

**Fayetteville State University**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**  
**Department of English**  
**English 516: Issues in Composition Instruction**

**I. Locator Information:**

Instructor: Sonya C. Brown, PhD

Office Location: Butler 388A

Semester Credit Hours: 3

Office Phone: 910 672 1861

Cell Phone: (910) 916 5516

Total Contact Hours for Class: 3

Email Address: scbrown@uncfsu.edu

Office Hours: T & Th 12:30-1:50; T 3:45-5:45; Th 3:45-5:15: and by appointment

**FSU Policy on Electronic Mail:** Fayetteville State University provides to each student, free of charge, an electronic mail account (username@uncfsu.edu) that is easily accessible via the Internet. The university has established FSU email as the primary mode of correspondence between university officials and enrolled students. Inquiries and requests from students pertaining to academic records, grades, bills, financial aid, and other matters of a confidential nature must be submitted via FSU email. Inquiries or requests from personal email accounts are not assured a response. The university maintains open-use computer laboratories throughout the campus that can be used to access electronic mail.

Rules and regulations governing the use of FSU email may be found at  
<http://www.uncfsu.edu/PDFs/EmailPolicyFinal.pdf>

**II. Course Description from University Catalog:** This course will be concerned with current theories in writing and revising compositions. Particular attention will be paid to composition as a process, ultimately leading to a product. The course will also examine writers including basic/inexperienced writers and their problems. Students in this course will seek and discover information and techniques that will aid them in functioning as facilitators of writing.

**III. Disabled Student Services:** In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, if you have a disability or think you have a disability, please contact the Center for Personal Development in the Spaulding Building, Room 155 (1<sup>st</sup> Floor); 910-672-1203.

**IV. Textbook**

Required: *Preparing to Teach Writing: Research, Theory, and Practice* 3/e, James D. Williams, 2003.

*Please do not purchase an earlier edition. Additional readings will be required; these will usually be linked through Blackboard but may also be photocopied and distributed or assigned in another way. Please check Blackboard/Announcements and/or email frequently.*

**V. General Requirements**

A. *Academic Integrity and Student Honor:*

All students are expected to do their own work with no unauthorized assistance. If you have questions about what constitutes unauthorized assistance, check with the instructor before obtaining assistance.

*B. Policy on Late Work*

With the exception of presentations and the final research paper, students may turn in one paper one class day late with no explanation required. This is the “free late pass.”

**VI. Evaluation Criteria**

A. Assignments and percent of final grade for each:

Short Papers of 4-5 pages each	(2@15% each)	30
Research Proposal 3-4 pages		12.5
Annotated Bibliography for Final Paper		15
Final Research Paper 15-20 pages		30
Presentation of Research Paper		12.5
Total		100 possible points

B. We will use the “10-point” scale for this course (90-100=A; 80-89=B; etc.)

**VII. Course Outline and Assignment Schedule**

- 8/23/11      The History of Composition Instruction in America
- 8/30/11      Required Readings: BEFORE class on this date, please read p. 42-86 in our textbook; also read, available through Blackboard/Course Documents, “Synthesis of Research on Teaching Writing,” & “Teaching Writing Grades 4-6: A National Survey.”
- Class Focus:** Current Composition Pedagogies and Practices
- Assignment of First Short Paper (Summary-Response Paper on an Article in the Field)
- 9/6/11        Required Readings: “Liberal Learning Confronts the Composition Despots;” “Almost 30 Years of Writing Research;” others tba
- Class Focus:** Current Issues in Composition Pedagogies: An Overview  
*First Short Paper DUE in class*  
Assignment of Research Paper/Annotated Bibliography
- 9/13/11      Required Readings: “Modeling Theory and Composing Process Models,” others tba
- Class Focus:** The Process Model: Theory & Practice
- 9/20/11      Required Readings: p. 171-256 in textbook; “Code-Switch to Teach Standard English” available through Bb/Course Documents
- Class Focus:** Grammar AND/OR/VERSUS Composition (including Basic Writing & TESOL)  
Assignment of Second Short Paper (Position Paper on Grammar & Composition)

- 9/27/11 Required Readings available through Blackboard: "Improving Communication is Everyone's Responsibility;" "A Team of Equals;" "WAC in a History Course;" others tba
- Class Focus:** Writing Across the Curriculum  
*Second Short Paper DUE in class*
- 10/4/11 Required Readings: p. 98-150 in textbook; also read "Writer's Workshop" available through Bb/Course Documents.
- Class Focus:** Current Best Practices (Feedback, Workshops, & More)
- 10/11/11 Required Readings: textbook p. 297-344; "What Makes Writing Good;" "Happy to Comply;"
- Class Focus:** Assessing/Evaluating Writing: Rubrics, Computer Programs & Other Strategies  
*Research Proposal DUE in class*
- 10/18/11 Fall Break—No Classes
- 10/25/11 Required Readings: "Audience Addressed/Audience Invoked;" "The Very Idea of a Progymnasmata;"
- Class Focus:** Approaches to Teaching Composition from a Rhetorical Perspective  
*Draft Workshop of Annotated Bibliography*
- 11/1/11 Required Readings: tba
- Class Focus:** A Focus on Style: The Next New Wave?  
*Annotated Bibliography DUE in class*
- 11/8/11 Required Readings: "Writing for the IM Generation...;" "Not Just One Shot;" "The New Writing Pedagogy;" "The Prose (And a Few Cons) of Blogging;" "Learn About Plagiarism Using..."
- Class Focus:** Teaching Composition and Technological Innovations: New Tools, New Genres
- 11/15/11 Required Readings: tba  
**Class Focus:** Teaching Creative Writing: Special Issues
- 11/22/11 Required Readings: tba  
**Class Focus:** Teaching Writing About Literature: Special Issues  
*Draft Workshop of Final Research Paper*
- 11/29 **Final Presentations**  
*Research Paper DUE in class*