

ENG 7980

History and Theories of Composition

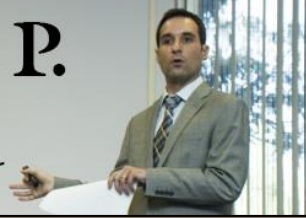


Location: Ellis Hall, Room 107
Time: Mondays: 2-2:50 PM
Wednesdays: 2-2:50 PM
Fridays: Asynchronous
Dates: January 10th through April 30th, 2022

All course materials available in:

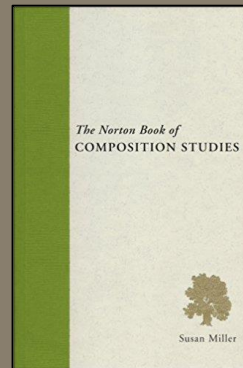
Blackboard

Dr. Ryan P. Shepherd

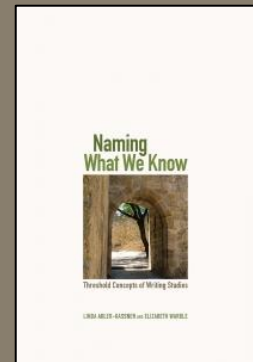


Email: RPShepherd@gmail.com
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Phone: (740) 593-2803
Office Mondays & Wednesdays
Hours: 3-4 PM
Cell: (602) 369-6496

Textbooks



The Norton Book of
Composition Studies
Susan Miller (Ed.)



Naming What We Know
Linda Adler-Kassner &
Elizabeth Wardle (Eds.)

Course Description

ENG 7980 will provide an overview of historical perspectives on composition studies as well as current theories. Students will be asked to put theories into conversation with current trends in the field and into conversation with their own teaching and research practices. Areas of study will include process, the social turn, transfer of learning, threshold concepts, and multimodality.

Course Outcomes

- Explain and analyze historical and current theories of composition.
- Connect established theories to their own teaching and research.
- Develop their own theories of composition that include their stances on research, teaching, and administration.
- Apply developed theories to their own teaching and research.

Course Readings

Assigned readings will come from the class textbooks or will be provided as PDFs in Blackboard. Please read all readings before class, post a response to the readings, and come to class ready to discuss what you've read.



Major Projects

During the course of the semester, you'll be asked to complete 2 smaller projects and one larger final project.

Expansion Project



The expansion project is designed to help you dig deeper into one topic of discussion. You will choose the topic of a single class period and read 1-2 additional articles or chapters. Before class, you will create a short report (500 words or multimodal equivalent) explaining why you chose those readings and what they added to your understanding of the topic. At the beginning of the class, you will introduce your readings and provide additional insight those readings provided. You will help Dr. Shepherd run the class discussion for that day by providing discussion questions and a short activity.

Gap Project



The gap project is designed to fill in a “gap” in what was covered in class material. Of course, not every aspect of composition studies can be covered in class. You will choose one area that we did not have time to cover, and you will read up on that area. You are expected to read at least 3-5 articles or 1 book on the topic. You will write a report (1500 words or multimodal equivalent) summarizing what you learned about this area and give a presentation (7-10 minutes) on your findings. Your presentation should provide an entry point to the topic for those new to the subject.

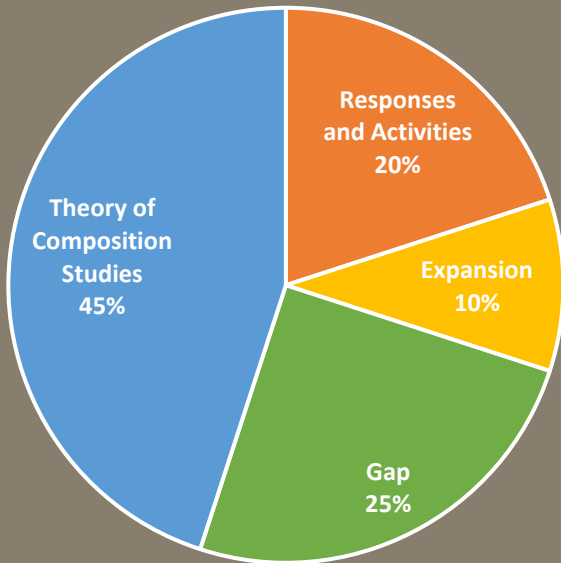
Theory of Composition Studies



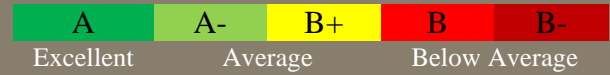
The final project is designed to help you create and explain your developing Theory of Composition Studies—keeping in mind that your theory will evolve throughout your career. Your project should include how you define “composition,” what you think the relationship is between composition and English studies, how you think composition should be taught and studied, what ties composition together as a discipline, and how all of the above influences your own teaching and research processes. You will write a report (5000 words or multimodal equivalent) explaining your theory of composition studies. The report should be well grounded in the theories of the field with references to scholarship both from and outside of class. Supplemental materials are encouraged. At the end of the semester, you will present your Theory of Composition Studies to the class in a presentation (7-10 minutes).

Grading

Your final grade will be broken down into the following percentages:



Grading Scale



- A** Outstanding: Expectations exceeded for all class assignments.
- A-** Good: Expectations met for all class assignments.
- B+** Acceptable: Expectations met with minor problems.
- B** Borderline: Expectations met with several minor problems.
- B-** Unacceptable: One or more assignments did not meet expectations for graduate work

Participation & Class Environment

Please do your best to encourage open dialog and civil discussion. Keep up with class material and engage with topics both inside and outside of class time.

Attendance

You are expected to attend every class session. If you miss a class without prior approval from me, you will lose 5% of your final grade per class missed.

Participation

You are expected to engage actively in class discussion. Please be civil to other members of the class, and actively keep dialog open. If you cannot remain civil, you will be asked to leave and will be counted absent.

Tech

You are encouraged to use technology to help you learn. Please make sure that tech (cell phones, laptops, class computers, etc.) are used to add to class content, not to distract from it.

Late Assignments

Late daily assignments will not be accepted. Late major projects will only be accepted with prior approval. Except in extreme cases, late major projects will lose 10% per day until they are turned in.

Readings

Reading responses are due no later than 60 minutes *before* class time. Please read carefully and come to class ready to discuss what you've read.