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## **INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS FOR WRITING COURSES**

This description applies to all of my writing courses, but this document was create with an Eng 401/G web course in mind.

The course is based on the [social constructivist approach](#) to instruction, which states that meaning is not privately constructed, but is generated by social interaction. Students form a knowledge-generating community and learn in collaboration with one another. They learn by reading and reflecting on the assigned texts, participating in class or group discussion, asking questions, and writing and rewriting papers. In our collaborative classroom, the instructor is only a facilitator, setting up an environment for students to work together on all stages of the writing process. Since this is a skills course, there are no lectures. The content information comes from reading the course books.

## **COURSE PROCEDURES**

So how will this course work? What can you expect to do in this class? To put it in the most simplistic way, you read the theory, read examples of the genre of creative nonfiction, discuss the readings with your peers, draft your own pieces using the course books' essays as your model, give and receive multiple feedback on papers, and revise papers based on that feedback for the final portfolio. The sequence will then be repeated.

## **TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL START OF THE SEMESTER**

To be successful in this course, first you need to read the entire Syllabus very carefully! Once you have understood the logic and rhythm of the course as described in this document, you will use the Course Calendar as your guiding principle. Since the instructor will not remind you about assignments and due dates, you will have to follow the Course Calendar meticulously. This central document provides you with a day-to-day schedule, indicating not only which assignments need to be completed by when, but also where and how they have to be submitted for grading.

