Minnowbrook
Special Topics Workshops
2023

Syracuse University
Project Advance

ENG 600: Teaching Writing in the Age of A.I. (Davies)

The launch of ChatGPT and the advancement of other artificial intelligence (AI) writing technologies has invited writing teachers to reckon with assumptions that inform our writing pedagogy, particularly those that shape how we design writing assignments. Questions surrounding originality and authorship, our students' writing and research processes, and the ways our students use writing technologies are on every writing teacher's mind as they develop lesson plans while, simultaneously, every school system is struggling to develop policies and support that contend with these questions. In line with those concerns, topics in this workshop will include the systemic biases present in large language AI models like ChatGPT, the ways writers may use AI writing technologies at different stages of the writing process, concerns about plagiarism and authorship in student writing, issues of privacy and data collection with AI writing technologies, and studies on how students read and engage with sources in their writing. The participants will develop writing assignments and unit plans that incorporate AI writing technologies while emphasizing the collaborative and generative ways writers work with sources and writing technologies.

Laura J. Panning Davies
SUNY Cortland Department of English, Director of Campus Writing Programs

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ENG 600: Writing Beyond Ourselves:
Taking Storytelling Risks with Intention, Integrity, and Imagination (Lawhorn)

Are there stories or characters we shouldn't write? What's the difference between representation and appropriation? How do we reveal, in writing, our complex, ever-changing world (or imagined worlds) in all of its glorious, terrifying aliveness without leaning on clichés, stereotypes, and generalizations? In this generative workshop, we'll excavate what it means to intentionally craft vivid writing by considering our own unique perspectives as writers, our implied reader, and the effect we hope our writing will have. Is our implied reader just like us, and if so how do we write beyond ourselves? In this workshop we'll consider:

- The limits of imagination and the expansive possibilities research affords us
- How to ask for, and take, feedback especially when we have taken risks in writing differences
- What to do when we unintentionally muck it up and reveal what we didn't know

Participants will read an array of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction as well as Writing the Other: A Practical Approach by Nisi Shaw and Cynthia Ward. These texts will act as springboards for a series of exercises written alone and in community that explore differences (and just who decides what's "different" and what's "normal") with openness, curiosity, honesty, and humor. Participants will be expected to bring writing of their choice (3-5 pages) that will benefit from workshop.