Engl. 030.10—HONORS FRESHMAN COMPOSITION

Instructor:

Elaine Richardson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of English, Pennsylvania State University, Phone: 814-865-9283; email sbr2@psu.edu
Office, Burrowes South 41; Office Hours, Tues. & Thurs 12:45 to 2:15 or by appointment

Books:

Carter G. Woodson’s The Miseducation of the Negro (MSED), Winston-Derek Pub, 1990 (reprint).

Course Packet (CP) “Readings in African American Rhetoric” Available at Pro Copy, Inc. 289 Northland Center, 231-1256, off of Atherton in the plaza near Giant

Location:

Room 105 EE West

Meeting Time:

1:25 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. MWF

Course Description and Objectives:

This class is designed to broaden your perspectives on the uses of language. It focuses on African Centered Rhetorical purposes and styles, and rhetoric in general. Participants are expected to produce thoughtful essays and “think” pieces on a regular basis throughout the course. Come to class prepared, having read and thought about the assigned readings.

This course has the following objectives:

1. To overview African American rhetorical styles and purposes.
2. To enhance participants’ writing and rhetorical skills, toward the goal of producing well constructed and well informed pieces of academic writing.
3. To develop strategies for employing writing for critical analysis and the acquisition of knowledge of self and society.

Topics:

Main topic is African American rhetoric; however, the following will be explored as they relate to African American rhetoric: freedom through literacy, racism and oppression, cultural hegemony, Black Culture.

Requirements:

1. Produce (4) final draft essays.
2. Write a critique of essays by several of your peers.
3. Participate in peer writing group.
4. Write a one page weekly response to readings. This response is not a summary of what you’ve read. Response should reflect themes that you find running through a reading and a video or audio, or a rhetorical strategy employed by a writer or speaker.
5. Find song lyrics featuring Black rhetorical strategies. Use them as the basis for one of your (4) essays. The web is an excellent resource for this.
6. Attend all classes unless you’re dead or very ill. (I know some things can’t be helped—hence everyone can miss three classes—unexcused).
7. Participate in all class activities and discussions.
8. Use a computer to write your papers and use new disks to save your work.
9. Please come to my office hours or make an appointment to see me about your work—don’t wait until you’re in trouble.

Attendance Policy:

Please drop the class if you know you’ll be absent more than three times. If you do not drop the course, and you do not have documentation for your absence (i.e. medical/catastrophe/death), your grade will be lowered one full letter grade (a to b etc) for each two unexcused absences. Do not arrive late to class. Be on time and bring your texts to class. Lateness is a sign of disrespect of yourself and me.

Grading and Late Assignment Policy:

Papers handed in within a week of deadline will be given ½ score, after that they won’t be accepted.
Weekly responses are due each Friday at the beginning of class. These may be neatly handwritten or word processed.
Papers are due on Fridays at the beginning of class. Papers must be word processed. All papers should be double spaced and have a title. Don’t underline it or put it in quotation marks. Your name, Course and Instructor name and date should appear on the first page flush right or left.
If I have to attend a conference or have a speaking engagement, I will arrange for a substitute to take my place. I expect that you all will be teaching him or her about African American rhetoric and what we’re working on.
- OUT of class essays #1—OUT, #2 OUT, #3, #4, = 40%
- In class essays #1— IN, #2— IN, #3 IN) =30%
- Weekly responses to readings= 10%
Participation—you critiqued 4 out of class essays of your colleagues=5%
Presentation—your group will present course material on selected dates= 10%
Participation—attend the African American Read In Program on Sunday, Feb. 8, 1999 in the Paul Robeson Cultural Center from 4-6p.m. 5%-Write a one page response, not summary.

Accommodation and Alternative Formats:

The Pennsylvania State University encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please tell the instructor as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to provide your professors of formal documentation to receive accommodations in your classes.

