

WRT 205: Critical Research

Unit 1 Assignment and Calendar

Summer 2021 Online

This schedule is subject to change. I will give you as much notice as possible of any adjustments.

DATE	Readings due	Writing Assignments due	Online discussion topics
Week of 6/7 UNIT 1	<p>Plan to have your readings done at the start of the week so that you can complete the discussion/ writing assignments due.</p> <p>Read "What is organizational culture and why should we care" and "Why diversity matters"</p> <p>Read preface and introduction of <i>They Say, I Say</i> ("Demystifying academic conversation" and "Entering the conversation")</p> <p>Familiarize yourself with the unit 1 assignment posted on Blackboard</p>	<p>Writing assignments will be submitted through course blog and Blackboard as indicated below. There will be two due dates in most weeks.</p> <p>BY WEDNESDAY, 6/9 Write a brief post introducing yourself to the rest of the class—tell us something about what you're doing this summer and what brings you to this class. If you've taken a fully online class before, please share something about your experience and any advice you might have for folks doing this for the first time.</p> <p>BY SUNDAY, 6/13 Write 200-300 word analysis of the introduction of <i>They Say, I Say</i>: how do they use this section to set up the book? Consider the decisions they make as writers—what to include, how to present their argument, how they set the tone, how they address you as the reader, etc. Pay particular attention to language here. What do you find important about the intro? Based on this, what do you expect from the book? [submit in Unit 1 dropbox on Bb]</p>	<p>Discussions will be ongoing on our course blog, with two due dates in most weeks. Please note details below.</p> <p>Our blog is linked from Blackboard, or find it here: https://ksoakes.expressions.syr.edu/summer2020/</p> <p>By Saturday, 6/12: log into the blog and respond to at least two of the questions posted there (minimum of 150 words per post). Respond to at least one other person's post (minimum of 75 words).</p> <p>Be sure to read all of the posts there—this discussion will help to prepare you for the next week's assignments!</p>

Week of 6/14	<p>Read "The impact of organizational diversity policies.." and "Neurodiversity as a Competitive Advantage"</p> <p>Read Chapter 1 of <i>They Say, I Say</i> ("They Say")</p> <p>Begin collecting possible sample texts that you feel would enrich our examination of diversity and inclusion</p>	<p>BY WEDNESDAY, 6/16: Write 100-200 word summary of Gundemir et al article (what it is, what it says, what it does) [submit via Unit 1 dropbox on Bb]</p> <p>BY SUNDAY, 6/20: Write 200-300 word comparison of the Gundemir et al and Austin/Pisano articles, focusing on how the authors differ in purpose, in audience, and in presentation of ideas (what they say and how they say it) [submit via Unit 1 dropbox on Bb]</p>	<p>By Wednesday, 6/16: log into the blog, and respond to at least two of the questions posted there (>150 words per post). Read through other people's posts to get a sense of how others are approaching the reading.</p> <p>By Saturday, 6/19: Read through your classmates' posts on the blog, and respond where you desire.</p>
Week of 6/21	<p>Read chapter 1 of <i>Rewriting</i></p> <p>Read Chapters 2 and 3 of <i>They Say, I Say</i> ("Her Point Is" and "As he himself puts it")</p> <p>Read "Understanding key D&I concepts"</p>	<p>BY WEDNESDAY, 6/23: Write 100-200 word summary of <i>either</i> the Austin & Pisano article <i>or</i> the Kaplan & Donovan article (what it is, what it says, what it does) [submit on blog]</p> <p>BY SUNDAY, 6/27: Submit <200 word summary of your selected article [submit on blog]</p>	<p>By Thursday, 6/24: Log into the blog, and respond to at least two of the questions there (>150 words per post).</p> <p>By Saturday, 6/26: Respond to at least two classmates' posts (>75 words each)</p>
Week of 6/28	<p>Watch these TED talks (on Blackboard): Margaret Heffernan</p> <p>Jason Fried</p> <p>Renata Salecl</p>	<p>BY TUESDAY, 6/29: Submit draft of Expanding the Canon blog post (via email to Karen)</p> <p>BY SUNDAY, 7/4 (midnight): Expanding the Canon post due [submit on blog]</p>	<p>By Wednesday, 6/30: Log into the blog, and respond to at least two of the questions there (>150 words per post).</p> <p>By Saturday, 7/3: Respond to at least two classmates' posts (>75 words each)</p>

Unit 1: Expanding the Canon

Assignment Sheet

In this unit, we will focus on developing a base of knowledge regarding diversity and inclusion. This will be the focus of our reading and writing assignments over the first several weeks of the course. We will all read a selection of articles on this topic and will work together to develop strategies for reading and responding critically to texts. Students will extend their reading individually and will contribute to our shared knowledge by explaining what they're learning from other texts.

In addition to the texts we read and write together, each of you will locate an article from an academic or professional journal to round out our base of knowledge and will present this article to the class in a brief blog post. Articles must meet certain criteria to be considered:

- Author must be an expert in the subject under consideration—i.e. a credentialed academic or an experienced practitioner
- Article must illuminate a specific concept, field, or situation and provide substantive analysis
- Article must be less than 5 years old or be recognized as a seminal text in the field (i.e. a foundational work by an oft-cited expert)
- Article must be available to all of your classmates, either through a weblink or through an SU subscription database

You will provide a brief summary (<200 words) of your selected article on our blog by 6/27, and then will craft a larger post that explains its value to our class inquiry by 7/4. In this post, your goal is to enrich our understanding of organizational culture by enlightening us on one of the important conversations around the topic that happen in professional/trade journals. In your post, you will:

- Provide detailed rhetorical analysis of the text under consideration
- Delineate this text's main arguments/findings/ideas—what it adds to our understanding
- Incorporate at least 1 pertinent media artifact (image/video/hyperlink/etc.) to extend our knowledge
- Employ blog conventions and be suitable for an audience of your peers
- Be meaningfully integrated into our class blog (tagged, titled, and categorized for easy use)

Content	
Provides detailed rhetorical analysis for text—author, audience, purpose, context, exigence	/3
Explains text's unique value—main take-away points, what this adds to the conversation, what questions/ideas it opens up	/3
Incorporates relevant media artifact(s)—i.e. images, videos, embedded links—to further our understanding of the subject	/3
Style	
Clearly designed for an audience of your peers—appropriate diction, sentence structure, level of detail, etc.	/2
Abides by blog writing conventions—highly legible, brief (250-500 words), visually organized, key points highlighted	/2
Technical matters	
Post is tagged, titled, and categorized for ease in reading	/1
Media is captioned, cited, and thoughtfully explained	/1
TOTAL:	/15