

## ENG 200 Writing 2: Seeing Communities

**Course Code: ENG 200**

**Instructor: Dr. Brendan Prawdzik**

**Home Institution: Pennsylvania State University**

**Office Hours: by appointment**

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**Credit: 3**

### **Course Description:**

This course explores a range of provocative subject matter focused on the relationship between the individual and society. As we move from the individual into its community, we will address questions related to mind and soul, body and emotion, gender, sexuality, race, and ecology. In following these questions, we will advance skills of critical analysis, argumentation, and effective paragraphs and sentences.

### **Required Textbooks:**

All assigned texts for this course are available online and do not require a copyright fee under U.S. law. The texts will be made available for students who cannot access them online.

### **Course Schedule**

#### **Self and Society**

#### WEEK 1

Monday - Plato, "Phaedrus"; Aristophanes' oration in *Symposium* (ca. 370 BC)

Tuesday - René Descartes, "Second Meditation" (1641)

Wednesday - Sigmund Freud, "The Ego and the Id" (1923)

Thursday - Michel de Montaigne, "That Our Actions Carry Themselves Beyond Us," "Conscience,"  
"That Our Mind Hinders Itself," in *Essays* (ca. 1590)

Friday - Class with Teaching Assistant: discuss first writing assignment and exam

## WEEK 2

Monday - Henry David Thoreau, "Where I Lived, and What I Lived For," "Solitude," in *Walden: A Life in the Woods* (1854)

Tuesday - William Shakespeare, selected sonnets and monologues (1580-1613); Essay 1 due

Wednesday - Friedrich Nietzsche, "The Mask," in *Beyond Good and Evil* (1886)

Thursday - W. E. B. Du Bois, "Double-Consciousness," in *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903)

Friday - Exam 2

**Seeing**

## WEEK 3

Monday - Virginia Woolf, "Kew Gardens"(1921)

Tuesday - David Foster Wallace, "Consider the Lobster" (2004)

Wednesday - Simone de Beauvoir, excerpt from *The Second Sex* (1949)

Thursday - Herman Melville, "Benito Cereno" (1855)

Friday - Review session with Teaching Assistant: workshop Essay 2

**Communities**

## WEEK 4

Monday - Sigmund Freud, excerpts from *Civilization and Its Discontents* (1930)

Tuesday - Franz Kafka, excerpts from *The Trial*; Essay 2 due (1925)

Wednesday - Timothy Morton, excerpt from *The Ecological Thought* (2012)

Thursday - The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., "I Have a Dream" (1963)

Friday - Final Exam

**Grading & Evaluation:**

**Essay 1** (five pages): 20%

**Essay 2** (five pages): 20%

**Exam 1** (three pages of essay responses): 20%

**Exam 2** (three pages of essay responses): 20%

**Portfolio** (including one-page response for each reading; peer reviews; rough drafts; final drafts): 10%

**Preparation and Participation:** 10%

Total pages of writing: 46

An important factor in the assignment of grades is the clear improvement of the student in writing in English and in building arguments, using English style and rhetorical techniques.

### Grading

At the end of this four-week course, students will submit a **course portfolio**, which will include both draft and completed versions of your four writing assignments. Portfolios will also include a one-paragraph summary and two-paragraph response to each of the assigned readings. Portfolios are awarded letter grades of A, B, C, D, or F. Fs are for those students who miss multiple classes, do not fulfill assignment or their guidelines, do not submit all drafts, do not get approval for major topic changes, do not submit course portfolios on time, or commit plagiarism. Some letter grades may be noted with a plus or minus. Portfolios to be submitted in paper copy and are due at the beginning of your last class meeting. Late portfolios will be awarded an "F" for the course.

### Attendance

Attendance at all classes is required. Two or more absences will result in a lowering of a student's final grade. You must turn in all required work on the day that it is due.

### Plagiarism

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, plagiarism is:

1. to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
2. to use (another's production) without crediting the source
3. to commit literary theft

4. to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source or as Plagiarism. org puts it: ". . . plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves . . . stealing someone else's work." Done intentionally or unknowingly, plagiarism is plagiarism. Intentionality can be considered in the degree of plagiarism committed, but plagiarism is always plagiarism. Plagiarism in this course will result in a failing grade.

### Letter Grade Assignment

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the percentage of total points earned and are assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Performance
A	93-100%	Excellent Work
A-	90-92%	Nearly Excellent Work

Letter Grade	Percentage	Performance
B+	87-89%	Very Good Work
B	83-86%	Good Work
B-	80-82%	Mostly Good Work
C+	77-79%	Above Average Work
C	73-76%	Average Work
C-	70-72%	Mostly Average Work
D+	67-69%	Below Average Work
D	60-66%	Poor Work
F	0-59%	Failing Work

### **Course Policies:**

#### **Build Rapport**

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that they can help you find a solution.

#### **Understand When You May Drop This Course**

It is the student's responsibility to understand when they need to consider disenrolling from a course. Refer to the Course Schedule for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from the course. Serious and compelling reasons includes: (1) documented and significant change in work hours, leaving student unable to attend class, or (2) documented and severe physical/mental illness/injury to the student or student's family.

#### **Commit to Integrity**

As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom.

#### **Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures**

"The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of scholars and teachers. University expects that both faculty and students will honor these principles, and in so doing, will protect the integrity of academic work and student grades."

#### **Definitions**

“**Cheating** is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means.”

“**Plagiarism** is a form of cheating.”

“Plagiarism is the use of distinctive ideas or works belonging to another person without providing adequate acknowledgement of that person’s contribution.”