

**English 4302: Studies in Literacy**  
Spring 2013  
12-1:20 T/Th, 131 Allen Hall

Susan Weinstein  
43 Allen Hall  
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Office hours: T/Th 1:30-3  
and by appointment  
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**Course Description**

*From the catalog:* “Varied perspectives on literacy, especially written literacy; issues raised by its complex and problematic nature.”

*From Dr. Weinstein:* In this class, we will trace historical definitions of and claims about literacy before delving into the field of New Literacy Studies, which argues that literacy practices are diverse and can only be understood within their specific social contexts. Students will read both theoretical and ethnographic texts that explore the power dynamics always at the heart of literacy practices.

**Readings**

All readings will be posted to the class Moodle site, except for the book group books, which students will have to purchase. All assigned readings should be completed for the date on which they are listed, and students should come to class prepared for discussion.

**Assignments**

*Participation* (10%). This includes coming to class prepared with any assigned work for the day (including all readings) and participating fully in class activities.

*Reading responses* (15%). A 300-500 word reflection on one assigned reading for each week – you choose the reading; the response must be handed in on the day that the reading is scheduled for discussion. The reading response should not be a summary of the reading, but a discussion of the ideas it raised for you, how it connects to other course texts or to your own observations and experiences, etc. You are responsible for a total of **10** reading responses.

*Book groups* (15%). Groups of 3-4 students will select and read a book of their choice (with Dr. Weinstein’s approval); each group will give a 15-minute presentation on its book over the course of the semester.

*Midterm exam* (25%). The exam will address readings and class discussions from the first half of the semester.

*Project Proposal* (10%). A 2-page proposal that includes a description of the project, a research plan, and at least 3 relevant sources.

*Semester paper* (25%). A 10-12 page paper that reports on the research project.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics/Activities</b>	<b>Readings/Assignments (due on the date listed)</b>
Tuesday 1/15	Introduction to course Defining terms	
Thursday 1/17	Tracking your literacy practices Technologies of literacy	Ong (pp. 19-31)
Tuesday 1/22	Tracking your literacy practices – reporting in Technologies of literacy cont'd.	Baron (pp. 70-84)
Thursday 1/24	Sources of literacy	Moll & Gonzalez (pp. 156-171)
Tuesday 1/29	Historical literacies	Graff (pp. 211-233) McHenry & Heath (pp. 261-274)
Thursday 1/31	Historical literacies	Gere (pp. 275-289)
Tuesday 2/5	Literacy development	Lytle (376-401)Purcell-Gates (402-418)
Thursday 2/7	Literacy research	Szwed (421-429)
Tuesday 2/12	MARDI GRAS HOLIDAY	
Thursday 2/14	New Literacy Studies	Street (430-442)
Tuesday 2/19	Literacy and culture	Heath (443-467) McCarty & Watahomigie (488-508)
Thursday 2/21	Discourses of/and literacy	Gee (525-544)
Tuesday 2/26	Discourses of/and literacy cont'd. Sponsors of literacy	Delpit (545-554) Brandt (555-571)
Thursday 2/28	Literacy and freedom	Freire (616-628)
Tuesday 3/5	CLASS CANCELLED	CLASS CANCELLED
Thursday 3/7	Women and literacy  Research project introduction  Book group presentation #1	Ramdass (629-643)
Tuesday 3/12	Mid-term exam	
Thursday 3/14		

Tuesday 3/19		Research project proposals due
Thursday 3/21	Book group presentation #2	
Tuesday 3/26		
Thursday 3/28	Book group presentation #3	
Tuesday 4/2	SPRING BREAK	
Thursday 4/4	SPRING BREAK	
Tuesday 4/9		
Thursday 4/11	Research project workshop	
Tuesday 4/9	Book group presentation #4	
Thursday 4/18		
Tuesday 4/23	Book group presentation #5	
Thursday 4/25	Research presentations	
Tuesday 4/30	Research presentations	
Thursday 5/2		
Thursday 5/9		Research projects due via email to Dr. Weinstein by 5 p.m.