STEP: Summer 2008
Writing Syllabus

Meets in Girv.
Instructor: Christopher Dean (email: cdean@writing.ucsb.edu) (phone: 203-313-1343)

Class Materials: Bring the Course Reader, a pen/pencil, and paper to every class. Also, we have a homepage at http://www.writing.ucsb.edu/faculty/dean/STEP-Sum08.html.

Class Description: This class aims to help you understand how to read and write at a university level. Thus, class activities will center on doing informal writing (which will lead to the essay you write for this class); reading interesting and engaging texts (which will help you write your essay for this class); and writing an academic essay.

Participation/Work Load: Please be prepared to discuss a number of topics in class, ranging from the course topic area (paying attention in a technological age) to writing itself. Much work will be done independently, then in small groups, and finally, as a whole class. Also, you need complete the reading required before you show up for each class session. Finally, you need to remember that you need to attend all classes and be on time to every class meeting.

Technological Point: We will be talking about cellphones, texting, and iPods in the class. There will even be moments when we will use them in class. (College is FUN my friends.) However, don’t use cellphones, texting, and iPods in any way that distracts you or others from the work of the class. Thus turn off all electronic devices until asked to use them. Of course, I will do the same. We’re all in this together.

Class Schedule

WEEK ONE
Monday: 8/18/08
- **Reading:** “The Poisoned Fish” by Ken Macrorie—in class reading.
- **Writing:** In class writing about prompts.
- **Class Activities:** Discussion of Macrorie, decoding writing prompts, reading strategies and prep for Tuesday’s readings, and introductory activities.

Tuesday: 8/19/08
- **Reading:** (All Due Today) “Untitled” by Ryokan on page 29 and “Why Log Truck Drivers Rise Earlier Than Students of Zen” by Gary Snyder on page 29 of the packet. Also, read “Buddhist Enlightenment and the Internet” on pages 15-19 of the packet. Finally read “Still” by A.R. Ammons and “The Journey” by Mary Oliver on page 30 of the packet.
- **Class Activities:** Discussion of readings, thinking and writing activity, poetry exercise, and prep for Wednesday’s readings.

Wednesday: 8/20/08
- **Reading:** (All Due Today) Read “Television Addiction is No Mere Metaphor” on pages 19-23 of the packet. Also, read “Culture and Technology: The Myth of Tech Gadgets and Social Alienation” on pages 23-26 in the packet. Finally, read “Tuned in, Zoned Out” on pages 10-11 of the packet.
- **Class Activities:** Discussion of texts, prewriting for essays, in class experiment.

Thursday: 8/21/08
**Reading:** Read “The Myth of Multitasking Christine Rosen” on pages 23-26 of the packet.
- **Writing:** In class essay drafting.
- **Class Activities:** Debate or panel on readings to date, in class writing for essay.

Friday: 8/22/08
- **Writing:** First draft of essay due at the beginning of class.
- **Class Activities:** Peer review of first draft, library orientation.
WEEK TWO
Monday:  8/25/08
• **Writing:** Rough drafts will be returned.
• **Class Activities:** Common errors work, writing exercises work, deconstructing a student essay, prep for second draft.

Tuesday:  8/26/08
• **Writing:** Bring a second draft of your paper to class.
• **Class Activities:** Peer review, works cited work, quotation work, and writing QandA.

Wednesday:  8/27/08
• **Writing:** Final Draft of the Essay Due Today.
• **Class Activities:** Editing work, process letter writing, bad haiku contest, and review of class.

Thursday:  8/28/08
• **Class Activities:** Papers returned, class evaluation.

*Please feel free to approach me at any time with any questions at all. I can be reached via phone at 203-313-1343 and via email at cdean@writing.ucsb.edu.*