

TESL 560-001 Second Language Writing Assessment – Fall 2005

Professor: Judith Yancey
Office: McKinley 156
202-885-2582 / 919-452-1652
judith.yancey@gmail.com

Class meets: Mondays, 5:30-8:00pm
Classroom: Asbury 218
Office Hours: Monday 4:30-5:30
& by appointment

Class Description

TESOI 560-001 is a five-week course dedicated to the models, practices, and issues of second language writing assessment. This course will be structured around student assessments of writing, which will serve as a springboard for discussion, analysis, and comparison. In addition, we will address topics such as which aspects of writing we can assess, why different learner groups display problems, and how to identify Learning Disabilities.

Class Goals

Upon completion of this course:

- Students will use rubrics to assess and rate writing
- Students will design and pilot their own writing prompt and rubric
- Students will assess writing using different assessment models
- Students will compare assessments and discuss their findings
- Students will become familiar with the terminology of second language writing assessment
- Students will identify common signs of Learning Disabilities
- Students will discuss, both on the Blackboard site and in class, topics related to writing assessment

Materials

Writing samples and articles will be provided by the instructor. These will either be posted on Blackboard or distributed in class.

Assignments

Homework: Weekly assignments will require students to read, rate, and respond to writing samples. These assignments are essential for your understanding, and for the course to run smoothly. They must be completed by the next following meeting. These assignments will be graded +/-, and will account for **15% of your grade**. Note that completion of homework is extremely important to class participation.

Discussion Board: You will be asked to contribute to a weekly Discussion Board on the Blackboard site. A topic will be posted each week, and you must contribute to at least 3 discussions (including a mandatory first posting, due by 9/5) by midnight of the Sunday before class. These postings will be graded +/-, and will account for **15% of your grade**.

Create and Pilot a Rubric: You will be asked to create your own rubric and post it to Blackboard. You must also pilot that rubric by asking a student (or fellow classmate) to respond to the writing prompt, which you will then assess. This will account for **20% of your grade**.

Attendance and Participation: Because we only have five class sessions together, attendance and participation are of the utmost importance. The nature of this course demands that all students actively participate. Attendance and participation will therefore be worth **50% of your grade**.

Expected Calendar of Topics and Homework Assignments

Date	Class Topic & Homework
August 29	<p>What is a rubric? What elements of writing can we assess? How has writing been assessed? Why do international students have trouble writing? TWE (Test of Written English)</p> <p>HWK: -Mandatory discussion board posting due by 9/5/05 -TWE holistic rating of practice writing samples -Begin working on your own rubric!</p>
September 5	NO CLASS – Labor Day
September 12	<p>Comparison of Holistic ratings Pros and Cons of Analytic and Holistic Assessment Discuss differences in ratings What is a good writing prompt?</p> <p>HWK: -Analytic rating of the same practice writing samples -Post rubric and writing prompt to Blackboard</p>
September 19	<p>Comparison of Analytic ratings Discussion of differences in ratings Discussion of rubric design and pilot</p> <p>HWK: -Samples with possible LD problems -Respond to a classmate's writing prompt</p>
September 26	<p>Discuss responses to writing samples Discuss common characteristics of LD problems Discussion of writing prompt design and pilot</p> <p>HWK: - Read and respond to Organ Transplant paper -Pilot your rubric using your classmate's response</p>
October 3	<p>Wrap-up Discussion of rubric piloting Share responses to Organ Transplant paper Plagiarism and how to respond Student evaluations</p>



