Writing 100B: Justice Talking
Fall 2005

Dr. Hilde Binford
Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:50-10:00 (Brethren’s House, Room 203)
Office Hours (Brethren’s House, Room 302):
Mondays – Wednesdays 8:20-8:50; Mondays, Wednesdays 12:45-2:00
By appointment on Thursday or Friday
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I. Course Description: This section will focus on current social and political topics addressed by the PBS radio show of the same name. Students will attend four of the show’s live tapings in Philadelphia, and their writing assignments will relate to the themes they hear debated on the show. Past topics have included “Health Care for All?,” “Has International Trust Gone Bust?,” “The Future of the Environment,” and “The Education Gap: Which Way to a Smarter America?".


III. Teaching Strategies: The course will be conducted with a series of lectures and class exercises based on the reading assignments, audio-visual materials, and other supplemental materials presented by the instructor.

IV. Course Requirements: Attendance is mandatory. For each unexcused absence, the overall grade for the class will be lowered by .25 (using a 4.0 scale). Excused absences include illness (doctor’s note required) and family funeral (note from home or Student Services required). All other absences will be evaluated at the discretion of the instructor. Chronic lateness will not be tolerated, and will be reflected in the overall grade. Assignments must be turned in by 4 p.m. on the day they are due in order to receive a letter grade. Assignments not turned in by that time will receive a “zero.” Assignments which receive a grade of C+ or lower may be rewritten for a higher grade; students must submit the original paper along with the rewritten one. Rewrites will be accepted at any time up to and including the start of the final exam for this course. The instructor reserves the right to make qualitative judgments in determining grades for an assignment or for the course.

V. Essays, Written Assignments, and Class Participation:

Essays (60%): Students will complete four short essays (4-6 pages, approximately 1500 words), focusing on the topics presented in the Justice Talking fall 2005 series. These papers will be due before the topics are aired.

Short Papers and Writing Assignments (30%): Students will write several short pieces (approximately 500 words). These will include summaries and critiques of Justice Talking programs and letters to the producers.

Class Participation (10%): Students will be expected to participate fully in class. (10%) Some homework will be collaborative; peer editing will be part of the classroom experience. Two field trips to Philadelphia are required.

Field Trips: Each field trip will include attending two tapings of shows. We will leave by 3:00 p.m., and arrive at the National Constitution Center by 5:00 p.m. The tapings are from 5:00 – 6:30 and from 7:30 – 9:00. There is a short intermission for dinner. Expect to return to Bethlehem before 11:00 p.m.

VI. Important Dates to Remember:

Sep 5 No Class: Labor Day
Sep 21 Meet in Reeves Library: General Research
Oct 3 Reeves Library: International News and Alternative Media
Oct 5 Cohen Lecture: Richard Leakey, Johnston Hall, 8 p.m.
Oct 10 No Class: Fall Recess
Oct 17 Reeves Library: Evaluating web sources
Nov 4 “Bad Leadership” Lecture, 2:30 p.m.
Nov 23 No Class: Thanksgiving (travel day)
VII. **Academic Honesty:** Students are expected to uphold the standards of academic honesty, as they are spelled out in the Student Handbook.

VIII. Students can expect to work a minimum of four to six hours per week outside of class preparing for this class, which includes the time necessary to listen to *Justice Talking* online and going to the live tapings of the show in Philadelphia.

IX. Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Office as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

X. **Please note that the syllabus and calendar of class assignments are subject to change.**