus: research and argument, continued

Wed: Team debate (Paper 4 topics) and **team works cited list due**

Fri: **Paper 4 due for peer editing and read Paper 5 requirements**

11) April 3 and 5

Writing focus: research and argument, continued

Wed: **Final Paper 4 due by electronic submission before start of class and bring hard-copy peer-edited draft**

Documentary: “The Ghosts of Abu Gharib”

Fri: **All reading for Paper 5 due**

Introduction to Paper 5 topics and debate teams assigned

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- 12) **April 10 and 12** Wed: Team debate research/other prep
Paper 4 returned by today
- Fri: Team debate (Paper 5 topics) and **team works cited list due**
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- 13) **April 17 and 19** Wed: **Paper 5 due for peer editing**
Writing focus: as needed/requested
(DS? = directness and succinctness) Fri: **Final Paper 5 due by electronic submission before start of class and bring hard-copy peer-edited draft**
TA class
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- 14) **April 24 and 26** Wed: Paper 5 returned by today
Preparation for Paper 6 (rewrite and shortening of solo-authored Paper 4 or 5)
Writing focus: intensive self-editing and synthesis
- Fri: **Paper 6 due for peer editing**
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- 15) **May 1 and 3** Wed: **Final Paper 6 due by electronic submission before start of class and bring hard-copy peer-edited draft**
Documentary: “The Oath”
- Fri: Last regular class ☹ with prep for group final ☺
including last writing exercise of semester ☺ and conclusion of “The Oath”
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- 16) **May 8** **Study Day**
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- 17) **Mon May 13**
3:30-6:30pm **Class Final Exam Session – BRING YOUR LAPTOPS**
NOTE STARTING TIME OF 3:30pm
Library survey scheduled for 4:30pm following an hour of fun and games ☺
EVERYONE MUST BE PREPARED TO STAY UP TO 3 HOURS
(but you may be done by 5:30pm)
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