

Course Description

ENGL106→You Are Here will serve as one of several possible strands for the new one-semester, first-year composition course. The course asks students to locate themselves in relation to contemporary cultural domains or "nodes," including (but not limited to) identity, networks, the arts, education, space, work, and information. Students will write in a variety of genres, from essays to webpages, and engage with various media, such as film, music, images, text, and webtext. Through their reading and writing, students are asked to explore the overall theme, You Are Here, in order to develop a sense of cultural location. Additionally, the class will introduce and build upon established rhetorical concepts and techniques. With a unique combination of instruction in the traditional classroom and the computer classroom, plus one-on-one conferencing, Engl 106 helps students develop their rhetorical skills and cultural knowledge while discovering the complexities of writing, communicating, and composing in a networked world.

Theoretical Background

This approach to ENGL106 grows out of a variety of theoretical approaches, histories, and contexts.

ENGL106→You Are Here builds on the work of past cultural studies pedagogies (Berlin, Faigley, Bizzell, and so on) by:

- collapsing boundaries between high and low culture,
- employing the popular as academic,
- bringing classic humanities texts into contemporary discussions,
- extending notions of what counts as "texts" and "writing," and
- stressing the importance of cultural matters and rhetorical ability for civic participation.

In designing ENGL106, we wanted a writing course that supplements the goals of service to the academic community and vocational preparation. By incorporating classic humanities issues, ENGL106 asks students to engage in questions that develop their understanding of what it means to live in the world today while helping them become rhetorically and civically sophisticated. Moreover, this course reflects the numerous ways in which composing occurs in an increasingly visual and technological culture. In line with much recent scholarship in rhetoric and composition, we want students to develop as readers and writers in a wide variety of media and genres, and for differing audiences.

The concept of mapping in ENGL106 provides teachers and students with a productive way to *discover* our complex relations to education, money, art, work, and technology and *develop* the rhetorical sophistication to navigate those relations. Mapping suggests a cultural studies approach that moves beyond critical hermeneutic practices. Instead, mapping is tied to a notion of rhetoric as a generative art that allows students to engage with culture on academic, civic, and personal levels.

Course Sequences

1. Stable sequence using Robert Atwan's *Convergences: Message • Method • Medium* and supplementary texts.



2. Flexible sequence with multiple 4-week nodes of inquiry to select and arrange (all texts available online).

ENGL106 → **You Are Here**
Flexible Sequence

Week1 | You are here...openings
Class

Introductions; Distribute course materials, including Writing Rhetorically, Research as Compass or Getting Your Bearings through Research, and Reading Groups

Readings | Introduction to maps as productive & rhetorical

Excerpt from Wood's *The Power of Maps*
Seeing Through Maps, Ch. 1 "The Multiple Truths of the Mappable World"
Scenes from *Fight Club*, walk-thru catalogue & trashcan pullback

Writings | Personal Maps

Mapping Your Life (home & key)
This Map Not Drawn to Scale (found map & explanation of its significance)

Computer

Orientation and finding course materials

Conferences

Laying the ground rules
Distribute Reading Group handout; set up the 3 reading groups based on your nodes

Week2

Class

Discussion of Personal Maps related to Writing Rhetorically handout
Presentations if time allows or distribution if it doesn't

Readings

Excerpt from Robert Pirsig's *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, Ch.6 (on classical and romantic modes of seeing the world)

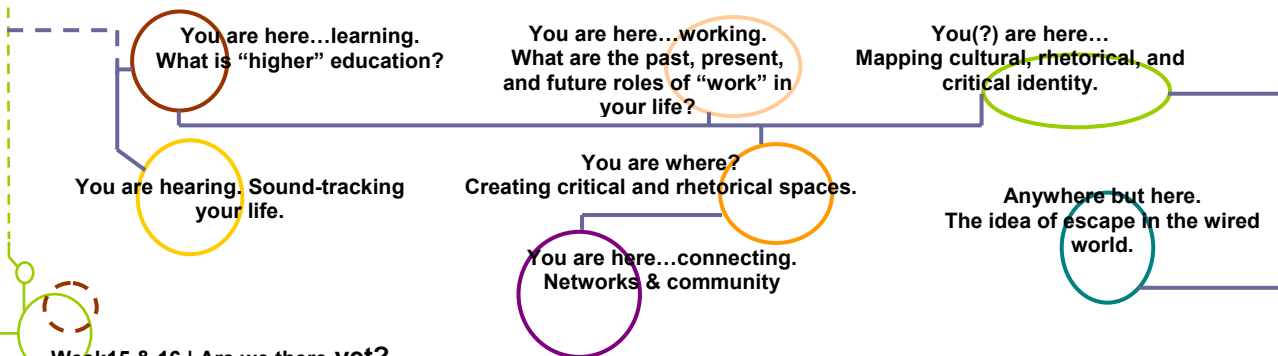
Computer

Work on Personal Maps

Conferences

Invention/evaluative discussion of maps

SUBSEQUENT 4-WEEK NODES OF INQUIRY [IN DEVELOPMENT]



Week15 & 16 | Are we there yet?

Class

Revision, peer review, re-visiting sites from our discussion/readings
Turn in final versions of your writings.

Writings

Reflective Navigation: Finding Your Way Around My Writing

