

English 487: Internship in Teaching Composition
Roosevelt University
Fall 2010

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Your work in English 487 this semester will consist of two major components: 1) a weekly practicum session (in which we will meet as a group to discuss teaching, read articles on composition theory and pedagogy, explore professional development issues, and work on developing assignments); and 2) weekly participation in your assigned composition class. Over the course of the semester you will also be assigned several projects that will need to be completed by the end of the semester. These projects are meant to create consistency for all interns, ensuring that you each get a range of practical classroom experiences, while providing flexibility for you and your faculty mentor. Some of these projects will be completed somewhat independently of your assigned composition class, while other tasks will require that you coordinate (and collaborate) with the instructor of your composition course. However, it is important to remember that I will ultimately be responsible for determining your final grade in 487 this semester.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Composition Program at Roosevelt is in the process of developing specific learning outcomes for all of its courses, and this class is no exception. At the completion of English 487, students should:

- 1) possess a repertoire of skills, materials, and resources necessary to develop and teach college-level composition;
- 2) have a solid grounding in composition theory and pedagogy as it relates to the administration and teaching of writing courses;
- 3) be critically self-aware of their own investments in teaching, learning, and writing; and be able to articulate these investments in a range of professional settings;
- 4) have a professional teaching portfolio that successfully communicates their knowledge and expertise to potential employers.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

All required readings for the practicum will be available through our course Blackboard site, which you can access by visiting <http://roosevelt.blackboard.com/>. In addition, you will be expected to obtain copies of all the required texts assigned in the composition course you have been paired with.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The successful completion of English 487 is required of all graduate students hoping to obtain the Graduate Certificate in the Teaching of Writing. In order to satisfactorily meet this expectation, you must complete the following:

- submit at least 7 out of 9 **weekly responses**, each to be typed, at least 400 words in length, and consisting of a careful reflection of the assigned readings and how they relate or might otherwise inform your teaching practices. Weekly responses will be collected at the beginning of each practicum meeting, and missed responses cannot be made up.
- prepare and lead a practicum discussion as part of a **facilitation group** at least once over the course of the semester (see Course Schedule for more details);
- complete all **practicum reading assignments** and maintain regular practicum attendance.
- complete all major **composition class reading assignments** and maintain regular attendance.
- complete five out of seven **Internship Activities**, to be submitted as part of your final Internship Portfolio (see below).
- complete all three **Practicum Assignments**, to be submitted as part of your final Internship Portfolio (see below).

INTERNSHIP PORTFOLIO

At the end of the semester, you will each submit a final portfolio that documents a number of projects and activities you've completed in the practicum and as part of your internship experience. Additionally, you will write a cover letter that explores all you've learned over the course of the semester, reflects critically on your abilities as a teacher, and lays out a plan/vision for your future development.

Specifically, in consultation with the instructor you have been assigned to work with this semester, you will need to complete at least five of the following activities within the class you are interning for:

Internship Activities

- Lead a class discussion
- Prepare and administer a short writing assignment
- Plan and conduct an in-class workshop
- Conference with a student or group about an upcoming project
- Respond to student writing
- Evaluate a set of student papers
- Organize and supervise a small group activity

In addition, you will need to complete three formal Practicum Assignments (the details of which will be provided later):

- 1) Student Literacy Profile/Interview
- 2) Writing Assignment Analysis
- 3) Professional Documents Project

CLASS OBSERVATION AND MID-TERM REPORT

In addition to the above work, you will need to make arrangements for me to come observe you in the classroom at least once over the course of the semester as you complete an Internship Activity. I will use this observation as the basis for a brief report I will write, and that you will need to include in your final Internship Portfolio. I will also ask the faculty mentor whose class you've been assigned to work with to submit a brief mid-term report, a copy of which you will also need to include in your final portfolio.

PREPARATION

In addition to completing all reading assignments as specified in the practicum schedule, you should come to each meeting having read over the material to be covered in your assigned composition class for that week. In addition, please print out and bring to practicum any articles, handouts, or assignments that have been assigned in your assigned composition class, as we may use these materials as part of in-class work.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance and participation in both the practicum and your assigned composition class are essential for successfully completing this course. While obviously some extenuating circumstances cannot be avoided, in the event you must miss either a practicum meeting or your assigned composition class, please make an appointment with me during office hours later to discuss the matter. Missing more than three meetings of both the practicum and your assigned composition course will result in your failing this course.

GRADES

Throughout the semester, all assignments and activities in English 487 will be assessed on a Pass/Fail basis. Your final grade for this course will be determined by your demonstrated commitment to teaching and support of your peers, the careful preparation of practicum readings, the completion of all internship projects, your own assessment of your strengths and development as a teacher over the semester, and the overall quality of your Final Internship Portfolio. If at any time you are anxious about the quality of the work you are doing in this course, or uncertain about what final grade you will receive, I'd be happy to discuss this with you in office hours.

ADA NOTICE

The Composition Program and Roosevelt University are committed to providing equal access to programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning, and psychiatric disabilities. If you feel you may need accommodations in this or any class, please contact the Office of Disability Services at (312) 341-3810, or nlitke@roosevelt.edu as soon as possible.