

Working Hard or Hardly Working? Literature of the Workplace

English 124.004

Winter 2018

M, W 1-2:30

2454 Mason Hall

Margo Kolenda
kolendam@umich.edu

3089 Tisch Hall
M,W 2:30-3:30 and by appointment

What is this place we inhabit “nine-to-five,” the space within which we create careers, form social networks, and, in lucky cases, pursue our passions? What is it about space devoted to labor that creates a particular atmosphere? How does this shape and how is it shaped by the surrounding culture?

In this course we will trace the evolution of literature that focuses on workplace dynamics. We will begin with a guild of sixteenth century shoemakers in London and end with a twenty-first century paper supply company in Scranton, PA. Readings by Dekker, Melville, Miller, and Wertz will take us through workshops, mills, factories, and the office. Along the way, we will consider issues such as social mobility, community, class, gender, and the American Dream.

We will spend a significant amount of time discussing technique and strategy and work toward refining our own craftsmanship. We will create our own workspace within which you will work closely with your peers and instructor to develop essays through workshops and extensive revision and editing.

This class is about writing and academic inquiry, with a special emphasis on literature. Effective arguments stem from well-formulated questions, and academic essays allow writers to gain deeper understanding of the questions that they are exploring. In this course, you will learn to create complex, analytic, well-supported arguments that matter in academic contexts. The course will also hone your critical thinking and reading skills. Working closely with your peers and instructor, you will develop your essays through workshops and extensive revision and editing. Readings cover a variety of genres and often serve as models or prompts for assigned essays. The specific questions that you will pursue in your essays will be guided by your own interests.

Learning Goals for English 124:

- To produce complex, analytic, well-supported arguments that matter in academic contexts.
- To read, summarize, analyze, and synthesize complex texts purposefully in order to generate and support writing.
- To analyze the genres and rhetorical strategies that writers use to address particular audiences for various purposes and in various contexts.
- To develop flexible strategies for revising, editing, and proofreading writing of varying lengths.
- To develop strategies for self-assessment, goal-setting, and reflection on the process of writing.

Required Texts and/or Coursepack:

- The following texts are available through the bookstore and online. Some short writings will be on Canvas: it is required that you print these and bring them to class. With the exception of *Shoemaker*, any edition of these texts is acceptable, as long as it is a print version.

Thomas Dekker, *The Shoemaker's Holiday*

Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman*

Julia Wertz, *The Infinite Wait and other stories*

At the end of the semester we will be watching a selection of episodes from *The Office*. DVD copies are available in our course reserves at the AskWith Media library.

Course Requirements:

I will determine your final grade according to the following rubric:

- **10% daily engagement:**
 - attendance
 - participation in class discussions and small group activities
 - low-stakes writing assignments
- **10% Essay #1: Close Reading (4-5 pages)**
- **20% Essay #2: Critical Analysis (5-7 pages)**
- **20% Essay #3: Comparative Analysis (7-8 pages)**
- **20% Essay #4: Research Based Revision**
- **10% peer review workshops:**
 - typed peer review letters
 - complete drafts for workshops
 - active participation in workshops
- **10% reflective cover letters, informal self-reflections, Cumulative Reflection Letter**

	B+ 87-89.99	C+ 77-79.99	D+ 67-69.99
A 93-100	B 83-86.99	C 73-76.99	D 63-66.99
A- 90-92.99	B- 80-82.99	C- 70-72.99	D- 60-62.99

DAILY COURSE SCHEDULE¹:

UNIT ONE: CLOSE READING

- Jan 3rd:** course syllabus
- Jan 8th:** read Mike Bunn, “How to Read Like a Writer”
Philip Levine, “What Work Is”
- Jan 10th:** read *The Shoemaker’s Holiday* Scenes 1-7
Discussion question due 10am on Canvas
- Jan 17th:** read *Shoemaker* Scenes 8-end
Discussion question due 10am on Canvas
- Jan 22nd:** read Peer Review Guidelines
Read Jeremiah Chamberlain, “Workshop is not for You”
First draft of Close Reading Essay due
Email to MK and PR Group
Include 1-2 page memo
- Jan 24th:** **Peer Review Workshop**
Typed Peer Review Letters (1-2 pages) due

