

English W131

Analytical Reading, Writing, & Inquiry

Section 4565 • MWF 8:00 AM-8:50 AM • Ballantine 135

Yael Massen

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Required Texts

Rosenwasser, David and Jill Stephen. *Writing Analytically*. Seventh Edition. Stamford, CT: Cengage, 2015.

Hacker, Diana and Nancy Sommers. *Indiana University Bloomington Rules for Writers*. Seventh Edition. New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2015.

American Beauty and *Twelve Years a Slave*. Copies of these films will be made available through library course reserve, but you may want to secure other means of viewing them on your own.

Welcome to W131!

In this course, we will be learning and developing skills of analytical thinking, reading, and writing that are key to your success as a university student. The texts we will analyze in order to meet that goal will cover a range of cultural objects, including essays, films, and photographs. In addition to drawing on your own personal experience, we will also consider the perspectives and concepts that other writers bring to the ideas we will discuss. Through your conscientious and dedicated work this semester, you will find yourself well prepared to participate in the forms of thought and expression that define academic discourse.

Coursework

We will complete two types of extended written assignments this semester. **Microthemes** are shorter opportunities for practicing the strategies of analytical reading and writing that we will be studying in class. **Essays** give you the chance to make and develop evidence-based claims about cultural texts that we will be analyzing and discussing. Several short assignments throughout the semester will provide additional opportunities for us to practice the skills we are learning. You must complete and hand in all Microthemes and Essays in order to qualify for a passing grade for the course. Assignments are weighted as follows.

Microtheme One	Summary	50
Microtheme Two	Analysis	50
Essay One	Comparative Analysis	150
Film Viewing Guide	Analysis of a Film Scene	10
Microtheme Three	Analysis of a Film Scene	50
Microtheme Four	Analytical Outline	50
Essay Two	Lens-driven Analysis	250
Photograph Analysis	Analysis of an Image	10
Microtheme Five	Annotated Bibliography	50
Essay Three	Research-based Analysis	300
Short Assignment Points	Various	30
Total Points		1000

Grades

The grades I assign to your work this semester are a measure of how successfully you have completed a task—an indicator of how well you appear to have learned the lessons that the task intends to teach. Grades are not a measure of your worth as a person or your potential as a student. They are also not a reward for the effort you have made toward completing an assignment. At their best, grades are one important piece of how you learn both what you're doing well and what you can improve this semester. If you have any questions about your grades after having carefully considered my comments on your work, please ask me.

Grade	%	What it Means
A	100 A+ 93-99 A 90-92 A-	Superlative work. Addresses the requirements of the assignment in a compelling and insightful way. Manifests consistent attention to detail in both the ideas being presented and the writing that conveys them. Almost entirely error-free. Leaves the reader thinking well after the last word goes by.
B	87-89 B+ 83-86 B 80-82 B-	Excellent work. Clearly and engagingly addresses the requirements, issues, and major ideas of the assignment. Writing is not only readable but also rewarding, attuned to the needs and interest of the reader. Punctuation, spelling, source citation, and other mechanical matters are largely error-free.
C	77-79 C+ 73-76 C 70-72 C-	Adequate work. Meets all the basic requirements of the assignment. Clearly addresses the main issues and ideas the assignment articulates. Writing is readable overall. Any lapses in correctness and style tend not to affect the reader's comprehension.
D	67-69 D+ 63-66 D 60-62 D-	Barely meets the most basic requirements of the assignment. Addresses the important issues or ideas that the assignment engages, but largely without insight. Frequent lapses in style, correctness, and mechanics impact readability and indicate a lack of careful proofreading.
F	Everything else	Fails to meet the most basic requirements of the assignments. Fails to address important issues or ideas that are central to the assignment. Fails to demonstrate attention to style, correctness, and mechanics.

Course Policies

The following policies for the course enable us to know what to expect from each other this semester. Please see me if you have any questions.

