ENGL 120H - Honors Composition  
Beautiful Systems: Nature, the Wild, and Ecological Order  
Spring 2016

Instructor: Constance Beitzel  
Email: beitzel@siu.edu & constancebeitzel@gmail.com  
Office: Faner 2265  
Office Hours: M 1-3:30; by appointment

DESCRIPTIVE OVERVIEW

This section of English 120 introduces students to different kinds of rhetorical analysis and uses the concept of the natural world as a basis for exercises that demonstrate skills in six related areas of writing and research. We use John Charles Goshert’s Entering the Academic Conversation as a textbook for rhetoric, and we use various other examples of writing, presentation and media work to center exercises in research and writing.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Materials
- John Charles Goshert: Entering the Academic Conversation.
- Elaine Maimon, A Writer’s Resource (OPTIONAL)
- Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac
- Farley Mowat, Never Cry Wolf
- Devin Johnston, Creaturely and other Essays
- Henry Beston, The Outermost House
- Other readings, which will be accessed via D2L and E-reserve

COURSEWORK and CREDIT

Major Assignments:  
Percentage of Final Grade:

Essay 1: Statement of Research Interest/ Working Bibliography  10%
Essay 2: Summary and Response  10%
Essay 3: Annotated Bibliography  10%
Essay 4: Research Proposal  10%
Essay 5: Exploratory Essay  10%
Essay 6: Call-to-Action Essay  20%
Exam:
Final Exam: Research Presentation  5%
Miscellaneous:
Peer Reviews, HW, quizzes, participation, etc.  25%

GRADING:

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Submission of Final Drafts: All drafts of essays will be due in class; turning in an essay after class is considered late. Unless excused, every class day a final draft is turned in late will result in a 5% deduction to its grade. Papers must be submitted electronically to the D2L dropbox. You are also encouraged to turn in a hard copy on the day the paper is due. Papers that are solely submitted electronically will only receive end comments.

COURSE POLICIES

Late Work Policy

• Informal Assignments—Informal assignments that are late for unexcused reasons will not be accepted and cannot be made up. If your reason for missing an exercise is excused (see attendance policy below), you may be allowed to make it up; however, you will be asked to provide documentation of the reason for the absence. Planned excused absences will require prior arrangements with and written approval from your instructor. Unplanned excused absences will require after-the-fact, official documentation of the reason for the absence before you will be allowed to make up missed work.

• Submission of Final Drafts—Late submission of final drafts will accrue a 5% deduction for each day that the essay is late. If you know you will not be able to attend class on the day an essay is due, make arrangements in advance with your instructor. If you need to miss class suddenly, email your instructor with the essay in the correct format before the end of class and bring a hard copy of the essay upon your return.

(Never submit an assignment by leaving it on your instructor’s desk, giving it to your instructor’s officemate, or slipping it under your instructor’s door, as your instructor cannot be responsible for receiving such indirect submissions.)

Attendance Policy

Excessive unexcused absences will prevent students from passing this course. More than three weeks of unexcused absences (consecutive or not) will result in automatic failure of the course. That’s six class periods for a T/TR schedule. Additionally, some substantial negative effects of total unexcused absences under the three-week mark are listed immediately below.

• No in-class work can be made up without providing official documentation of the reason for the absence. Unexcused absences will result in a zero for work that took place during the missed class period.
• Work that comes in after the due date as a result of an unexcused absence will receive a deduction in accordance with the English 120H late work policy.
• Lack of participation in classroom activities will negatively impact your level of preparedness for succeeding on the unit assignments.

If you miss over three weeks of class as a result of excused absences (e.g., those resulting from extended illness), you must obtain official documentation (e.g., a letter from a medical doctor) that establishes (1) the cause of the excessive absence and (2) the necessity for having to miss so many class periods.

If you are absent for an extended period of time as a result of illness or other personal crises, you should seek the assistance of SIUC’s Transitional Services Office at 453-7041. Furthermore, please note that early departures for holidays will not count as excused absences. Excused absences for weddings, funerals, court dates, and other clearly compelling matters must be pre-approved by your instructor. Procedures for making up missed work as a result of these absences must be pre-arranged with your instructor.

