Ms. Debra Morris  
Writing in the Humanities  
Office: 109E Scott Building 865-3954  
Mailbox: 103 Burrowes Building and Scott Building  
Office hours: MF 1:15-2:00, W 11-2 and by appointment

Writing in the Humanities is designed to help you explore in writing those issues pertinent to those in the arts and humanities. Through particular texts we will explore the rhetorical strategies of various writers and various genres. These texts will also be used as models for developing individual rhetorical strategies. We will begin exploring rhetorical strategies by writing cover letters and resumes. Next we will critique the movie Courage Under Fire as a cultural document, looking at its vision of the Persian Gulf War, women in the military and storytelling. We will also be looking at cultural assessments of our world through the book Where the Girls Are: Growing Up Female with the Mass Media and through essays from the text Issues across the Curriculum. These issues will help you learn what it takes to formulate persuasive arguments, and to communicate your point of view with supporting evidence. In each assignment I will be assessing your rhetorical and persuasive strategy, examining your use of evidence, your understanding of your audience’s values, and your knowledge of the resources in your field.

Required Texts  
Dolores laGuardia, Hans P. Guth, editors Issues across the Curriculum  
Susan Douglas’ Where the Girls Are: Growing Up Female with the Mass Media  
course packet at Gnomon’s

Attendance  
Much of this class will be focused on discussion. Therefore, good attendance is a must. If you miss more than three classes, either excused or unexcused, your final grade will suffer. After two absences beyond the allowed three, I will drop your final grade a half of a letter grade. After four absences beyond the allowed three, I will drop your final grade a full letter grade. Attendance is especially important during peer review sessions. Not having a rough draft for a peer review session will affect your final grade for that particular paper. Specifically, should you be without a draft for a peer review session, your final grade for that paper will be dropped one half of a letter grade.

Grades  
Your final course grade will be determined according to the following percentages:  
Assignment #1 (job application package) 15%  
Assignment #2 (lit review) 10%  
Assignment #3 (mini cultural critique) 15%  
Assignment #4 (Where the Girls Are or an appropriate essay from Issues) 15%  
Assignment #5 (Cultural Critique) 20%  
Assignment #6 presentation 10%  
class participation, essay quizzes, peer review sheets, attendance, overall improvement 15%  

Late Work  
If you need an extension for a particular assignment, ask me for one before the due date. If you do not ask for an extension and your paper is more than two class periods late, you will receive a 0 on that particular paper.

Requirements  
I expect you to read each assignment critically and carefully enough to participate in class discussions. I may give unannounced essay questions or pop quizzes during class time if I feel as though you are not keeping up with the work. The assignments are to be word processed or typed. All assignments must be completed to pass the course. Please turn in two copies of each assignment. I keep file copies for future samples (your anonymity is assured). I will be handing out permission slips for you to sign if you are
willing to have your papers used as such an example. In addition, I require that you always keep a copy of your assignment.

**Plagiarism**
Taking someone else's ideas, published or unpublished, and identifying them as your own is plagiarism. I will be giving you a hand out that explains plagiarism and its consequences.

**Schedule**

**January**
1/12 Introduction to course
1/14 introduction of resume and cover letter assignment (#1)
1/16 samples
1/19 workshop students' resumes
1/21 workshop students' resumes
1/23 workshop students' cover letters
1/26 workshop students' cover letters
1/28 peer review--bring in two copies of memo, cover letter and resume
1/30 Job application package due, introduce literature review (#2), Chapter 12 “Research Strategies”

**February**
2/2 samples, Deborah Blum “The Monkey Wars,” Elissa Ely “Dreaming of Disconnecting a Respirator”
2/4 come in with topics, Arturo Madrid “Diversity and Its Discontents” Orlando Patterson “The Paradox of Integration”
2/6 Toni Morrison “Cinderella’s Stepsisters” Myron Stokes “The Shame of the City”
2/9 library day
2/11 introduce mini cultural critique (#3), show *Courage Under Fire*
2/13 *Courage Under Fire*
2/16 *Courage Under Fire*
2/18 discuss movie
2/20 thesis statement workshop
2/23 peer review mini cultural critique
2/25 Introduce rhetorical analysis (#4), *Where the Girls are*
2/27 *Where the Girls are*, Jessica Hagedorn “Asian Women in Film: No Joy, No Luck” Jean Heaton “Talk TV”

**March**
3/2 *Where the Girls are*
3/4 “Video of ‘Racist’ Event Challenged” Fox Butterfield, samples
3/6 peer review, bring in two copies of your essay
3/9 vacation
3/11 vacation
3/13 vacation
3/16 rhetorical analysis due (#4), Introduce cultural critique, samples
3/18 peer review for literature review
3/20 literature review due
3/23 conferences
3/25 conferences
3/27 conferences
3/30 conferences

**April**
4/6 paragraphs using research
4/8 incorporating the argument throughout the paper
4/10 introductory paragraphs
4/13 presentations
4/15 presentations
4/17 presentations
4/20 presentations
4/22 presentations
4/24 last minute questions
4/27 style exercise
4/29 peer review, course evaluations
May
5/1 final paper due