ENGL 5023 Tentative Schedule—Fall 2010

Topic 1  How did we get here?  What is possible now?

24, 26,  
31 August,  
2 Sept.  Readings:

Please start by reading the descriptions of 1113/1123 in the current MSU Catalog (available online at Registrar’s homepage). Note how writing fits into the big picture.

Then, let us look a bit at how we arrived where we are now—

History: How Has Composition Been Taught in the US?

"A Brief History...." BB (1-15). Powerskim through C18, then read with care starting with "Rhetoric in Nineteenth-Century. . . ."

[A look at why writing instruction changed, way back in the 1970s: a snapshot of a moment.]

Wallace. "How Composition Scholarship. . . ." (WC)  
[A look back at how the change that Hairston documents then affected writing teachers to follow, late C20.]

"Sssshhh. We’re Taking. . . ." (WC)  
[Writing instruction always occurs in a social context . . .]

Faigley. "Competing Theories of Process. . . ." (WC)  
[. . . and in a theoretical context, as well.]

The Lives of Graduate Assistants

Please read in GW collection the essays from Bly (2), Bettencourt (10), and Neeley (19).

How Do Writing Centers Fit into the Picture?

In the Barnett/Blumner Guide, please read the essays by Boquet (41), North (63, 79), Bruffee (206), Walker (316), and Kilborn (391).
Topic 2 Why this type of textbook? Why our suggested syllabus?

7 Readings:

Chapter one in Axelrod/Cooper/Warriner. Then, skim next chapter for general structure, contents.

Watch for tone, organization, expectations. Please come to class prepared to speak to matches between theory (above) and design.

Class Question 1: What is the intent of the A/C/W text? What (most essentially) are these authors trying to accomplish?

Class Question 2: How is the intent of this book related to but different from that of the LBB?

Topic 3 What roles can teachers play?

9 Readings:

Elbow. "Embracing Contraries. . . ." WTS (54)
Murray. "The Listening Eye. . . ." WTS (66)
Smith. “Students’ Goals. . . .” (WC)

Topic 4 Basic grammar review: Bring LBB

14, 16 Days may be added as needed. Mechanics Exam will be given on the class day immediately after we finish the review.

Topic 5 How can we be reacting, revising, helping students to write, not regurgitate?

(Tentatively 21, 23) Readings:

Bartholomae. "The Study of Error." WTS (258)
Reither. "Writing. . . ." WTS (286)
Sommers. "Between the Drafts." WTS (279)