Paper 3

Formal requirements:
A.  600-1000 words (2.5 to 4 pages).
B.  Typed, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, stapled.
C.  You may use the first person (I) when writing about a personal example or experience.
D.  You may NOT use the second person (you).
E.  You may use both textual evidence and personal experience.
F.  To structure your paper, follow the essay model discussed in class.
G.  Each essay must include quotations from the readings.

Choose one topic from the three listed below.

(1) Orwell, in discussing the role of euphemisms in society, insists that we need a certain “phraseology” in order to “name things without calling up mental pictures of them.” Write a paper examining the use of euphemisms within specific contexts. Argue that the use of euphemisms is moral, immoral, or morally neutral. What reasons do speakers have for wanting to avoid calling up these mental pictures? How does the way we describe a thing change the way we perceive it and vice-versa? Look at specific contexts and relationships in which euphemisms are used.

(2) Write a paper examining the use of pathos, ethos, and logos in a magazine article, song, or speech. Are all of these rhetorical elements working together? Does one make up for another? You do not have to argue that all elements are equal in your article/song/speech, but you must examine each element. Do not state simply that an author uses one of the rhetorical methods; show how the author uses the methods. The article/song/speech must be readily available should I want to check your source (in other words: don’t use the speech from your high school graduation).

(3) Achebe and Morrison each analyze the influence of myths on people. Write a paper examining the way that myths, or stories, shape your worldview. Because language is the primary topic in this unit, your papers should focus specifically on how certain words and phrases shaped your outlook, rather than simply discussing the message, or content, of a story or myth. To incorporate the material we’ve been reading for class, you might grab a few quotations from Achebe or Morrison about the use of language, and show how they illuminate your own experience.

Schedule:
R 10/11—Thesisoplan due
T 10/16—typed and printed draft of Paper 3 due
R 10/18—final draft of Paper 3 due

Terms you might use in analyzing language: denotation, connotation, etymology, euphemism, rhetoric, ethos, pathos, logos, myth, propaganda, and living/dead language.
OPTION ONE:

Gloria Anzaldúa explains in “How to Tame a Wild Tongue” that she is a “boarderlander” or a *meztiza* because of the languages she speaks and the identity she draws from those languages. Consider the cultures and subcultures to which you and/or your family belong and the languages and/or dialects used within them. **Choose two cultures you live in the boarderlands of. Discuss, with specifics, how your presence as a *meztiza* in that culture continually shapes your identity.**

OPTION TWO:

Chinua Achebe writes that civilized societies are less violent because of language. Respond to Achebe’s argument. **State that language is either a violent, amoral technology or an inherently less violent means of communicating than physical contact and discuss, in either case, why.** Use concrete, personal examples from your life or the lives of those close to you as the basis of your argument.

OPTION THREE:

(This option will be the most difficult to formulate. Please note that before you begin substantial work on option three, you need to get approval from me via email or during an office visit—not after class. Note also that you will need to narrow the topic down considerably to make it suitable for a 750-word paper. Embracing specificity is the only way this paper will work.)

In class, we talked about language as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>barrier</th>
<th>truth</th>
<th>power to create</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>unifying force</td>
<td>falsity</td>
<td>formation of</td>
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<td>violence</td>
<td>identity</td>
<td>reality</td>
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<tr>
<td>peacemaker</td>
<td>technology</td>
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Write an essay analyzing how language is one of the things listed above. I expect you to use support from your own experience or the experiences of those you are close to.

**Requirements:**

- MLA format, no less than 900 words
- Each student MUST make and keep one Writing Center appointment (verification of completed visit is required)

*Sink stones, don’t skip rocks.*
English 1310
Fall 2012
Pamela Carlile

Paper #3: Human Nature

- On October 3, you will bring to class a clearly focused thesis statement for paper #3.
- The typed draft (500-750 words), due on peer review day (October 15), should be an organized, well-developed essay.
- The final essay (750 words), revised with the help of feedback received from your peer reviews, will be due on October 17.

For paper #3, you will write a focused, organized, and developed essay over one of the following topics:

1. In the text, Mencius states that he believed that humans are inherently good. Mencius asserted the innate goodness of the individual, believing that it was society's influence – its lack of a positive cultivating influence – that caused bad moral character. Hsün Tzu had a very different idea of the nature of humans. Unlike Mencius, Hsün Tzu believed that all humans were born evil. He believed that all people were born with natural tendencies toward “waywardness”: that is, a taste for profit and beauty and a susceptibility to jealousy and hate, all of which, if indulged in, would lead to disorder and criminality. Hsün Tzu argued for the guidance of a proper teacher: only this would allow one to become morally upright. Using your own knowledge and experience, support either Mencius' or Hsün Tzu’s position and refute the other’s claim.

2. In the texts we are reading for this section many of the authors seem to suggest that we are either naturally good, evil, or a blank slate, etc., but that our nature can be affected by experience. Ruth Benedict would say the individual is affected most by his/her culture. How has your culture shaped you? What are some things you do say, or believe that have directly resulted from the society you were born into? What tenets of your society have you rejected? How does your personal nature work within the standards of your society?

