

Certificate in College Teaching

IDND 30517: Teaching with Writing (1 credit)

Instructor: Dr. Lorraine Higgins, WPI

Contact information: (508) 410-1063 or LDH@wpi.edu

Office hours: 5-5:30 p.m. or by appointment, Project Center, 2nd Floor, WPI

Class location: Salisbury Labs 105, WPI

Class schedule: M, W 3-5 p.m., June 9-July 2

Course Description

This course is designed for faculty and graduate students in all subject areas who wish to integrate writing into their teaching and to obtain a deeper awareness of how writing is used in their own disciplines. We begin by examining the philosophy and best practices of the "writing across the curriculum" movement, considering how writing in all its forms can be used to promote learning in the content areas. Through reading, case study, and in-class demonstrations, we then examine the features of effective writing assignments and a variety of productive classroom activities and teaching tools that can be used to guide students through the process of planning, drafting, and revising. Finally, we work with a range of student papers to consider the most effective ways to respond to and evaluate writing at various stages of composition. Prerequisites: None, but taking the Seminar on College Teaching before this course is recommended.

Objectives

Participants in this course will:

- learn about the goals and philosophy of the *writing across the curriculum* movement;
- learn to design a sequence of writing assignments to promote specific course objectives;
- learn to develop classroom activities that guide students through the writing process;
- learn to develop effective strategies for responding to and evaluating student writing.

Activities and Assignments

Class will be run in a seminar/workshop format. Participants will be assigned weekly readings from the course packet and should be prepared to discuss them in class. Class time will also be devoted to interactive workshops on various aspects of writing and writing pedagogy. These workshops will be used to introduce new material and to demonstrate how you can work with writing in a classroom setting. Major assignments include:

1. a set of journal or blog entries based on class readings, and
2. a teaching portfolio, which includes:

- description of and rationale for a sequence of writing assignments tailored to a specific course you have taught or plan to teach;
- a grading rubric for two assignments, and a set of written comments demonstrating response strategies you might use for those assignments;
- a written class plan, including an in-class activity that guides students through the writing process and toward assignment completion; and
- an actual demonstration of this activity with a follow up self-assessment based on feedback received in the seminar.

Grading

20% of the final grade will be based on *participation* in class. Attendance is required, and missing more than two of our scheduled sessions will jeopardize your grade. Participants who miss more than three sessions will not pass the course. An additional 20% of the final grade will be based on *journal/blog entries* reviewed at three points during the term. Grades for entries will be based on your demonstrated understanding of and engagement with the assigned readings and class materials. The final 60% of your course grade will be based on the *written portfolio of teaching materials* described above.

All work submitted in this course must be original; if you use specific ideas or materials of any kind from other sources, please cite those sources appropriately. Work improperly cited will not receive credit. Please consult WPI's policy on academic honesty and plagiarism: <http://www.wpi.edu/Pubs/Policies>

Course Materials

Please bring a *syllabus and schedule* for a course that you have taught or that you plan to teach. Some assignments in TWW will ask you to design writing assignments and activities that you can integrate into the course.

You will need to purchase the *course packet*, TEACHING WITH WRITING, from the WPI bookstore. This packet contains most of the reading for the course; *reserved readings*, including other supplemental materials, will be available at the Gordon Library circulation desk, WPI.

I recommend that you own a *writing handbook*. I suggest Diana Hacker's [A Writer's Reference](#). Several copies will be available in the WPI bookstore. If you would like recommendations on disciplinary-specific writing handbooks or textbooks, please ask me or consult the course packet.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you need course accommodations because of a disability or health issue, please let me know as soon as possible. As necessary, we will work with WPI's Disability Services Office in Daniels Hall to arrange this. Their number is (508) 831-5235 if you wish to speak directly to a staff member.