

Maryland Institute College of Art
ACADEMIC WRITING WORKSHOP-L100.07 & L100.08
Fall, 2010

Date and Time: Wednesday 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm & 2:30 pm-3:45 pm

Location: Bunting 480

Instructor: Jennifer Wallace (jwallace@mica.edu; 443-423-1154)

Office Hours: Wed. 11:00 am – 12:00 noon
Thurs. 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Or by appointment

Course Description

This workshop is designed to help students develop the skills needed to write clearly and dynamically. The year-long course is based on the dual premise that writing is a form of thinking on paper and that —like a painting or sculpture—a written piece is a “made thing,” requiring structural integrity and thoughtful, original use of materials (in this case, language). Underlying this premise is the assumption that thought, and therefore writing, has an inherent structure that can be perceived by the writer and manipulated to produce a clear communication of what is thought.

The Workshop is linked to your Critical Inquiry, Art Matters and Foundation courses. Assignments for these classes will form the “text” for your work in the workshop. We will analyze a wide range of academic and creative writing (including our own). We will experiment with different structural and organizational strategies, sentence-level revision techniques, research methods and the nitty-gritty of achieving a tight, powerful final draft. We will write a lot. We’ll re-write a lot. And, since this is a writing course, we will read a lot. We’ll read as writers read: widely, deeply, critically and creatively.

Conferences

In addition to scheduled class meetings, students will meet with the instructor in small group and individual conferences. A schedule for these conferences will be created the first day of class.

Course Requirements

*You are expected to attend and to be on time for all classes and conferences. **Each missed class (conferences count as class sessions!)** will result in a lowered grade. **More than 3 missed classes will result in a failing grade. Lateness in excess of 10 minutes will count as a “half absence.”** It is your responsibility to reschedule missed appointments.

*Staying current with assigned readings and essays; participation in class discussions; creating a supportive environment for other class members when they present their work.

*Final portfolio of assignments; portfolio will contain final versions and earlier drafts of selected essays and additional items to be discussed.

Required Texts

A decent dictionary (no kidding, you really need one)

Selected essays and articles will be posted on Blackboard

A stapler (also no kidding...essays will not be accepted if they have folded or torn corners OR pages stuck together with origami, spit or nail polish).

Grading

To be discussed

ADA Compliance Statement

The LRC recommends the following statement for use on course syllabi:

Learning Resource Center ADA Compliance Statement Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss specific needs. Please contact the Learning Resource Center at 410-225-2416, in Bunting 458, to establish eligibility and coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to: <http://www.mica.edu/LRC>

Health and Safety Compliance

From the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)

It is the responsibility of faculty and students to practice health and safety guidelines relevant to their individual activities, processes, and to review MICA's Emergency Action Plan and attend EHS training. It is each faculty member's responsibility to coordinate with the EHS Office to ensure that all risks associated with their class activities are identified and to assure that their respective classroom procedures mirror the EHS and Academic Department guidelines. Each of these policies and procedures must be followed by all students and faculty. Most importantly, faculty are to act in accordance with all safety compliance, state and federal, as employees of this college and are expected to act as examples of how to create art in a way to minimize risk, and reduce harm to themselves and the environment. Faculty must identify, within each art making process, and require personal protection equipment use, by each student for each class, when applicable. Students are required to purchase personal protection equipment appropriate to their major. Those students who do not have the proper personal protection equipment will not be permitted to attend class until safe measures and personal protection is in place.

Class Schedule Fall 2010 (These topics might shift around as we decide what we need to be an effective workshop).

- 9/1 **The Situation and the Story:** Digging deeply, observing closely and speaking your particular truth/question.
- 9/8 **INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCES**
- 9/15 **GROUP CONFERENCES:** Getting personal, connecting observation to idea, what's the difference between description, summary and assertion?
- 9/22 **In-Class Writing Lab:** Analysis and Interpretation
- 9/29 **Revision Workshop**
- 10/6 **GROUP CONFERENCES:** Using assertions, topic and transitional sentences to develop arguments and achieve paragraph unity and coherence
- 10/13 **In-Class Writing Lab:** Guest speakers—Joni Murphy and Brian Wallace
- 10/20 **INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCES**
- 10/27 **Revision Workshop:** Making and managing elegant sentences
- 11/3 **GROUP CONFERENCES**
Editing for Structural Coherence 1: Not “Is it working?” but “What work is it doing?”
- 11/10 **INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCES**
- 11/17 **In-Class Writing Lab:** Punctuation pleasures—commas & semi-colons
- 12/1 **INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCES**
- 12/8 **INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCES**
- 12/15 **Final Class**