¹ Syllabus may change during the semester. An up to date version will always be available on Canvas

Email or paper copy is fine
Emailed to MK by class time

Jan 29th: **Sentence Editing Workshop (Bring your computers to class!)**
Second Draft of Close Reading Essay due class time by email

Final Draft due midnight by email
Include 2 page cover letter

UNIT TWO: CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Jan 31st: read “The Paradise of Bachelors”

Feb 5th: read “The Tartarus of Maids”
Discussion question due 10am on Canvas

Feb 7th: ***Special guest from Sweetland***
read *Death of a Salesman* Act 1

Feb 12th: read *Death of a Salesman* Act 2
Discussion question due 10am on Canvas

Feb 14th: read *Death of a Salesman* Requiem
Read Stuart Greene and April Lipinsky “Drafting Introductions” & “Drafting
Conclusions”
Read “Sample Introduction: Draft and Revision”

Feb 19th: First Draft of Critical Analysis due
Email to MK and PR Group
Include 1-2 page memo
Bring in 3 copies of your thesis (one version printed 3 times on 3 separate pages)

Feb 21st: **Peer Review Workshop**
Typed Peer Review Letters (1-2 pages) due
Email or paper copy is fine
Emailed to MK by class time

Feb 26th: Final Draft of Analytic Argument due by email
Include 1-2 page cover letter

UNIT THREE: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Mar 5th: Spring Break!
watch *The Office*

Season 1, episode 1: "Pilot"
2.3: "Office Olympics"
2.15: "Boys and Girls"
3.7: "Branch Closing"
3.8: "The Merger"
3.12: "Travelling Salesmen"
4.4: "Money"

- Mar 7th:** watch *The Office*
Season 5, episodes 20-25
"New Boss"
"Two Weeks' Notice"
"Dream Team"
"Michael Scott Paper Company"
"Heavy Competition"
"Broke"
Discussion question due 10am on Canvas
- Mar 12th:** read *The Infinite Wait* p 5-98
- Mar 14th:** read *The Infinite Wait* p 99-207
Discussion question due 10am on Canvas
- Mar 19th:** Franz Kafka, "Poseidon."
- Mar 21st:** class cancelled: mandatory meetings with Margo
- Mar 26th:** First Draft of Comparative Analysis due
Email to MK and PR Group
Include 1-2 page memo
*Bring in your computer or a printed copy of your draft as well
- Mar 28th:** **Peer Review Workshop *Margo away, special guest substitute***
Typed Peer Review Letters (1-2 pages) due
Email or paper copy is fine
Emailed to MK by class time
- Apr 2nd:** Final Draft of Comparative Analysis due
Bring paper copy to class
Include 1-2 page cover letter

UNIT FOUR: RESEARCH BASED REVISION

- Apr 4th:** read Mark Gaipa, “Breaking Into the Conversation”
read Laurie G. Kirszner and Stephen R. Mandell. “Evaluating Sources.”
- Apr 9th:** read Hillary Chute, “Introduction: Women, Comics, and the Risk of Representation”
- Apr 11th:** read Rosemarie Garland-Thompson, “The Politics of Staring”
- Apr 16th:** Cumulative Reflection Letter due
Proposal and Gaipa Map due
- Apr 24th:** Final Research Based Revision due **9am**
Send via email as .doc or .pdf or Google Doc
Include 1-2 page cover letter

Late Submission of Formal Essays:

- Unless you **notify me in advance** about extenuating circumstances that will prevent you from submitting your essay on time, I’ll lower your grade for the assignment **by 1/3 letter for each day** that it is late.

