Composition Pedagogy Practicum

Course Description

ENGL 6911 is a three-hour practicum that is taken by all Teaching Assistants during their first fall semester of composition teaching in the University of Georgia First-year Composition Program. The goals of the class are:

- To develop a network of colleagues who can support your teaching;
- To develop a basic understanding of the theory and practice behind FYC pedagogy;
- To develop a basic understanding of writing studies as a discipline;
- To develop a basic understanding of theory and practice of writing assessment;
- To develop a professional, practical composition teaching portfolio.

Texts

- Articles on Emma.

Requirements

- **Teaching Journal**: Using the Emma Journal tool, post one (ca. 250-word) entry per week, reflecting on your teaching and students (and your readings, classes, whatever seems relevant). Due each Wednesday by noon;
- **Major Assignments**: All three major assignments will be analyzed and sequenced;
- **Syllabus for ENGL 1101**: We will work on polishing the 1101 syllabus early in the semester
- **Syllabus for ENGL 1102**: in the later part of the semester we will tackle the ENGL 1102 syllabus for Spring 2014;
- **Observation Reports**: Observe one of your classmates and one "senior" T.A., instructor, or lecturer; make sure one of the classes is ENGL 1102/1102M;
- **Analysis of one student essay** that was particularly interesting, perplexing, or difficult to grade;
- **Analysis of Student Conference**: Tape record (or video?) a conference with a student in which you work on an essay and analyze the encounter;
- **Lesson Plans and other exercises**: whatever comes up in the course of the semester (under Miscellaneous Folder);
- **Final Course ePortfolio**: IRE + 4 artifacts that help define you as a teacher of writing.
**Due Dates**

**Teaching Journal**: Every Wednesday before noon  
**Major Assignments**: August 23  
**English 1101 Syllabus**  
  - Version you turn into Jane, August 16  
  - Completed, reverse-engineered syllabus, September 15  
**Observation Reports**: September 27  
**Analysis of Student Essay**: October 11  
**Analysis of Student Conference**: October 28  
**English 1102 Syllabus**: November 15  
**Final ePortfolio**: November 20

---

**Grading Policy**

This class is graded on the +/− system. To get an A in the class, you need to complete all requirements satisfactorily in a timely manner. I’ll let you know if your work is not satisfactory. Each piece of incomplete work will reduce your class grade by one grade (A to A−, B+ to B, etc.).

---

**Attendance Policy**

As in all graduate classes, perfect attendance is very important and expected. Courtesy requires an email or a phone call to discuss an unavoidable absence (an emergency, delivering a conference paper, etc.).

---

**Academic Honesty**

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University’s academic honesty policy, “A Culture of Honesty,” and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in “A Culture of Honesty” found at: http://ovpi.uga.edu/academic-honesty. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

---

**Policy for Make-up Work**

You should make up any assignments you miss.

---

**Access Policy**

Students with special needs are invited and encouraged to discuss them with the instructor.
Course Calendar

All Readings, Assignments, and Course information can be found on the Emma Calendar. The syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Week 1, August 14  
**Introduction to the Course**  
Resource Unit: Course Introduction

Week 2, August 21  
**Creating and Sequencing Assignments**  
Resource Unit: Major Assignments

Week 3, August 28  
**Workshops and Group Work**  
Resource Unit: Working with Students and Student Writing

Week 4, September 4  
**Peer Review**  
Resource Unit: Working with Students and Student Writing

Week 5, September 11  
**Completing your English 1101 Syllabus: Filling in the Gaps**  
Resource Unit: English 1101 Syllabus

Week 6, September 18  
**Grading the First Essay**  
Resource Unit: Assessing Writing

Week 7, September 25  
**Thinking Forward: The ePortfolio**  
Resource Unit: ePortfolio

Week 8, October 2  
**Teaching Revision**  
Resource Unit: Revision

Week 9, October 9  
**Doing Ethnography and the Grounded Curriculum**  
Unit: Major Assignments

Week 10, October 16  
**Conferences with Students**  
Unit: Conferencing with Students

Week 11, October 23  
TBA

Week 12, October 30  
**English 1102 Workshop**  
Resource Unit: English 1102 Syllabus

Week 13, November 6  
**English 1102 Workshop**  
Resource Unit: English 1102 Syllabus

Week 14, November 13  
Awards Ceremony