

Upcoming Course Adjustments: Rhetoric and Composition (EN1311D SP20)

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Fri 3/13/2020 11:37 PM

To: Jacquez, Bianca-Rhae

Hello Class!

I hope you are all doing well, staying safe and busy during these very strange times. As I'm sure you've all heard by now, we're going to be transitioning into an online format if not for the rest of the semester, than certainly for the foreseeable future. First of all, since the official Spring Break has been extended through next week, there will be an adjusted course calendar coming in the next few days as I'm just waiting to see how a few dates on the current schedule are going to be affected. But as of right now, your annotated bibliographies will be moved from March 16 to March 23, which should give everyone plenty of time to make sure they're near perfect. Also, the first draft of the research essay will now be due on March 26 on Canvas. I will still grade them in the usual way with voice recordings, though you will need to make sure to submit all remaining coursework in a Microsoft Word attachment so that I can utilize the Track Changes tool.

As we discussed before break, the rest of the semester is dedicated to the novel, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, which is all going to continue as a class discussion format. However, as we are unable to meet face to face, we will be conducting our classes through the Zoom app. There is now a link on the course page in Canvas, and you may need to register (for free) before we reconvene on March 24. Classes will still begin at 2 p.m. T-TR (meaning class attendance policies remain intact) and you will need to make sure your audio/video tools are in order on your devices before that date. However, as we will still be having daily quizzes, the first 10 minutes of every class will be dedicate to taking the quiz on Canvas, at which point you will then join our Zoom conference.

Daily discussions on the novel will still be led by groups of two. The groups pairings are listed at the bottom of this message. As we discussed, I will lead the first discussion on March 24. Again, as a reminder, I realize that literature is not some of your fortes, so I'm not looking for in-depth examinations of literary devices or anything of that nature, but rather a broader examination of characters, plots and themes--and above all else, keep the discussion moving! For those of you who have been lagging a bit in participation, no more hiding! This is your chance to make up that 10% of the grade. Each group will also be responsible for posting three discussion questions before the beginning of the class in which you are schedule to lead discussion. The rest of the class will post responses to those once the class has ended and before the next class period.

I know there will be a period of adjustment for all of us as we get used to this new format, and I expect we'll spend quite a lot of the first session just ironing out the kinks, which is fine. In the meantime, make sure you become familiar with the zoom tool and register if necessary. Once you have done so please email me to confirm and we should be ready to go. Otherwise, you will be receiving your final drafts over the next week, for which you will still email me a summary of comments.

While this is less than ideal, I know that we can all make this work and still have a strong finish to the semester! Please email or call if you have any questions and try and relax and reflect with this extended Spring Break. Below are the group pairings. Talk to you all soon.

DD

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