
Subject: RE: Hello again from the writing program
Date: Monday, September 18, 2006 at 1:35:46 PM Mountain Daylight Time
From: Gregg Kvistad
To: Doug Hesse
CC: jkaras@du.edu

Thanks, Doug. These look intriguing. I wonder if we want to work with the first-year seminar committee next year to ensure that we have some sort of significant writing/critical thinking/etc. component to these seminars. This is a very soft touch, which certainly makes sense, but the first quarter needs to be connected to the other two in ways we can maybe push a little harder on next year.

G.

From: Doug Hesse [mailto:douglas.hesse@du.edu]
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2006 11:13 AM
To: fysem-06@du.edu
Cc: dhesse@du.edu; 'Eliana Schonberg'; Gregg Kvistad; Amy Kho
Subject: Hello again from the writing program

Dear First Year Seminar Colleagues,

About a month ago I sent an email introducing myself and the resources of the Writing Program. I know Eliana Schonberg has contacted you, too, and several of you have met with her. In turn, I'm going to invite several of you to make informal presentations to the new writing program lecturers so that we can hear about your courses and your impressions of the freshmen.

Jo Calhoun and Janette Benson are organizing some possible times for me to meet with you, answer questions, and provide suggestions.

In the meantime, however, I want to re-extend an offer for help and to alert you to a couple new opportunities. I realize that not all seminars have a writing component, so some of you may be less interested than others in what follows.

1. The Writing Program can provide individual consultations to you about writing in the first year seminar. I can pair you with one of the writing program lecturers, either for a one-time meeting, several occasional meetings, or something more formal. The lecturers can offer expert advice on making assignments or dealing efficiently and effectively with student writing. They can consult with you about specific student papers or writing problems that you're seeing. Several of you have already contacted me about writing (including Sarah Pessin, Bob Dores, Nancy Reichmann, Susan de Ghize, Steve McCarl, Victor Castellani, Carol Helstosky, Ingrid Tague, Paul Colomy, and others whose names I've forgotten). I'll be back in touch with you soon.

2. I'm offering two one-hour workshops to the University Community as a whole, and you'd certainly be welcome to attend either or both. Alternatively, wait until Jo and Janette have arranged the opportunities for me to meet specifically with the FYS folks. The university-wide sessions are:

Writing in Content Courses: Being Helpful, Keeping Sane

There are ways of making writing assignments and grading papers that can make otherwise well-

adjusted professors lose sleep, religion, and life partners. There are ways of doing this that don't. This one-hour workshop focuses on the latter, with practical strategies and specific resources.

Friday, September 22. 1-2 p.m. (Refreshments provided.)

or

Thursday, October 5. Noon to 1 p.m. (Lunch provided at 11:45.)

Using Writing to Enhance Learning in Your Courses

The galaxy of possible writing assignments is considerably larger than the solar system of essays, term papers, lab reports, and essay exams. Many assignments have the double advantage of helping you teach your content and being fairly quick and painless to evaluate. They don't ask you to be a "writing teacher." Instead, they offer another tool to teach your content. This one-hour workshop will share options and answer questions.

Wednesday, September 27. Noon to 1 p.m. (Lunch provided at 11:45.)

or

Friday, October 6. Noon to 1 p.m. (Lunch provided.)

I've attached a Word document that has information about saving a place in a workshop.

Doug

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From: Doug Hesse [mailto:douglas.hesse@du.edu]
Sent: Monday, August 07, 2006 9:35 AM
To: fysem-06@du.edu
Cc: dhesse@du.edu; 'Eliana Schonberg'; 'Gregg Kvistad'
Subject: Introduction and Offer of Help with First-Year Writing

Dear Colleagues Teaching First Year Seminars,

I'm writing to introduce myself and to offer the services of the Writing Program, this fall and beyond.

As many of you know, I'm the new director of writing on campus. For a quick glimpse at my background, please see <http://portfolio.du.edu/dhesse>

I hope to meet you in person during the early fall quarter in order to learn your needs, interests, and observations about student writing. I certainly don't expect you to be a "writing teacher," in any full sense of that term, nor does anyone else expect that. However, there are modest options with writing to enhance your course content while not demanding vast amounts of your time or any expertise on student writing.

Of course, I'll be please to meet individually with you at anytime before the fall quarter. I can provide some specific practical advice, for example, on designing writing assignments that allow you to respond efficiently and effectively.

If you've been in Penrose in the past few weeks, you'll see that the new Writing and Research Center is nearing completion; it will provide scheduled and drop-in consultations for all students, and it will be professionally staffed by trained PhD candidates working under the leadership of Dr. Eliana Schonberg, the new Director of the Center. Additionally, several of the 19 new lecturers in the Writing Program will be available for consulting, short-term and long. I'd be happy, for example, to partner you for the quarter with an expert who might share advice on responding to sets of student papers or who might, at your invitation, meet with students in your class to provide writing help.

The Writing Program and Writing Center will soon have a more detailed menu of what we can offer the campus community. I just wanted to say hello, to say I'm eager to learn about you and your courses, and to extend my assistance.

Doug

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