Tardiness

Unless excused by the instructor, tardiness or an early departure from class that exceeds ten minutes will count as an unexcused absence. You will not be allowed to complete in-class assignments missed partially or in full as a result of being tardy or leaving early from class unless the tardiness or early departure is excused and approved by your instructor. Chronic tardiness or early departures may be regarded as disruptive behavior (see below).
Disruptive Behavior Policy

Behavior that disrupts the educational environment in English 120H and that interferes with others’ learning opportunities will not be tolerated. Disruptive behavior in the English 120H class includes, but may not be limited to:

- disrespectful treatment of your instructor or peers;
- patterns of tardiness or early departure;
- violations of the policy for responsible cell phone use (see the section below.)

If it is determined that you are disrupting class, you will be referred to the Writing Studies Office. You will not be allowed to return to class until the behavior has been identified and the consequences of repeating the behavior clarified. This discussion will take place in a meeting with a Writing Studies Assistant or the Director of Writing Studies and, in certain cases, with the instructor of the class.

If repeated acts of disruptive behavior are observed after this meeting, you will be referred to the Chair of the English Department, the Director of Student Judicial Affairs, and/or the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Consequences for repeated disruptive behavior could include suspension or expulsion from the course.

Class Participation

Courses of this nature work best when everyone participates in class discussions and group work. We will all learn best when we have all voices and opinions represented, but this means that you must treat your classmates with respect, even if you disagree with their opinions and ideas. If you are unwilling or unable to treat others with respect, you will speak with the department dean, and your future in this course will be in jeopardy. That said, leave your prejudice, bias, and preconceived notions at the door along with your cell phones.

Cell Phone Use

Any student who brings a cell phone, or other mobile device, to class is responsible for turning it off before the beginning of the official class start time unless directed otherwise by the instructor. If you absolutely must keep your cell phone on (for instance, if you are in the midst of a family crisis), you must keep the ringer set to silent or vibrate. In such an instance, you should alert the instructor before class that you might need to take a call. If you have to take an emergency call, quietly leave the classroom and find a place where the conversation will not disturb others. Lack of compliance with this policy will be regarded as disruptive behavior.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the intentional use of another author’s material and/or words in your own text without acknowledging that author’s contribution. In academic environments, plagiarism is an ethical violation that carries serious consequences.

The instructor will hold you to the standards immediately following:

- First, as you are responsible for learning how to write effectively at the college level, unintentional use of another author’s material will still constitute plagiarism. You are responsible for understanding the standards taught in this class and abiding by them. If you are in doubt about a potential plagiarism problem, you should ask your instructor about the material before the assignment is due.
- Second, make no mistake about the fact that presenting even “unpublished” material written by someone else (e.g., a paper written by a friend for English 120H or another course) as if it were your own work is an act of plagiarism.
- Third, the use of texts in this class that you have written in the past or are writing during this semester for another course (the idea being to expand or rework them for submission in English 120H) must receive written approval from your instructor. You should submit a copy of the text (or the assignment) to your instructor when you request permission. In the case of an assignment that is being composed in another class during this semester, your instructor will request permission from the other instructor.

Intentional violations of plagiarism standards will be referred to the Director of Writing Studies. An appropriate response
will be selected in consultation with the instructor of record. Substantiated accusations of plagiarism may result in a failing grade on the assignment; a failing grade for the class; or, for repeated violations, more severe disciplinary action. Appealed charges of plagiarism will be referred to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. All cases of plagiarism—intentional or unintentional—will be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities, where the information will be placed on file for reference relevant to any future violations of the Student Conduct Code.

Please also note that assisting others in the act of plagiarizing by providing them with your own work to turn in as their own—and/or submitting your work to on-line databases from which students can purchase papers to turn in as their own—could be interpreted as an act of academic dishonesty and may be subject to disciplinary action under the Student Conduct Code. 

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