

Course Syllabus

Linguistics 381 - Written English for Non-Native Speakers

Spring, 2001

Instructor Information

Ralph L. Rose

Office: Swift 226

Office Hours: Thursdays, 1-2 p.m.

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Course Overview

One of the most important communication skills necessary to a successful academic career is the ability to write effectively in a variety of genres. This course aims to address the particular needs of nonnative speakers of English in developing their writing skills, by focusing both on the mechanics of English sentences and paragraphs as well as the local and global discourse structure of written texts. A workshop atmosphere is encouraged in the classroom in which student work will be constructively criticized by all participants. Homework assignments will encourage the student to focus on their weaknesses as well as extend their writing practice into their own fields of expertise and interest. Students will also receive explicit constructive criticism from the instructor on regular electronic submissions.

Blackboard CourseInfo

This course has a web site on the Blackboard CourseInfo system, accessible at <http://courses.northwestern.edu/> under the course name (Linguistics 381). All course documents, assignments, and other communication will take place through this site. Please check the site regularly for updates. In order to access the site you must have a valid NU NetID. Registered students will automatically have an account created for you. Auditors must first give me their NU NetID, last name, first name, e-mail, and student ID, so that I can set up an account for you.

Attendance

Regular attendance is required. The workshop nature of the class meetings requires active involvement from all students. Furthermore, many activities overlap class sessions. Hence, irregular attendance is strongly discouraged and may affect your final grade.

Grades

Course grades are determined by 'effort' as indicated by the degree of classroom involvement and the number and consistency of written submissions and resubmissions of critiqued work. Upon request, an estimate of a student's grade can be given at any time during the course.

Exercises

Writing: A College Handbook contains many very useful exercises to improve one's writing skills. Some of these exercises have been adapted as online tests at the course web site. You are required to browse the textbook and choose one or two exercises each week in an area in which you know you need work (don't choose exercises which are too easy). If an exercise is available on the web site, then you can do the exercise online. Otherwise, submit your answers via the "Digital Dropbox" feature.

Project

I also expect you to complete one major writing project over the quarter. This should be something which interleaves with research you are already doing in your field of specialization. This effort will be divided into smaller tasks and submissions will be made in the same way as exercises. In lieu of a final exam, students are expected to submit the completed project.

Tentative Schedule

28 March Course Intro; AWG Chapter 1
4 April AWG Chapter 2
11 April AWG Chapter 3
18 April AWG Chapter 4
25 April AWG Chapter 5
2 May AWG Chapter 6
9 May AWG Chapter 7
16 May AWG Chapter 8
23 May AWG Chapter 8
30 May AWG Chapter 8

Required Texts

Swales, J. and Feak, C. (1994) *Academic Writing for Graduate Students*. Ann Arbor, MI: The University of Michigan Press. [AWG]

Heffernan, J., Lincoln, J., and Atwill, J. (2001) *Writing: A College Handbook, Fifth Edition*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company. [WACH5]

Other Resources

External links at the course web site
Tutoring Program
Conversation Partners (?)