

J. Wingard  
Spring 2012

*ENGL 2396: Intermediate Composition*

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to offer both majors and non-majors a course that serves as a bridge between the first year composition sequence and advanced composition. In it, the focus will be on helping students move beyond adherence to forms and structures and more towards independence in their writerly voice and choices. In order to do this, the course will be set up as a cross between the studio models of the first year sequence – where students read example essays to better understand form, voice, and style – and advanced composition – where student writing and response to it is central to the curriculum of the course. This new course would blend elements of both currently existing courses, with the goal of helping students shift from the practice of using writing strictly to respond critically to texts, into a more advanced curriculum wherein they see writing as a more flexible means of communication.

The course will be broken into three sections. Each will focus on a key aspect of the writing process. The first will work to help students develop voice and style. During the course of the unit, we will look at authors who use their distinctive voice and style to carry their argument and meaning throughout argumentative pieces. The second unit will focus on critical research, and it will push students to continue the exploration of their voice by writing op-ed pieces that stretch the traditional academic research paper. The final section will focus on revision and will ask students to re-vision one of their previous pieces in order to develop revision strategies of experienced writers.

The key to the course will be to introduce students to concepts of advanced writing while giving them the structure and support of texts, activities, and scaffolded assignments of the first year sequence in which to explore those concepts. It is my goal that this course will serve students both within the English Department and in the larger UH community as well.

Course Texts

Didion, Joan. *We Tell Ourselves Stories in Order to Live*.

Gilyard, Keith. *Rhetorical Choices*.

Williams, Joseph. *Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace*.

Course Assignments

3 Major essays 5-6 pages in length

10 Short writing responses 1-2 pages in length

4 Reflective writings 2 pages in length

Peer review

Class discussion