

ENG 7980

History and Theories of Composition



Gap Project



The field of composition is large and varied. In addition to leaving out articles on certain topics, there are larger topics that were not covered or not covered fully.

The purpose of the Gap Project is to fill in some of those gaps. For this project, you will choose one “gap” in what we’ve covered for class. Then, you will read 3-5 articles or 1 book that covers your topic. You will write a report giving an overview of your gap and how that gap relates to other materials in the class. You will then give a short presentation covering that material.

There are many possible areas to cover for the Gap Project, but here are a few to give you some ideas.

- WAC/WID
- Technical Writing
- Professional Writing
- Writing Centers
- Disability Studies
- Universal Design
- Literacy Studies
- FYC Abandonment
- Video Games
- Social Media
- Translingualism
- Assessment

You can choose one of these topics, choose another topic not mentioned here, or expand on a topic we weren’t able to cover fully.

Objectives

- To fill in some of the areas that we were not able to cover.
- To explore additional important areas of composition.
- To provide classmates with an overview of areas of study they may be interested in exploring.

Requirements

- Reports must be a minimum of 1500 words or the multimodal equivalent.
- Presentations should be between 7 and 10 minutes.
- Presentations should be prepared in advance, practiced, and supported with supplemental materials.

Due Dates

- Presentations will be given on March 2 and March 4.
- Gap Project Reports are due on March 4.

Choosing Your Gap and Readings

When choosing what to focus on for the Gap Project, please consult with Ryan. Gaps should be areas we didn’t cover or that weren’t covered fully. Readings should be representative of that gap and provide us a good overview or entry point to that subject of study. The readings should be from composition studies or directly relate to teaching and studying writing. Ideal readings will offer perspectives not covered in other class readings. Choosing well-known scholars is encouraged.

Additional Requirements and Tips

- Gaps will be chosen today. Gaps cannot be changed without approval.
- The purpose of both the report and the presentation is to give your peers an overview of the gap you're covering. Find main scholars from your gap and offer their most influential works. Consider what's important to know for someone new to your area.
- Presentations will not be able to cover all of the material in your report. Hit important points and give meaningful examples. Covering less well is much better than covering your entire report fully.
- Time your presentation in advance. Under no circumstances can you go over the 10-minute time limit.

Written Reports

- Like with the Expansion Project, the written reports are not summaries. While summary may be a part of the report, the main purpose is to introduce your gap, introduce your scholars, and provide an overview of important ideas. You should attempt to explain the relationship between your new readings and the readings we have done for class.
- Use the written report to explain the main points of each of your readings in your own words. Directly connect these ideas to other topics we have discussed in class.
- Expand ideas from the readings to connect to teaching and research and how these readings inform those areas.
- Reports should be submitted in your shared folder in Google Drive. Multimodal projects can be submitted as a file in Google Drive or as a link in a Google Doc. Please name your document with your name, the class, and the specific assignment: e.g. "Malcolm Reynolds ENG 7980 Gap Project."
- Ryan will make a copy of your written report to share with the whole class in the shared class folder.

Grading for Presentations

The following criteria will be used to determine grades for the Gap Project Presentations:

Expectations	Exceptional	Met	Not Met
Explanation	You have provided a clear and easy to follow overview of your gap. You have introduced important scholars.	You have explained the main ideas and scholars of your gap.	Main ideas are unclear and/or scholars are not introduced.
Examples	You have provided clear examples that help your classmates better understand the main ideas of your gap.	You have provided examples to illustrate main ideas.	Examples are absent or do not help your classmates understand the gap.

Grading for Presentations (Continued)

Expectations	Exceptional	Met	Not Met
Preparation	Your presentation is very well practiced and complete. Supplemental materials are used to further enhance understanding of the material.	You have prepared your presentation in advance. Some supplemental material is provided	The presentation was not prepared in advance and/or no supplemental material is used.

Your grade for the Gap Project Presentation will be determined by how well you meet the above criteria. One “not met” cancels out one “exceptional.”

	# Exceptional	# Met	# Not Met
A	100	3	0
A-	92.5	2	1
B	85	1	2
B-	80	0	3

Grading for Written Report

The following criteria will be used to determine grades for the written report for the Gap Project:

Expectations	Exceptional	Met	Not Met
Choice of Gap and Readings	You have chosen a gap not covered in class. Readings are central to that gap and by scholars important to that gap.	You have chosen a gap not adequately covered in class. Readings are representative of that gap.	The gap is covered well in class already and/or readings are not representative of that gap.
Explanation of Gap	You have clearly and concisely explained important ideas to your gap.	You have provided an overview of important ideas to your gap.	Important ideas to the gap are missing or explained inadequately.
Connections to Class	You provide clear and multiple overlaps between your gap and class materials.	You provide ways in which your gap connects to class material.	The gap is not adequately connected to class material.
Theory of Gap	You clearly and directly tie multiple theories from your gap to composition studies pedagogy and/or research.	You directly tie the ideas of your gap to composition studies pedagogy and/or research.	The gap is not adequately connected to composition studies pedagogy and/or research.

Grading for Written Report (Continued)

Expectations	Exceptional	Met	Not Met
Use of Examples	You have drawn important and compelling quotes and paraphrases directly from the readings. These are explained clearly and concisely in your own words.	You have drawn quotes and paraphrases directly from the readings.	Quotes and paraphrases are not used or are not explained.
Additional Content	At least five sources are included for further reading beyond the ones explained in your report.	At least two sources are included for further reading beyond the ones explained in your report.	No additional readings for further reading are included.
Presentation of Content	The readings are presented in a way that enhances peers' ability to understand the content. Multimodal content is included.	The readings are presented in a way to make it easy for your peers to consume the content. Organization is reasonable.	The form or organization interfere with understanding the content.
Citation	You have included a fully accurate references or works cited page in APA or MLA style. All sources, including further readings, are cited.	You have included a references or works-cited page in APA or MLA style. All sources, including further readings, are cited.	References are incomplete or inaccurate.

Your grade for the written report for Gap Project will be determined by how well you meet the above criteria. One “not met” cancels out one “exceptional.”

		# Exceptional	# Met	# Not Met
A	100	8	0	0
	95	7	1	0
A-	92.5	6	2	0
	90	5	3	0
B+	88.5	4	4	0
	87	3	5	0
B	85	2	6	0
	83	1	7	0
B-	80	0	8	0