Calendar:

Week One
1/11/99 M Overview of Syllabus, introductions
1/13/99 W&F Have Read an introduction to African Centered Rhetoric by Richardson in CP, Golden and Reiike’s Chapter on Black Rhetoric, and the overview of “Black Rhetorical Studies” in CP.
| Week Two | 1/18/99 M, W & F | **Have Read** "A Metatheory for Black Communication" by Asante and "A Linguistic Description of Social Dialects" by Williams and Wolfram in CP  
Weekly response paper due  
Paper 1 OUT choices distributed |
| Week Three | 1/25/99 M, W & F | **Have Read** Chapters 3-5 in Smitherman’s T&T  
Proposal #1 Due  
Weekly response paper due |
| Week Four | 2/1/99 M, W & F | **Essay #1—IN**  
**Video** "Story of Black English"  
Weekly response paper Due! |
| Week Five | 2/8/99 M | **Monday—You must have a draft to participate in Draft Workshop**  
**Have Read** "American Letters, African Voices" by Gates in CP  
Weekly response Due AND Paper 1 OUT DUE TOO! |
**Have Read** "The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa, the African by Equiano and all introductory material in (CSN) pp. ix –182.  
Weekly response Due! |
| Week Seven M | 2/12/99 | **Have Read** ½ of “Narrative of Frederick Douglass” by Douglass in (CSN)  
**Video excerpt from “Roots”**  
Proposal #2 Due |
| | W & F | **Have Read** 2nd ½ of “Frederick Douglass” in (CSN)  
Weekly response paper Due!  
Presentation—Group |
| Week Eight | 3/1/99 M | **Have Read** “Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl” by Brent pp. 336-433  
**IN** (CSN)  
Presentation—Group  
**W**  
You must have a draft to participate in Draft Workshop  
**F**  
**Essay #2—IN**  
Paper 2 OUT DUE! AND WEEKLY RESPONSE TOO! |
| Week Nine | **SPRING BREAK!!!** |

**(NOTE: S. Truth, Sis. Souljah, N. McCull, Soul For Sale, Black Nat’lism & Rap, West chapters—“Black Sexuality and Black Rage” are in the Reserve Reading Room in W11 Pattee)**

| Week Ten | 3/15/99 M | **Have Read** Sojourner Truth—“if We Can Laugh” pps. 94-127 of CP  
Presentation—Group  
3/17/99 W | **Have Read** No Disrespect by Sista Souljah in CP  
Presentation—Group  
3/19/99 F | **Have Read** ½ of The Miseducation of the Negro by Woodson  
Proposal #3 DUE and WEEKLY RESPONSE TOO! |
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week Eleven</td>
<td>3/22/99  M</td>
<td><strong>Have Read</strong> 2nd Half of <em>The Miseducation of the Negro</em> Presentation—Group</td>
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<td>W&amp;F</td>
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<td><strong>Have Read</strong> <em>Makes me wanna holler</em> by McCall in CP. Video excerpt “Higher Learning” Weekly Response paper Due</td>
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<td>Week Twelve</td>
<td>3/29/99  M</td>
<td>Review of Papers, in-class appointments Weekly Response paper Due</td>
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<td>W</td>
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<td><strong>You must have a draft to participate in Draft Workshop</strong></td>
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<td>Week Thirteen</td>
<td>4/5/99 M</td>
<td><strong>Have Read</strong> “The Chain Remain the Same: Communicative Practices in the Hip Hop Nation” by Smitherman in CP Paper 3OUT DUE Weekly Response paper Due</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td><strong>Bring in Some Lyrics</strong> Weekly Response paper Due</td>
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<td>Week Fourteen</td>
<td>4/12/99  M</td>
<td><strong>Have Read</strong> “Black Nationalism and Rap Music” by Henderson in CP Video “Rhyme and Reason” <strong>Bring in Some Lyrics</strong> Weekly Response paper Due</td>
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<td>W</td>
<td>F</td>
<td><strong>Bring in Some Lyrics</strong></td>
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<td>Week Fifteen</td>
<td>4/19/99  M</td>
<td><strong>Have Read</strong> “Word from the Hood: The Lexicon of African American Vernacular English” by Smitherman in CP Proposal #4 Due Weekly response due today!</td>
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<td><strong>You must have a draft to participate in Draft Workshop</strong></td>
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<td>Week Sixteen</td>
<td>4/26/99  M</td>
<td><strong>Have Read</strong> “Soul For Sale” from Emerge and “Black Sexuality” and “Black Rage” from Race Matters by West in CP Paper #4 Due</td>
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<td>F</td>
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<td><strong>Have Read</strong> “The Abolitionist Rhetorical Tradition in Contemporary America” by Borman in CP Essay #3 IN Weekly Response Due</td>
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