

ENC 6700: Studies in Composition Methodology & Theory

ENC 6700-001 | CRN: 84975 | W 07:10PM -10:00PM | AH 204 | 3 credits

ENC 6700-002 | CRN: 99975 | F 04:00PM - 06:50PM | CU 130 | 3 credits

Professor: Julia Mason, Ph.D.

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Course Website: <http://rhetoricandwriting.com/6700>

Email is the best way to reach me (checked approximately 10am-2pm M-F); please allow 24-48 hours for response.

Campus Office Location: CU 339

Campus Office Hours: W 5-7pm, F 12-4pm & by appt.

English Dept. Front Desk Phone: 561-297-3830¹

Catalog Course Description

Review and discussion of recent scholarship in the teaching of composition, with an emphasis on practical applications in the classroom. Required for and restricted to graduate assistants teaching composition for the first time. May count toward the 24 credits of coursework required for the MA degree.

Course Description & Objectives

Studies in Composition Methodology & Theory will focus on the intersections of theory and practice, specifically pedagogical practices, within the field. As writers, scholars, and teachers of composition, we will examine major pedagogical theories of composition and will analyze the ways in which the elements of a rhetorical situation—writer, audience, context, and text/language—are treated according to each. We will consider the ways in which competing theories of composition inform pedagogical practices, such as modes of instruction (lecture/discussion, demonstration, peer, group), selection and use of heuristics and other instructional materials, and methods of response and assessment.

Required Readings/Materials

You are not required to purchase a textbook for this course. The majority of our course readings are available to FAU students/faculty as electronic journals and e-books through the FAU Library's online holdings. Additional articles and multimedia texts are available on the web and will be linked from the course schedule.

Unless otherwise indicated, you must bring the readings to class with you—in print or electronic format—on the day they are due. You may either print the readings or access them in class on a laptop/tablet.

Course Policies

- You must check the course website (particularly the schedule) a few times a week.
- You are expected to attend every class, arrive on time, and stay the entire class period.
- You must submit assignments by the due date. Late work is not permitted.² (We will discuss benchmarks for blog posts in class and dates will be posted to the course website.)
- Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will be met with penalty. (We will discuss citation/documentation conventions for use in informal class writing.)
- Incomplete grades are reserved for those students who are passing the course but have not completed the all of the required work because of **exceptional** circumstances.

¹ The phone number provided above for English Department Main Office. If someone is at the front desk, they will take a message and leave that message in my mailbox – I won't get it until I check my mail. **Again, email is the best way to reach me.**

² Accommodations will be made for students participating in religious observation, jury duty, and participation in authorized FAU athletics events according to relevant Provost's memoranda: [Religious Accommodations for Students](#) and [Policy on Student Absences \(Revised\)](#). If you anticipate being absent for religious observance, please contact me in advance so we can discuss coursework and deadlines.

Coursework & Weights (tentative)

Blog Posts

One of the most valuable practices that you will engage in as a writer/graduate student/composition teacher is conversation—with texts, peers, professors, scholars, and with yourself. Sustained engagement with course concepts—particularly during your first semester teaching FYC—is perhaps the most important component of the course. As such, responding and reflecting through consistent posting on the course website is a significant percentage of your semester grade. In general, these responses will ask you to work closely with the readings and examine your own experiences (as a writer, graduate student, and/or teacher) to extend, confirm, complicate, nuance, refute, or otherwise engage an argument presented in the readings and/or class discussions.

Tentatively, you are expected to write at least 20 posts this semester (at least 200 words each). There are specific content and frequency requirements for categories/posts that will be discussed in class and posted on the class website. The categories are below.

- 5 (or more) Classroom Praxis
- 5 (or more) Pre-class Reading Responses
- 5 (or more) Post-class Discussion Reflections
- 2 News Items
- 1 Teaching Tool
- 1 Weekly Recap

Tentative Course Work & Weights

Blog Posts	30%
RC/FYC Report	15%
Discussion Leadership	15%
Teaching Philosophy	10%
Final Exam	20%
Engagement & Participation	10%

R/C & FYC Report

You will select, explore, and research a university's writing program, including its graduate level program/s and FYC program (or courses/approach). You will look at faculty who have shaped the program, graduate course offerings, and information about FYC (GTA participation, standard syllabi, textbooks, etc.). You will write an informal report that presents your assessment of the program's sub/disciplinary foci, theoretical foundations, and beliefs about the nature and purpose of writing. You should use professional organization statements (WPA Outcomes Statements, NCTE/CCCC Position Statements, etc.) as well as course readings/concepts to frame your exploration and discussion.

Discussion Leadership

In the last half of the term, pairs /teams of students will be asked to lead a 30-60 minute discussion centered around readings that highlight key debates or “hot topics” in the field. Student teams will develop discussion questions, presentation material (from assigned AND recommended readings), and a short written summary. You may have additional requirements in terms of blog/forum posts, handouts, and/or interaction in the week leading up to and the week following your discussion. Parameters and guidelines will be discussed in class and posted to the course website.

Teaching Philosophy

Near the end of the term, you will be asked to write a two page a statement of teaching philosophy that explains the theoretical foundations of your teaching strategies and explains the bases upon which you ground your pedagogical choices. You are required to draw on scholarly course readings to ground your statements.

Final Exam

Exact format to be determined (potentially co-developed by instructor and students).

Engagement & Participation

Participation in this class requires regular attendance, punctuality, in-class attention, demonstration of having carefully read assigned texts, engagement with reading material, involvement in class discussions (both online and face-to-face), and your professionalism. Additionally,

- You must attend every class, arrive on time, and be prepared. Preparedness means having carefully and thoughtfully read all assigned materials and classmates' blog posts.
- You must bring the day's readings to class. You may either print the readings or access them in class on a laptop/tablet.
- You are expected to annotate the readings. Careful, critical, and engaged reading generally means underlining, highlighting, making notes or asking questions in the margins, etc. If you are able, you may annotate electronically. If you are unable to annotate electronic copies, plan to print your readings and annotate on paper.

Course Schedule

The course schedule of readings and assignments will be posted on the course website. This schedule is subject to change (both significantly and frequently), so you are expected to check it often.

Institutional Policies

OSD/ADA Policy Statement

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)—in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, LA 131 (954-236-1222); or in Jupiter, SR 117 (561-799-8585)—and follow all OSD procedures. More information at FAU's [Office for Students with Disabilities](#).

Statement of Academic Integrity

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see FAU's [Code of Academic Integrity](#) and [Academic Integrity information from the Center for Teaching and Learning](#).

University Policy on Electronic Devices

University policy on the use of electronic devices states: "In order to enhance and maintain a productive atmosphere for education, personal communication devices, such as cellular telephones and pagers, are to be disabled in class sessions."

Contingency & Flexibility Statement

The syllabus, course work & weights, policies, and course schedule are subject to change at the instructor's discretion. All changes will be posted on the course website.

On the course schedule, you will be provided with a tentative schedule of readings, assignments, due dates, and discussion topics for each week of the semester. However, this schedule WILL change—(possibly) significantly and frequently. The schedule will be updated to reflect our progress through certain materials, students' interests, other responsibilities, and general collaborative nature of the course. For that reason, you are expected to check the schedule for updates a few times a week.

Your continued participation in this class indicates your understanding and acceptance of policies set forth in the syllabus. The syllabus, course work & weights, policies, and course schedule are subject to change at the instructor's discretion. All changes will be posted on the course website.

Questions? Contact me at jmason32@fau.edu.