Course Syllabus
Writing 50: Writing and the Research Process
"Work and the Twenty-First Century"
Summer Session A

Instructor: Chris Dean
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 2:00-3:55 P.M.
Class Location: HSSB 3201
Office Location: Girvetz 1314
Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 4:00-5:30 p.m. and by appointment
Message Phone: 203-313-1343
Email: cdean@writing.ucsb.edu
Enrollment Code: 14100
Moodle Site: http://moodle.id.ucsb.edu (Moodle Enrol Key: writeme)

Required Textbooks

- Course Reader: Available from Graphic Arts in Isla Vista.
- The class website: http://www.uweb.ucsb.edu/faculty/dean
- The class Moodle Site: http://moodle.id.ucsb.edu

Drop Deadline
The last day to drop Writing 50 is 7/29/07 through GOLD. Students who miss the drop deadline must petition the Writing Program director to drop, and requests are not easily granted.

Course Description and Contribution

The University of California Santa Barbara general catalog describes Writing 50 as a "writing course addressing the analytical skills underlying the research process of academic and professional communities. Writing 50 emphasizes the thinking and writing skills involved in independent research, including developing questions, designing and planning research, analyzing, contrasting and synthesizing multiple sources, and drawing conclusions." This section of Writing 50 focuses on what it means to be a worker in the 21st century, and our principal interest will be in helping you do collegiate research in a way that will help you learn about something that you are interested in and help you think about what you want to do after your undergraduate career.

You will learn how to move from initial thoughts (a research proposal); to field and library research (including surveys and working with online databases); to writing a draft (which is always open to change); to finalizing your writing (creating a final draft); to, finally, presenting your research to your colleagues in a sharp, polished way. Also, along the way, you’ll learn how to produce professional documents, such as résumés and cover letters.

Ultimately, the goal here is simple: for you to understand how to research, to write from research that you are interested in, and then to present your research in a way that you will be proud of—via a PowerPoint presentation and a final paper.
Finally, I believe that research, and learning about how to do it, should be fun, engaging, and rewarding. Therefore, I will work as hard as I can to make class interesting (via the use of computers, debates, presentations, and even online games). In return, I ask this one little thing: do not allow yourself to be bored. You will be writing about a future career, or a course of graduate study, or even the future world you will be working in while you are in this class—and you will choose what you research, so please, by all that’s holy, make sure that your topic does not bore you. I guarantee that if you are not bored, then I will not be bored.

Outcomes
After taking Writing 50, you should be able to:

1. Conclude a significant independent research project, including developing questions; designing and planning research; analyzing, contrasting and synthesizing multiple primary and secondary sources; and drawing conclusions.
2. Recognize differences among disciplinary approaches to a topic.
3. Analyze the theoretical and disciplinary perspectives and rhetorical strategies underlying texts through critical reading and thinking.
4. Identify and use the full range of university library services.
5. Use both general and specialized catalogs, indices, and bibliographies.
7. Conduct Web-based research efficiently and selectively.
8. Locate books, reference texts, journal articles, and other resources in the library.
9. Distinguish among various types of sources—such as primary and secondary, popular and peer-reviewed, reference and circulating—as they evaluate those sources.
10. Integrate, cite, and document sources correctly.
11. Offer generously and receive readily assistance in collaborative projects.
12. Present the results of your research in a poised and professional manner without the fear of public speaking.
13. See a bridge between the world within academe and the world beyond it.

Online access to course materials
The syllabus, schedule, assignments, readings, and resources for the course can be found on the Web @ http://www.uweb.ucsb.edu/faculty/dean

Grading

- Attendance and Participation: Since this is a class where attendance is a necessity (due to peer feedback, in-class activities, out of class conferences, and in-class writing assignments), I will take roll. In addition, your drafts and your participation will factor into this part of the grade. Also, to do well in this area of the class you need to keep your absences to two absences for conferences or the class. We will meet two times outside of class to conduct one-on-one conferences. This will be an opportunity for you to ask questions about papers, the conduct of the class, and even more far ranging questions, like “What’s the secret to a happy life?” (The answer to this, by the by, is chocolate—lots of chocolate.)
  - Percentage of Grade: 15%

- Résumé: You will actually create a real live résumé that will allow you to look for work. If you ever wondered if your work in a writing class mattered, wonder no more. You will write a résumé that will be
letter perfect. The résumé is a document that you can use repeatedly as you actually apply for jobs you want to hold. You will also create a cover letter, which will be written in response to a particular job advertisement or internship opportunity.

- **Research Proposal and Research Question:** Contrary to popular belief, research is not about having a result in mind and then finding research that supports your presupposed ideas about a topic. No my friends, research is really about coming up with a question that you want to pursue and following it through in a way that makes sense. Thus, for this assignment, you will write out a research question, plot out an approach, and even do a little preliminary research to see what you actually want to **discover, not prove.** You will also narrow down a topic so that is manageable. Thus, you will not do your research on “becoming a lawyer”; you will narrow your topic to looking at something particular about becoming a lawyer—such as what does a lawyer actually need to study in law school to be ready to get a job after law school.

