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KIN 447.01: Analytical and Communication Techniques

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SYLLABUS

ANALYTICAL AND COMMUNICATION TECHNIQUES

KINESIOLOGY 447

Fall 2013

INTRODUCTION

The essential treatment of this course will involve extensive reviewing and critiquing of literature, cinema, and other forms of popular media with “sport is life in miniature” as a predominate theme. The purpose of analyzing and discussing the depiction of sport via popular media is to raise, but hardly resolve, focal and ongoing questions about the relationship between sport and life. One commonly held assumption is that sport is life reduced to essentials, a microcosm of the "greater game." This analogy between sport and life, however, so easily and often drawn, as it appears to be part of America's conventional wisdom, demands attention and examination. Hence, we shall attempt to discover where the analogy holds, where it misleads, where it deceives. In addition to this end, with a certain degree of openness and curiosity, we should learn a little about ourselves, each other, and our environment.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the completion of KIN 447, students will:

- communicate a unified message (verbal and written)
- develop germane ideas with clear connections between them (verbal and written)
- demonstrate enhanced organizational skills (verbal and written)
- develop an appreciation for clear, precise, and succinct language (verbal and written)
- use correct spelling, punctuation and grammar (written)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There is a substantial reading, speaking and writing component to this class. The primary objective is to enhance communication skills. Members of the class are responsible for all assigned readings and all material presented in class. Since KIN 447 is a designated university writing course (upper-division), each student will complete three written critiques reacting to a film/s or book/s as assigned by the instructor. These reaction papers, evaluation procedures, and re-writes will be discussed in detail during the first few class meetings. In addition, each student will participate in a formal presentation which will also be discussed in class. Because of the nature of the course, discussion, participation, and attendance are expected. The last requirement will be an unannounced in-class writing assignment.

ASSESSMENT

Approximately 90 points and above is A, 80-89 is B, 70-79 is C, 60-69 is D, and below 60 is failing. The instructor reserves the right to assign + and – increments when deemed appropriate.

The breakdown of points is as follows:

1st reaction paper.....	20 points
2nd reaction paper.....	20
3rd reaction paper.....	20
Presentation.....	25 (intro, mechanics, content, creativity, conclusion)
In-class writing assignment....	<u>15</u>
	100 points

Papers will be evaluated on ability to meet the criteria imbedded in the course objectives already presented.

ALL PAPERS MUST BE TYPED -- LATE PAPERS WILL BE PENALIZED 5 POINTS PER DAY

REQUIRED TEXTS -- AVAILABLE IN BOOKSTORE

Burns, Clarence E., *Enhancing College Writing and Speaking Skills: Quality, Not Quantity*, National Social Science Press, 2009

A DICTIONARY AND THESAURUS ARE RECOMMENDED.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VP/SA/index.cfm/page/1321>.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

August	27	Introduction (overview)
September	3	Communication Preamble – Read Chapters 1, 2 & 3 (<i>Enhancing College Writing & Speaking Skills</i>)
	10	Writing Skills Seminar – Read Chapters 4-6 (<i>Enhancing College Writing & Speaking Skills</i>)
	17	Writing Skills Seminar – Read Chapters 7-9 (<i>Enhancing College Writing & Speaking Skills</i>)
	24	Film - To Be Announced (TBA)
October	1	Discussion – film and <i>Bang the Drum Slowly</i>
	8	Film - TBA - <u>PAPERS DUE</u>
	15	Writing Skills Seminar
	22	Discussion – film and <i>The Natural</i>
	29	TBA
November	5	Oral Skills Seminar -- <u>PAPERS DUE</u> – Read Chapter 10 (<i>Enhancing College Writing & Speaking Skills</i>)
	12	Discussion - <i>Basketball Diaries</i>
	19	<u>Student Presentations</u>
	26	<u>Student Presentations</u> -- <u>PAPERS DUE</u>
December	3	TBA
		Final Exam – Tuesday, 3:20-5:20 pm

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.