

Schedule of Meetings and Assignments (subject to change)

Complete all readings BEFORE the class meetings under which they appear!

PART ONE: Writing with the “So What” Factor

Week One

Aug. 16: Course introduction

In-class writing; vocabulary presentation sign-up

Aug. 18: Words, precision, definition, and context

75: Naylor, “A Question of Language” and Brownmiller, “Pornography”

Week Two

Aug. 23: Sentences, grammar, and style

75: Tannen, “‘I’m Sorry’” and Orwell, “Politics”

Aug. 25: Arguable and compelling thesis statements (bring in three theses)

75: White, “Meaning of Democracy” and Jefferson, “Declaration of Independence”

Week Three

Aug. 30: Paragraphs, main ideas, supporting ideas, connective tissues, style, and voice

75: Anzaldúa, “Wild Tongue,” Rich, “Claiming,” and West, “Black Fathering”

Sept. 1: Images, experience, and meaning (bring in object and descriptive paragraph)

75: hooks, “Keeping Close to Home” and Woolf, “The Death of the Moth”

Week Four

Sept. 6: LABOR DAY—NO CLASS

Relax, but think about your first essay

Sept. 8: The significance of experience (DRAFT, ESSAY ONE, 2 copies, workshop)

75: Rose, “I Just Wanna Be Average”

PART TWO: Writing the World through Advertising

Week Five

Sept. 13: Making an argument (ESSAY ONE, 1 copy, turn in)

75: Paglia, “Rape” and Jackson, “Who Makes”

Sept. 15: Rhetorical strategies

75: Truth, “Ain’t I a Woman,” King, “I Have a Dream, and Swift, “Modest Proposal”

Week Six

Sept. 20: Decoding advertising (bring in an ad or a description of one)

75: Twitchell, “‘But First, a Word from Our Sponsor’”

Sept. 22: Advertising and control

75: Steinem, “Sex, Lies, and Advertising” and Barry, “Red, White, and Beer”

Week Seven

Sept. 27: The substance behind the ads

75: Smith, “Mercantile System” and Baker, “Work in Corporate America”

Sept. 29: Subjects and objects (DRAFT, ESSAY TWO, 2 copies, workshop)

Williams, “Gilded Lilies” and Eighner, “On Dumpster Diving”

PART THREE: Writing the World through Literature

Week Eight

Oct. 4: Literacy and freedom (ESSAY TWO, 1 copy, turn in)

75: Douglass, “Learning to Read and Write;” Reading Lolita 1-37

Oct. 6: Worlds made in and by literature

Reading Lolita 37-102

Week Nine (*Plan ahead—the assignment for Wednesday is long!*)

Oct. 11: Literature as instruction—or ideology

Reading Lolita 102-153

Oct. 13: Navigating ambiguity

Reading Lolita 153-255

Week Ten

Oct. 18: The personal and the political

Reading Lolita 255-328

Oct. 20: Identity and imagination

Reading Lolita 328-end (OUTLINE, ESSAY THREE, 2 copies, workshop)

Week Eleven

Oct. 25: Sex and power (ESSAY THREE, 1 copy, turn in)

75: Atwood, “The Female Body,” Brady, “Why I,” and Sanders, “The Men”

Oct. 27: Criminal storytellers and criminal stories

Lolita 1-69

Week Twelve

Nov. 1: Approaching literary form

Lolita 69-142

Nov. 3: Writing America (pay attention to the election)

Lolita 142-208

Week Thirteen

Nov. 8: Scholarship, detection, and interpretation

Lolita 208-309

Nov. 10: Using essays, books, and film (OUTLINE, ESSAY FOUR, 2 copies, workshop)

Lolita 311-317

PART FOUR: Researching and Defending Your Claim

Week Fourteen

Nov. 15: Manageable topics; pursuing truth (ESSAY FOUR, 1 copy, turn in)

MLA 1.1 – 1.3; 75: Plato, “Allegory”

Nov. 17: Finding and using sources; library orientation

MLA 1.4 – 1.7 and look over chapters 2, 5 and 6

Week Fifteen

Nov. 22: Defining a position

75: Gould, “Darwin’s Middle Road” and Krauthammer, “Of Headless Mice and Men”

Nov. 24: Considering counter-arguments (TOPIC and SOURCES, 1 copy, turn in)

75: Koch, “Death and Justice” and Rachels, “Active and Passive Euthanasia”

Week Sixteen

Nov. 29: Approaching sources critically

75: Whitehead, “Divorce Culture” and Bennett, “America at Risk”

Dec. 1: Handling sensitive issues (OPTIONAL REVISION, 1 copy, turn in)

75: Quindlen, “Evan’s Two Moms” and Tisdale, “We Do Abortions Here”

Week Seventeen

Dec. 6: Troubleshooting

You should really, really be almost done with your research paper

Dec. 8 Review for final (RESEARCH PAPER, 1 copy, turn in)

FINAL EXAM: Monday, Dec. 13 (date is tentative—see course catalog)