- **Information Interview or Survey:** You will need, for your research, to talk to a live human being about what a career or course of study is all about. To accomplish this, you will interview a professional in a field that you are interested in, and you will transcribe his/her comments. Also, you will write up an abstract of what he or she says. (The abstract being a central part of many academic texts.) This information will be directly relevant to your research report. This interview could be part of your final paper and presentation.

- **PowerPoint Presentation:** To work in the 21st century is to be assured of three things: death, taxes, and having to do a PowerPoint. Thus, you will learn how to create a PowerPoint Presentation—based on the research that you have done on your topic—and present said PowerPoint to the class. This may be your first PowerPoint presentation, but it will not be your last. Also, as a side note, these things are totally fun to put together.

- **Final Researched Essay:** This is a 10-15 page piece (with at least ten different sources in your works cited/references), and it will **not be a regurgitation of your research.** You will get to choose from several formats for your piece, but they will all involve you reflecting, thinking, and doing more than simply throwing out facts. Your paper must have a purpose and a point to it—past “this is what I learned.” This is the **major assignment of the class,** and the percentage of the grade that is tied to this piece reflects this. Rest assured you will have lots of time to work on this, and I will do everything in my power to help you write a fine paper.

### Additional Help
I strongly encourage you to get help with your writing from friends, family, and the tutors (which you pay for through tuition and student fees) from CLAS (Campus Learning Assistance Services). CLAS is located just across from South Hall. Their physical locations are Buildings 300 and 477, and you can see more about CLAS by checking out their website located at [http://www.clas.ucsb.edu/info.htm](http://www.clas.ucsb.edu/info.htm). **Remember every good writer uses others to help them make their writing better.** You can also call and set up an appointment with CLAS by calling 893-3279. There are also two other organizations on campus that might prove helpful to you, and they are Counseling & Career Services (893-4411) and Disabled Students Program (DSP) (893-2778). Counseling and Career Services can help you many questions you might have as a student and person, and DSP is a place that can help you if you have a documented disability that might impinge on your ability to academic work at UCSB.
Notice to Students with Disabilities
If you are a student with a documented disability and would like to discuss special accommodations, please contact me during office hours, after class, or in whatever way would be best for you to talk to me privately.1

Rewrites
You can rewrite any piece for this class. All rewrites, though, are due by the last day of class. I will not accept rewrites after our last class meeting, so do not ask me to.

Plagiarism
As my colleague, Professor Doug Bradley, writes, “Plagiarism is the copying of a part or whole of another person’s work while representing the work as your own; it is an extremely serious academic offense.” (Read more of Professor Bradley’s views on plagiarism at http://www.1startists.com/courses/writ2e/syllabus.html.) The best way to avoid plagiarism is to cite all the sources you use in a paper correctly and never ever try to pass off someone else’s writing as your own—period. I will teach you everything I know about properly citing sources, so that you will never face charges of unintentional plagiarism, but I have no patience with people who engage in intentional plagiarism. **Plagiarism offenses are treated seriously by the University, and may result in failure of the paper and of the course, in addition to further potential sanctions by the Student Faculty Conduct Committee.**

Access to an email account
You will have one by virtue of being a UCSB student, but make sure that you know how to use umail—since this is the email I will be using for you in this class.

Storage
Since we will be working in a computer lab quite a bit, you need to make sure that you have something (like a flash drive) to store your work on. Make sure that you bring your computer storage device to **every class** we have in the lab.

Final Note
I teach writing because I love it, and I also teach because I care about students. I want you to succeed in this class, and I also want us all to learn how to research in ways that will, I hope, strike you as fun. I’m serious about a lot of things (being on time, late work, and even making sure that résumés are free of grammatical errors); however, I believe that learning about researching and writing is fun too. My hope is that you will exit this class having written something you are proud to have written, that you will be a more confident researcher and writer, and that you will have laughed and learned while laughing.

Giving Credit Where Credit is Due

1 This statement adapted from the “Guide to Constructing a Writing Program Syllabus,” which is available at http://www.writing.ucsb.edu/information/info.html.
Many thanks to Paul Rogers, Doug Bradley, Michael Petraca, and Brian Loftus in helping me think through this course. Particular thanks to Paul and Michael for their syllabi, which have helped me construct the very syllabus you have before you. (Remember friends: we must all acknowledge the sources that inspire us to write.)

Course Calendar
(The Calendar is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.)

Week One: What it Means to Work in the 21st Century—an Overview

MONDAY: 6-25-07 (Meet in Classroom—HSSB 3201)
- Reading: Introduction to What Should I Do With My Life by Po Bronson. (In Class.)
- Writing: What do I like to do and why?
- Class Activities: Introductions, in-class reading, and in-class writing.

TUESDAY: 6-26-07 (Meet in Classroom—HSSB 3201)
- Reading: Introduction to Robert Reich’s The Future of Success and Chapter One (in packet) and “The Chemical Engineer Who Lacked a Chemical” from What Do I Want to Do with My Life (in packet).
- Writing: First draft of résumé due today.
- Class Activities: Peer Review. In-class writing, discussion of texts, “What do you Want from Life” exercise, and brainstorming for possible careers and courses of study to research.

