

NATURE WORKS: Writing about Nature & Environment

EVST 373A,W Spring 2018 Phil Condon T/TH 12:40-2pm DHC 120

Rankin 107 Hrs: M/T/W/TH 2:30-3:30 pm & by appt. Contact: phil.condon@mso.umt.edu & 243.2904

Books / Readings: *Tell It Slant*. (TIS) Miller/Paola. 2012. *Pocket Style Manual (PSM)*. Hacker.
Bird by Bird. (BB). Lamott. 1994. Moodle (MD) for EVST 373

Course Purposes & Learning Goals/Outcomes: To gain practice and confidence in all the processes of writing--observing, researching, inspiring yourself, making notes, drafting, shaping, revising, reading aloud, editing; to identify your own writing tendencies, both strengths and shortcomings, and to make the most of each; to understand how you, and others, read and respond, and to integrate this awareness into your writing. The General Education Expressive Arts Perspective Learning Goals are incorporated as follows: Students will express themselves in the making of original nature/environmental essays; students will understand the forms that have shaped the genre of nature writing; students will learn how to constructively critique the quality of their own work and that of others.

Primary Writing: Minimum combined total 4500 words (± 300 wds/pg = ± 15 pgs) in 3 essays as follows:

Essay#1: 750-1500 words due Tues 2/20

Essay#2: 1500-3000 words due Tue 3/20

In addition, a significant revision, after workshop discussion & instructor response, of **E#1 OR E#2**--your choice after consultation—**due Tues 4/24**. We'll discuss at length in class what makes a revision significant.

Essay#3 MT Nat History Center Field Note 400-600 words for KUFM due Wed 5/11: Finals Class

Required Format on all 4 major writings (Check these 6 points off each time you turn in an essay):

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1) Double-Spaced | 2) Double-Sided (for class copies) | 3) 1" Margins l/r/t/b & 12pt font |
| 4) Working Title | 5) Word Count, included on essay | 6) Pages Numbered (By Hand OK) |

Other Writing: (handwritten is OK for all of these **except #1**):

- 1—WW weekly writings (1 page typed double-spaced—anything from in-class writing or your journaling;
- 2—a writing & reading journal that includes **a**) in-class writings, **b**) notes & Q's on assigned readings
c) notes and work for your 3 essays, **d**) anything else that can be a resource for your essays;
- 3—1-paragraph responses—for the writer—to all student essays read for class (on the essay or separate)
- 4—a field journal (pocket size) of natural history notes/observations of one specific place January to May

Reading: About 45 student essays/revisions for workshops (**read each at least twice, write one-paragraph minimum comments/questions, sign your name**); multiple outside readings in *TIS*, *BB*, *Moodle* as assigned.

Other: Attend at least **3** live readings/events from Wild Mercy Readings, **Thursdays 7pm Feb-March**, &/or other live readings on campus or in town as announced. Within 1 week after reading, turn in a 1-paragraph response to each you attend. If you have class or job conflict, tell me and we'll look for other arrangements.

Writing Grades: I base these on my best writer's and teacher's judgments, using many overlapping and interdependent criteria such as creativity, clarity, unity, originality, shape, rhythm, sound, technique, voice, intention, sense of audience, care with language, and effort. I don't put letter grades on writings, but I respond comprehensively in writing and in class. **Ask me any time for a tentative, current course grade.**

Course Grade Determination: Total of 4 main writings = 2/3 (about 1/6 of course grade each*)
Attendance, participation, preparation, live readings = 1/3 (attendance affects all of these)

*2 essays, 1 revision, 1 Field Note = about 1/6 each, but different lengths & overall progress is considered

TIS = Tell It Slant (book) **BB = Bird by Bird (book)** **PSM = Pocket Style Manual (book)**
WW = Weekly Writings **ICW = In-Class Writings** **TBA = To Be Announced/Assigned**
WS = Workshop Discussion **R&R = Read & Respond** **MD = Moodle 373 Readings**

Wk#	Dates	In Class Work	Reading & Work Due On This Day
1	T 1/23 Th 1/24	Syll, Schedule, Bks, Intros, ICW Discuss Rdgs / ICW / S&S Q's	==== MD: Williams; Jensen; Peterson; Student-1
2	T 1/30 Th 2/1	Discuss BB & Rdgs / ICW Discuss TIS & Rdgs / WW	BB: SAs & SFDs / MD: Doerr; Sauer; Student-3 TIS Ch1 / BB S. Lunches / MD: Braverman, Duff WW
3	T 2/6 Th 2/8	Discuss TIS & Rdgs / ICW Discuss TIS & Rdgs / WW	TIS Ch3 / BB P's / MD: Peters; Parnell; Kleiner TIS Ch7/ BB P-ism / MD: Raboin; Hogan WW
4	T 2/13 Th 2/15	Discuss TIS & Rdgs / ICW Discuss TIS & Rdgs / WW	TIS Ch13 / MD: Koshere; Steingraber; Trout TIS Ch9 / MD: Ray; Kimmerer; Student-4 WW
5	T 2/20 Th 2/22	E#1 work in pairs / ICW Discuss Rdgs / WW / <i>E#1 Returned</i>	PSM p64-72 / MD: Oates; Moyer E#1 (1 copy) TIS: Chap 10 / MD: Holleman; Moore WW
6	T 2/27 Th 3/1	WS E#1 / ICW WS E#1 / WW	R&R to 3 classmates' essays E#1 19copies R&R to 3 classmates' essays WW
7	T 3/6 Th 3/8	WS E#1 / ICW WS E#1 / WW	R&R to 3 classmates' essays R&R to 3 classmates' essays WW
8	T 3/13 Th 3/15	WS E#1 / ICW WS E#1/ WW	R&R to 3 classmates' essays R&R to 3 classmates' essays WW
9	T 3/20 Th 3/22	Discuss Rdgs / ICW Discuss Rdgs / WW / <i>E#2 Returned</i>	Rdgs Field Notes Online TBA E#2 (1 copy) Rdgs Field Notes Online TBA WW
SPRING BREAK M 3/26--F 3/30: Correct E#2 & make copies! / Work on Field Note ? / Work on Revision ?			
10	T 4/3 Th 4/5	E#2 WS / ICW E#2 WS / WW	R&R to 3 classmates' essays E#2 19 copies R&R to 3 essays Bring 2 Journals 1/23-4/5
11	T 4/10 Th 4/12	E#2 WS / ICW E#2 WS / WW	R&R to 3 classmates' essays R&R to 3 classmates' essays WW
12	T 4/17 Th 4/19	E#2 WS / ICW E#2 WS / WW	R&R to 3 classmates' essays R&R to 3 classmates' essays WW
13	T 4/24 Th 4/26	Discuss Rdgs Rev WS (2 groups)	Rdgs TBA / Revision E #1 <u>OR</u> E #2 9 copies R&R to 3 Revisions
14	T 5/1 Th 5/3	Rev WS (2 groups) Rev WS (2 groups)	R&R to 3 Revisions R&R to 3 Revisions Bring 2 Journals 4/6-5/3
Finals Week		Tues 5/8 5:30-7:30 Location TBA	Field Note Due, 1 copy