

English 358: Writing in the Humanities and Social Sciences  
Fall 2012

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**the course.**

Students will meet the following outcomes through analyzing professional documents and producing researched communication in a variety of modes and genres:

- **Gen Ed Outcome 1:** Communicate effectively in a variety of contexts and genres, using a variety of communication skills.
- **Gen Ed Outcome 6:** Integrate knowledge and ideas in a coherent and meaningful manner.
- Manage sophisticated writing and research projects, planning, documenting, completing, and assessing work on time and within the constraints of the project.
- Develop professionalism exhibited in such qualities as self-direction, cooperation, civility, reliability, and care in editing and presenting the final product.

**the required texts.**

*Fight Club* (novel), Chuck Palahniuk

*Fight Club* (film), dir. David Fincher (no need to purchase this)

Access to the Internet, Skype, BlackBoard, GoogleDocuments, Facebook

**the policies.**

Attendance is vital to your success in this course. If you must miss class, you

must make arrangements **prior** to the absence. Emergencies, however, do arise. You may miss four days without penalty. This should be more than sufficient to cover personal, sickness, and activities. This policy meets the guidelines of English department's attendance policy, which also adds that students cannot pass courses in which they have missed more than 25% of the class meetings. Absences for official university business must be cleared in advance with appropriate documentation, but are excused.

It is very important to me that everyone feels safe and included in our classroom. For this reason, I ask that you all be mindful of what you say and do, that it is considerate of your colleagues' identities and experiences.

In a similar vein, I've constructed this course to be highly participatory and peer-centered. Be present. This means a few things to me: responsible use of phones, tablets, laptops, iPods, as well as your willingness to work in groups and "play well with others." You are all entering fields that involve these interpersonal skills and expectations; I hope to use this classroom as an environment in which to model these environments. Part of your grade will result from this.

## the assignments & grades.

### One: The Research Report (40% of final grade) Portfolio

#### Framing Letter

You will write a 500 – 750-word letter introducing the portfolio, briefly explaining each document contained within, and reflecting on your writing. You might reflect on your writing process, learning process, rhetorical/artistic choices. My greatest concern is that you are able to "write about writing," and help me understand your work more fully. I will provide an example in class.

#### Abstract/Proposal (submitted)

You will write an abstract/proposal for your article (read below), as they are often required for submission. For specific guidelines including length and format, you will consult the journal to which you will submit your project.

#### Article for Publication (submitted)

You will write a well-researched, 4000-5000-word article for publication in an undergraduate journal in your field. You may choose to write an IMRAD-style research report, a literary analysis, or some other genre your discipline values. For specific guidelines including length and format, you will consult the journal to which you will submit your project. You are required to submit this project to a journal and provide proof to me.

## Two: TransAtlantic Translation Project (20% of final grade)

### Preparing a text for translation

We will be collaborating this semester with translation students at Università degli Studi di Trieste in Trieste, Italy. Your task in the collaboration will be preparing a text written in English for translation into Italian. You will be graded on your ability to apply a knowledge of linguistics and translation strategies to produce a clear text, as well as your ability to collaborate successfully with your partner(s) in Italy. You will write a 700-1000-word memo outlining your performance in each area, as well as reflections on your experience in the TA project.

## Three: Reading and Interpreting Fight Club: (30% of final grade)

### Framing Letter

You will write a 500 – 750-word letter introducing the portfolio, briefly explaining each document contained within, and reflecting on your writing. You might reflect on your writing process, learning process, rhetorical/artistic choices. My greatest concern is that you are able to “write about writing,” and help me understand your work more fully. I will provide an example in class.

### Marginalia, Journaling

While we read and view *Fight Club*, you will engage with the texts in a journal and keep track of your marginalia. These need not be formal, but they should show evidence that you’re engaging critically and deeply with the text and using lenses to interpret the texts. I will provide examples in class.

### Literary Analysis

You will write a 2500-word literary analysis of *Fight Club*. You will apply a theoretical lens to the text, make arguments supported by both the text and scholarly sources, and write an essay that shows attention to audience and

genre. For conventions of Literary Analyses, come to class and see the OWL at Purdue website.

## Final Exam: (10% of final grade)

During our final exam meeting time, you will choose from three essay questions based on the film *Fight Club*, which you will watch on your own. The questions will not be announced prior to the exam, but will draw on your knowledge of critical theory and its application to the film (in much the same manner that you applied theory to the novel in the third unit).

## the (tentative) schedule.

### UNIT ONE

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#### Week 1. Aug 20

Intro to the course. What is composition and what do you need to learn?  
Writing, reading.

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#### Week 2. Aug 27

What is your discipline, really? What is research, knowledge, conversation?  
Finding the conversation, finding a Cfp. Understanding venues, audiences.

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#### Week 3. Sept 3

The genres: Abstracts/Proposals, IMRADs, Conf. Presentations  
IRB, research design

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#### Week 4. Sept 10

Finish abstract draft, peer review, gather data  
Gather data, research

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Week 5. Sept 17  
Research, gather data  
Analyze data, Write conclusions

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Week 6. Sept 24 (Hammer out of town Sept 26-30)  
Conferences, no class. Write, revise.

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Week 7. Oct 1  
Conferences, no class. Write, revise.  
**Unit One Portfolio due Oct 5 by 11:59pm.**

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## UNIT TWO

Week 8. Oct 8  
Introduction to the Trans-Atlantic Project w/visit from Dr. Bruce Maylath  
Translation: elements of linguistics, intercultural communication

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Week 9. Oct 15  
Translation, cont.: working with your texts, strategies of preparation

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Week 10. Oct 22  
Pre-learning reports, contact with partner(s).  
**Prepared texts due to partner(s) in Italy via email Oct 22 by 11:59pm.**

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## UNIT THREE

Week 11. Oct 29

Intro to literature, film.

Intro to lenses and how to use them.

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Week 12. Nov 5

Lenses: Marxism, Psychoanalysis, Feminism, Posthumanism, others.

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Week 13. Nov 12

Read FC, marginalia/journaling; discussion

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Week 14. Nov 19 (NO CLASS THU → THANKSGIVING)

Read FC, marginalia/journaling; discussion

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Week 15. Nov 26

Conferences, no class.

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Week 16. Dec 3

Conferences, no class.

**Unit 3 Portfolios due December 7 by 11:59pm.**

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Week 17. Dec 10 (FINALS WEEK)

Watch *Fight Club* before class. Final exam essay.

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