THURSDAY: 6-28-07 (Meet in Miramar Computer Lab—Phelps 1526)
- Reading: Introduction to Gig and self-chosen selection (in packet).
- Class Activities: In-class writing, peer review, work with Gig readings. Introduction to cover letters.

Week Two: What it Means to Work in the 21st Century—Creating the Résumé and Starting Research

CONFERENCE WEEK

MONDAY: 7-2-07 (Meet in Gaviota Computer Lab: Phelps Hall 1529)
- Reading: Robert Reich’s “The Lure of Hard Work” from The Future of Success (in packet).
- Class Activities: Peer review on cover letter and résumé. In-class writing, discussion of Reich and work on what you might research.

TUESDAY: 7-3-07 (Meet in Gaviota Computer Lab: Phelps Hall 1529)
- Class Activities: In-class writing, editing work, discussion of reading and video, “30 Days Episode”. ALSO, SIGN-UP FOR CONFERENCES.

THURSDAY: 7-5-07
NO CLASS MEETING. Meet with Chris in his office for first conference at your scheduled conference time. Bring Final Draft of your Résumé To Conference.
Week Three: Fieldwork and Your Friend the Computer

MONDAY: 7-9-07 (Meet in Gaviota Computer Lab: Phelps Hall 1529)
- Reading: Read all of “Research: An Overview.” Located at http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/552/01/
- Writing: Begin creating first (and final) draft of research question and proposal—due on 7-10-07.
- Class Activities: In-class writing, working with online databases, creation of research question and preliminary research, and selection from “The Colbert Report.”

TUESDAY: 7-10-07 (Meet in Gaviota Computer Lab: Phelps Hall 1529)
- Reading: Online reading on creating interview and survey questions. Located at http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/559/01/
- Writing: FINAL DRAFT OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE TODAY.
- Class Activities: In-class writing, research gallery exercise, more preliminary research, and designing interviews.

THURSDAY: 7-12-07 (Meet in Gaviota Computer Lab: Phelps Hall 1529)
- Reading: Your research reading.
- Writing: FIND AN INTERVIEW SUBJECT OR CREATE SURVEY. DRAFT OF QUESTIONS OR SURVEY DUE ON MONDAY 7-16-07.
- Class Activities: In-class writing, citing in MLA and APA, interviewing practice.

Week Four: Into the Library and Drafting

MONDAY: 7-16-07 (Meet in Gaviota Computer Lab: Phelps Hall 1529)
- Reading: Your research reading.
- Writing: Questions for interview or survey due today.
- Class Activities: In-class writing, peer review of interview questions, work on research project, and note-taking work.

TUESDAY: 7-17-07 (Meet in Gaviota Computer Lab: Phelps Hall 1529)
- Reading: Your research reading.
- Writing: Work on survey or interview write up—FINAL DRAFT DUE ON THURSDAY IN LIBRARY.
- Class Activities: In-class writing, research questions and concerns, research time, and writing exercises designed to get you writing.

THURSDAY: 7-19-07

MEET IN LIBRARY FOR ORIENTATION AND LIBRARY WORK.
- Reading: Your research reading. Sample researched essay—for your edification—is at our class website.
- Writing: START FIRST DRAFT OF RESEARCHED ESSAY—DUE ON 7-24-07.
- Class Activities: Attend orientation, meet with Chris if you have research problems, research, and introduction to final paper.
Week Five: Writing and Preparing for Presentations

CONFERENCE WEEK

MONDAY: 7-23-07 (Meet in Gaviota Computer Lab: Phelps Hall 1529)
- Reading: Your research reading.
- Writing: Work on survey or interview write up—FINAL DRAFT DUE IN CONFERENCES WITH CHRIS.
- Class Activities: In-class writing, peer review of draft one of the researched essay, introduction to PowerPoint, and viewing of really cool PowerPoint in class.

TUESDAY: 7-24-07 (Meet in Gaviota Computer Lab: Phelps Hall 1529)
- Reading: Your own research reading.
- Writing: Turn in first draft of researched essay. To be returned to you in conference. Also, start on your PowerPoint Presentation.
- Assignment: Work on presentations. Research QandA. First four to six presentations (extra credit for those who go first).

THURSDAY: 7-26-07

MEET FOR CONFERENCES WITH CHRIS IN HIS OFFICE. BE SURE TO BRING RESEARCH MATERIALS WITH YOU.

Week Six: Writing and Presentations

MONDAY: 7-30-07 (Meet in Gaviota Computer Lab: Phelps Hall 1529)
- Reading: Your research reading. (Cover things you need to cover.)
- Writing: Second draft of researched essay.
- In Class Work: Presentations. Interesting writing work.

TUESDAY: 7-31-07 (Meet in Gaviota Computer Lab: Phelps Hall 1529)
- Reading: NONE.
- Assignment: Course and personal evaluations. Presentations.

THURSDAY: 8-2-07 (Meet in Gaviota Computer Lab: Phelps Hall 1529)
- Reading: NONE.
- Writing: Final draft of researched essay.

HAVE A GREAT REST OF THE SUMMER, OR A GREAT SESSION B!