English 490: Writing Center Internship

Spring 2015

Instructor: Prairie Brown

Office Hours: Library 101-B, By Appointment Only

Contact Information: (509) 963-1299  brownp@cwu.edu

Class Time and Location: Fridays at 2:00 p.m. in the ARC

Other individually scheduled hours (ARC)

Textbooks:

The St. Martin’s Sourcebook for Writing Tutors, Christina Murphy and Steve Sherwood

The Bedford Guide for Writing Tutors, Leigh Ryan and Lisa Zimmerelli

• You are not expected to complete the exercises in the Bedford Guide. Just read the text.

Course Objectives:

1. Knowledge of Writing Center theory
2. Knowledge of Writing Center practices
3. Knowledge of Writing Center marketing and public relations
4. Strengthened reading, writing, and interpersonal skills

Assignments and Activities:

1. Assigned weekly readings
2. Weekly journal (Due at our meetings on Wednesday each week)
3. Observations of consulting sessions (write up 5)
4. Observations of in-class workshops
5. Participation in marketing and publicity activities
6. Participation in scheduling of student appointments
7. End-of-term research paper
8. Grammar review
9. All assignments are due on Tuesday, June 9

Grading:

Because this class is pass/fail, assignments are graded on a pass/fail scale. Participation is vital. If interns do not complete the minimum number of hours (40 hours per credit) and submit all assignments, they will not pass the class.
Calendar

**Week One** (March 30-April 3)

Reading Assignment: *Bedford Guide*: Introduction for Tutors and Chapters One and Two

Journal: What did you learn from your observations and reading this week? Describe your writing process.

**Week Two** (April 6-10)

Reading Assignment: *Bedford Guide*, Chapters Three, Four, and Five

Grammar Assignment: Grammar Packet One

Journal: What did you learn from your observations and reading this week? Why is it important for tutors to think about learning styles? What are some of the “hats” you have seen tutors wearing?

**Week Three** (April 13-17)

Reading Assignment: *Bedford Guide*, Chapters Six, Seven, Eight, and Nine

Grammar Assignment: Grammar Packet Two

Journal: What did you learn from your observations and readings this week? Do you think online tutoring is effective? What would you do if a difficult tutoring situation should arise?

**Week Four** (April 20-24)

Reading Assignment: *St. Martin*, pages 1-43

Grammar Assignment: Grammar Packet Three

Journal: What did you learn from your observations and readings this week? What tutoring topics most interest you? What more do you want to learn?
**Week Five** (April 27-May 1)

Reading Assignment: *St. Martin*, pages 44-70

Grammar Assignment: Grammar Packet Four

Journal: What did you learn from your observations and readings this week? Should you expect students to arrive at the Writing Center knowing how to work with a tutor? Should you expect faculty to know what happens in the Writing Center?

**Week Six** (May 4-8)

Reading Assignment: *St. Martin*, pages 70-76 and 112-127

Grammar Assignment: Grammar Packet Five

Journal: What did you learn from your observations and readings this week? What is collaborative writing? What problems might arise if a tutor is perceived as being in a position of power and authority?

Extra Assignment: Get tutored in the Writing Center on a paper you have written (any paper will do).

**Week Seven** (May 11-15)

Reading Assignment: *St. Martin*, pages 128-132 and 249-262

Grammar Assignment: Grammar Packet Six

Journal: What did you learn from your observations and readings this week? Do you believe in minimalist tutoring? What should you do if you think a student you are tutoring has a learning disability?

**Week Eight** (May 18-22)

Reading Assignment: *St. Martin*, pages 263-302

Grammar Assignment: Grammar Packet Seven

Journal: What did you learn from your observations and readings this week? Is it ever okay to proofread a student’s paper? What kinds of diversity should you expect to encounter in the Writing Center? Why is it important to embrace diversity?
**Week Nine** (May 25-29)

Reading Assignment: Kenneth Bruffee article (Prairie will provide a copy)

Grammar Assignment: Grammar Packet Eight

Journal: What did you learn from your observations and readings this week? What does it mean to be a peer tutor? Do you believe peer tutoring is effective?

**Week Ten** (June 1-5)

Reading Assignment: Work on your term paper (Due Tuesday, June 9)

Journal: What have you learned this quarter? Are you ready to be a writing tutor?