

EDH 7050
EXPLORATION OF RESEARCH LITERATURE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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Class Meeting Time	Thursday (5:10p – 8:10p)
Class Location	NRN 101
Office Hours	By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Writing well is hard. Writing well about complex subjects can be particularly difficult. Researchers often feel writing-based difficulties acutely since they must work at the edges of current understanding and, in turn, lucidly explain their work others. The purpose of this course is two-fold. The first is to help doctoral students improve their writing process through mini-lessons in writing style, personal and peer review, a system of shared accountability, and, of course, a lot of writing. The second is that students, in consultation with the professor, will set personalized writing goals based on their current needs and end the semester having made substantive progress on their dissertation.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The following book is required for the course. You may purchase it through the bookstore or online.

Williams, J. M. (1990). *Style: Toward clarity and grace*. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press.

ASSIGNMENTS

Class participation (10%): Each class will include a stand-up meeting in which we each will quickly describe our past week's goals and progress in making them. You will not be graded on whether you met your goals, but rather on your engagement with the process. We will also work through a number of in-class writing/revising exercises throughout the semester. Needless to say, you cannot participate if you are not present, so attendance at all class meetings is mandatory (unless otherwise cleared with me beforehand).

Peer review reports (20%): Everyone will be expected to complete two (2) peer-review reports over the course of the semester. These will be short (two- to three-page, double-spaced) documents that should offer substantive feedback on the draft you review. We will discuss the format of these reports in class. Part of this grade will also be submitting drafts to your reviewer in a timely fashion.

Dissertation chapter(s) (70%): Your course grade will be predominantly determined by the dissertation chapter(s) you submit at the end of the term. Every student's writing requirement will be set in consultation with me. I will grade based on the progress you make in relation to the goals we establish at the beginning of the semester. Everyone should schedule a time to meet with me to discuss their goals within the first two (2) weeks of the semester.

GRADING

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Grades are assigned in accordance with current UF grading policies, which may be found here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.asp>

HONOR CODE

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states,

We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Persons with disabilities may request and, if necessary, receive appropriate academic accommodations from the University of Florida. First, students must register with and provide the needed documentation to the Disability Resource Center in the basement of Reid Residence Hall (352.392.8565). Second, students must bring a letter to the instructor originating from the DRC indicating the needed academic accommodations. As the student, you are responsible for initiating and completing these steps prior to receiving such accommodations.

COURSE EVALUATIONS

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu>.

edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

SCHEDULE

After the first class session, every class section will include the following activities:

- Stand-up meeting as writing check in
- Mini-discussion of reading
- Class activity to practice skills discussed in the reading

These are in addition to any activities listed below. Unless otherwise indicated, all reading and assignments should be completed on the date they are assigned.

August 22

- Course introduction
- Discussion: writing difficulties; setting personal goals; setting course goals

*****Email BS by EOW to set up time to meet*****

August 29

— Reading: *Style, Ch. 2, Clarity* —

September 5

— Reading: *Style, Ch. 3, Cohesion* —

September 12

— Reading: *Style, Ch. 4, Emphasis* —

*****First writing section due to peer reviewer*****

September 19

— Reading: *Style, Ch. 5, Coherence I* —

September 26

— Reading: *Style, Ch. 6, Coherence II* —

*****First peer review due*****

October 3

— Reading: *Style, Ch. 7, Concision* —

October 10

— Reading: *Style, Ch. 8, Length* —

October 17

— Reading: *Style, Ch. 9, Elegance* —

*****Second writing section due to peer reviewer*****

October 24

— Reading: *Style, Ch. 10, Usage* —

October 31

— Reading: *TBD* —

November 7

— Reading: *TBD* —

*****Second peer review due*****

November 14

No class meeting due to ASHE conference; use this time to work on your dissertation chapter(s).

November 21

— Reading: *TBD* —

November 28

No class meeting due to Thanksgiving break

December 5

*****Dissertation chapter(s) due to BS by 11:59 pm*****