

# The Art and Discipline of Writing and Teaching Writing

Education 832

Section: G001

Term: 2013 Spring

Instructor: Carolyn Mamchur  
Tuesdays, 4:30-9:20 EDB 8651

Discussion Topics: Through narrative inquiry and traditional study, students develop a deep understanding of and appreciation for and ability to access composition as an artistic experience and a teachable craft which promotes self-understanding and influences how others appraise one's worth.

## Overview

I. Purpose: This course has one clear focus: Helping you to discover your subject.

That's a big job. It means finding that one thing that you care about and want to learn more about. There is a mystery to be unraveled, something to be explored, discovered, something about you and something about life.

II. Tools: This course will provide a few tools to help you along your way. It is my job to provide those tools. It is your job to use them.

The main tool I will offer is a system that will help you to work through the creative process in a way that invites revision and promotes satisfying product or performance.

The system contains four basic elements:

- Discovering a subject
- Sensing an audience
- Searching for specifics
- Creating a design.

III. Opportunities: This course will provide as many opportunities as I can think of and we have time for to enable you to walk through the doors of attraction to engagement, at least for awhile and maybe a lifetime. Those opportunities will be writing exercises, reading and dialoging about articles, practicing your art, taking part in a fake conference.

IV. Responsibilities: You will be expected to do the following:

- Attend classes prepared to share your ideas, work, to dialogue with respect and attention. This will mean you read many of the readings, complete many of the writing tasks, edit one another's work in a timely fashion. The energy of the course will depend upon your doing that.
- Explore the topics I offer, trying them on for size, as you do two things:
  - o Learn the process
  - o Discover your subject.

Grading: Select the subject you want to explore on a personal level and begin to write narratives until you feel you have said something real something that is true and something that you hadn't really known before you began to write. (25%)

Discover the joy of doing library research. Spend a week in the library searching for data on a new subject for you. Come to the learning with a beginner's mind. Present your learning to the class via power point. (25%)

Take part in a conference on education in the arts. You will present a ten minute discussion paper on the topic of your choice. You may choose to collaborate and present a forum on one subject. The class will dialogue after each presentation. It is your chance to present yourself as a professional. (25%)

Create something that was inspired by the work you have done in this course. I have no idea what it will be. A dance? A painting? A children's book? A monologue? A narrative? A song? A photograph? A sculpture? A necklace? A hat? A collage? A new culinary masterpiece? (25%)

## **The Art and Discipline of Writing and Teaching Writing**

Required Texts: Albee, E. & McCullers, C. (1991) *The Ballad of the Sad Café*. Scribner, New York, New York. (paperback available Amazon, \$8.00)

Leggo, C. (2013) *Exploring Processes and Products of Learning, in English in middle and secondary classrooms: Creative and critical from Canadas teacher educators.* (James, K, Dobson, T. & Leggo, C, authors) Pearson, To, Ont. (\$42.00 Amazon) (on hold in library)

OConnor, F. (1991) *Writing Short Stories in Mystery and Manners* Fitzgerald, S. & Fitzgerald R. (eds), Farrar, Straus & Giroux Inc., New York, New York. (paperback available from Amazon for \$6.00)

OConnor, F. (2001) *A Good Man is Hard to Find in A Good Man is Hard to Find and Other Stories.* Houghton, Mifflin Harcourt, New York, New York. (paperback available from Amazon for \$ 7.00)

Mamchur, C., Apps, L., Nikleva, S. & Kuraendy.K. (2010). *Discovering a subject: An intimate affair.* *Encounter: Education for Meaning and Social Justice.* 23(4), 34-42.

Mamchur, C. & Apps, L. (July 2009). *On the edge of chaos: In search of a process.* *Complicity: An International Journal of Complexity and Education,* 6(2), 115-123.  
Online at <http://ejournals.library.ualberta.ca/index.php/complicity>

Mamchur, C. & Apps, L. (2008). *A personal path to self-efficacy.* *English Quarterly Canada,* 38(2/3), 65-75.

McCullers, C. (1963) *The Ballad of the Sad Café.* Penguin, To, Ont.(available from Amazon, \$9.00)

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite:

Notes:

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.