Attendance. Your attendance is an important factor in your success in this course. If you're not here, how can we learn from you? You may be absent three times this semester without penalty; I recommend saving these for illnesses and emergencies. Each absence beyond these three will lower your final course grade by a third of a letter (e.g., B to B-). It's best to notify me in advance if you must miss a class. Also be sure to inform me in advance of special circumstances, such as religious holidays or other university-excused absences, for which there will be no penalties (you must provide all relevant documentation). If you have an emergency or illness, please remain in contact with me by email so that we can make appropriate arrangements for you to keep up with assigned work. In general, remember that the sooner you inform me of any complications to your regular attendance this semester, the more options we'll have for ensuring that they have as little negative impact as possible on your performance. If you have been absent for reasons that you believe should be excused, it is your responsibility to discuss your situation with the Office of the Dean of Students. As a matter of university policy, I cannot receive doctor's notes, paperwork from the health center, or other forms of documentation about your absence; this is the function of the Office of the Dean of Students.

Tardiness. Tardiness will be penalized at my discretion—I will mark you late after 8:05. Three records of lateness equals one absence. See attendance policy for repercussions for excessive absences.

Drafts and late assignments. Revision is a critical part of inquiry and writing. For that reason, you will be required to bring drafts of your work to several of our class meetings (as indicated in red on the schedule). Sometimes this will be a draft of a specific section, and sometimes it will be a complete rough draft of an assignment (which means a full-length version that addresses all of the requirements that are specified on the assignment sheet). Failure to bring and submit the required rough draft materials on the days they are due in class will result in a 10% penalty (that is, one letter grade) on the final assignment. Short assignments will be distributed at my discretion throughout the semester and cannot be made up without prior arrangements with me.

All assignments must be submitted in class on the due date listed. You will be penalized 10% for every calendar day that an assignment is late. You must complete and hand in all Microthemes and Essays in order to qualify for a passing grade this semester.

Participation. I hope you will do your part to help foster a respectful and comfortable environment in our class. When contributing to class discussion—and you will, of course, contribute!—please refrain from the use of potentially offensive or hurtful language, even in jest. I welcome your use of laptops in class, with the understanding that you limit your use to tasks that are directly relevant to our coursework; other uses are an unfair distraction to those seated around you. Please do not use mobile devices of any kind for texting, checking email, or any other activities not directly related to class discussion. You will receive one warning about distracting use of technology in class; instances beyond that will cause you to be marked absent on that class day.

Canvas. Be sure to check Canvas regularly this semester for updates, announcements, and course materials. In particular, this is where you will find all your course and keystone essays.

Writing Tutorial Services (WTS). I encourage you to visit a W131 tutor at Writing Tutorial Services for feedback on your work at any stage of the writing process. Their incredibly valuable services are free to all IU students. WTS is not a proofreading service. Rather, tutors do something much more valuable: they assist you in developing your ideas and skills in written communication. You can call WTS at 855-6738 for hour-long appointments in the Wells Library, and you can check their website (www.indiana.edu/~wts) for hours at other WTS centers.

Student disability services. If you require assistance or appropriate academic accommodations for a university-documented disability, please speak with me after class, during office hours, or by appointment. If you have not yet established your eligibility for disability support services through the Office of Disability Services for Students in the Herman B. Wells Library, Suite W 302, please contact them first (855-7578).

Plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of other people's words or ideas, whether deliberately or accidentally. Any written work with your name on it signifies that you are the author—that the ideas, wording, and structure are yours, with exceptions indicated by quotation marks and citations. Evidence of plagiarism will result in a zero on the assignment in question, and a report on your academic dishonesty will be filed with the Dean of your school and the Registrar. Receiving a zero on any assignment in the class will make it difficult for you to receive a passing final grade in the class. Please see the Indiana University "Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct" at <http://www.iu.edu/~code/code/responsibilities/academic/>.

Fair Use. The essays and other copyright materials that you will be working with in the course have been made available to you within the provisions of "fair use," as explained in the US legal code that governs copyright. In general, this means that you will use these materials exclusively for their designated purposes within the course and that you will not post, email, or otherwise distribute them to others outside the class. If you have any questions about fair use, please ask me.

Meeting with Me

The office hours listed on the first page of this syllabus are the dedicated times when I am available to talk with students about any aspect of the course, especially your written work. If you are unavailable during these times, talk with me or email me to see about scheduling an appointment for another time. I check my email once a day, so do not expect an immediate response. For conversations about your drafts and/or grades, please see me in person. Coming to office hours does not mean that you will necessarily do better on your assignments; it does ensure, however, that we will have a chance to enact some of the feedback, questioning, and conversation that all good writing requires before it can be great.

Again, welcome to W131, and I look forward to working with you and your writing this semester!

--Yael