Plagiarism:

- **If you commit an act of academic dishonesty in this course either by plagiarizing someone’s work or by allowing your own work to be misused by another person, you will face the following consequences:**
 - You will fail the assignment and may fail the course.
 - I will report the incident to the Director of the English Department Writing Program.
 - I will also forward your case, with an explanatory letter and all pertinent materials, to the LSA Assistant Dean of Student Affairs.
 - The Dean will determine an appropriate penalty, which may involve academic probation and/or community service.
 - If you commit plagiarism while you are already on probation for plagiarism, you may be asked to leave the University.

Attendance:

- **You may miss two class sessions without penalty.** I will lower your final daily engagement grade by **one-third of a letter** grade for each additional absence
- I will excuse your absence if you bring me a note from a doctor or health professional, a signed letter from a University team or program, or documentation of a family emergency.
 - If a class session or due date conflicts with a religious observance, please notify me well in advance to that we can make alternative arrangements.
- Please make sure to arrive on time for class. **I will count three late arrivals as one absence.**

Cell Phones, Electronic Devices, and Laptops:

- **I will mark you absent for the day** if I see you using a device in class. This includes laptops: plan to take notes by hand.
- On a few specified days of the semester, I will allow you to use laptops for a classroom activity; I will announce in advance when laptops will be permitted.

Brief Writing Assignments:

- Late Submission of Brief Writing Assignments:

- If you cannot make it to class due to illness or an emergency, you can receive full credit for your assignment if you email it to me by 9 p.m. on the day it is due.
- Otherwise, you will receive no credit for an assignment submitted after the class period or posting time when it is due.

Office Hours:

- I look forward to meeting with you individually during office hours. We'll meet for at least **one required conference**, during which we'll discuss a draft of one of your essays.

Peer Review Workshops:

- **It is crucial that you attend class on days when peer review workshops are scheduled.**
 - **If you miss a peer review workshop, you must arrange to receive feedback on your draft to receive credit for completing the draft.** You can meet with a tutor at Sweetland or arrange for another student to read your draft. You must then write a response to the feedback that you receive and submit your response with your final essay.
- Except in cases of extenuating circumstances, if you submit your draft after the required submission time, you will not receive credit for completing the draft.

Accommodations for Special Needs:

- If you have a disability and need an accommodation to participate in this class or to complete course requirements, please ask Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) to provide documentation of the accommodations that you need. Then, please share this documentation with me as soon as possible, preferably within the first few weeks of class. I will treat as private and confidential any information that you share.
- If you suspect that you may have a disability and would like to be tested, Services for Students with Disabilities can provide free screenings and referrals to low-cost diagnostic services.
- Here is the contact information for Services for Students with Disabilities:
 - location: G-664 Haven Hall
 - phone: 734-763-3000
 - website: <http://ssd.umich.edu/>
- If you do not have a documented disability but feel like you would benefit from further educational support for other reasons, please contact me. I greatly value inclusivity within the classroom and will work with you to find strategies and resources to ensure that you get the most out of this class.

Mental Health Resources:

- If you experience challenges that negatively affect your learning, such as anxiety, depression, interpersonal or sexual violence, difficulty with eating or sleeping, grief/loss, and alcohol or drug problems, the following several confidential services might be helpful:
 - Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): 734-764-8312
 - Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center (SAPAC) 24-Hour Crisis Line: 734-936-3333
 - Psychiatric Emergency Services: 734-996-4747.

Sweetland Center for Writing:

- The Sweetland Center for Writing—located at **1310 North Quad**—is an amazing, free resource! If you would like additional feedback or assistance as you're planning, drafting, or revising your writing assignments, you can schedule an individual appointment with a Sweetland faculty member, drop in for a peer-tutoring session, correspond online with a peer tutor, or submit your work online to receive feedback within 72 hours.

- For more information, please visit: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/sweetland/undergraduate>.