This paper should meet the following additional requirements:
- The paper should contain an introduction that states a clear thesis or main argument.
- The paper should have 2-4 body paragraphs that include concrete illustrations.
- Your concrete illustrations should include personal experiences and specific examples from our readings or class discussions.
- You may use first person (I) if you are writing about a personal example or experience.
- Do not use second person (you).
Paper III
English 1310, 044/053

Due Dates:
Outline with working thesis statement: 10/3
Draft for peer review: 10/8
Final Draft (hard copy and submitted to TRACS): 10/10

Pick one of the two prompts below:

1. How have you used or experienced Tzu’s, Machiavelli’s, or al-Farabi’s (pick ONE) strategies in a personal (friends, family, roommates, etc.) relationship?
   - Include an explanation of how logos/pathos/ethos (at least one) assisted you or your friend/family member/roommate/etc. in these strategies.
   - Use at least one rebuttal/counterargument, concession, or use of common ground in your essay.

2. You’re in charge. You’re a sales manager, a state governor, a teacher, a construction foreperson, a CEO, a McDonald’s manager, or etc. (pick ONE). How will you use Tzu’s Machiavelli’s, or al-Farabi’s (pick ONE) advice to lead?
   - Include an explanation of how logos/pathos/ethos (at least one) will assist you in using the advice to lead.
   - Use at least one rebuttal/counterargument, concession, or use of common ground in your essay.

Requirements
- No less than 750 words (Papers of less than 750 words will not be accepted.)
- Typed and double spaced with no extra spaces between paragraphs and 1” margins
- 12-point Times New Roman font
- MLA formatting (heading and page numbering, see example BH 583+)
- Late papers will not be accepted.
  - Hard copy must be turned in as instructed in class.
  - Digital copy must be submitted to TRACS before class.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Specific, narrow, and arguable thesis statement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GPA</td>
<td>Body paragraphs supporting thesis with a point, illustration, and explanation (P.I.E.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDA</td>
<td>Effective introduction using an attention-getting strategy</td>
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<td>DAD</td>
<td>Effective conclusion that goes beyond summary</td>
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<td>DINDING</td>
<td>Use of rebuttal/counterargument, concession, and/or common ground</td>
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<td>DING</td>
<td>Discussion of logos, ethos, and/or pathos</td>
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<td>DING</td>
<td>Draft and peer review</td>
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<td>DING</td>
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Paper Three Assignment

Prompt
Choose one of the following:

a. Edward O. Wilson posits that our human ancestor’s genes constructed “human nature as it exists today”. Using one or two of Wilson’s basic categories of primary evolutionary principles, argue for OR against the validity of Wilson’s ideas by applying his principles to contemporary culture. Draw from your personal experience or observation.

b. Ruth Benedict writes: “We have been considering individuals from the point of view of their ability to function adequately in their society. This adequate functioning is one of the ways in which normality is clinically defined.” In your paper, argue for the sanity/normalcy of an action or lifestyle which is considered insane or abnormal in mainstream contemporary culture. In what cultural context may this behavior be seen as sane or normal and what can people to do open cultural perceptions of this behavior?

c. Ruth Benedict writes “there is no proper antagonism between the role of society and that of the individual”. Instead, the culture and the individual experience an ongoing exchange and shape one another. Do you agree or disagree with this idea? Write about a specific situation you’ve encountered or observed where an individual shaped the culture or the culture shaped the individual.

d. Edward O. Wilson argues that human nature is determined by the survival of certain genes and Benedict argues that culture and the individual are engaged in an ongoing process of defining human nature. Are you a result of your genes or your culture? Argue for either Wilson or Benedict’s perspective using examples from your personal experience.

Requirements
Your paper must be argumentative, meaning that it is driven by a strong thesis statement and several supporting points. Together, your thesis and supporting points are called an argument. In class, we will discuss how to develop a strong argument, and you will receive feedback from your instructor and peers at every stage of the writing process. In order to receive the full benefit of these discussions, you should attend class every day and come prepared to all workshops.

While you should use Wilson’s and Benedict’s ideas to frame your argument, your paper should be an expression of your own original ideas. You do not need to use any additional sources.

Your paper must adhere to MLA format. Include a properly formatted header on the first page. Type your paper in 12-point, double-spaced, Times New Roman font. Set your margins to 1”.

Length: 850 words (about 3-4 pages in MLA format)
Essay #3

Select one of the following prompts:

1) Using Martin Luther King Jr.’s definition of “just” and “unjust” laws, make the argument that a current law or policy of Texas State University is “unjust.”

2) Do you agree with Okakok’s statement that “education is . . . the passing down of a society’s values to children”? Should this be the purpose of education in a public school? Why or why not?

Requirements:

• Thoughtful and original title
• Well-developed, clear thesis
• Sufficient evidence to support your thesis statement
• Two completed peer review sheets
• Strong overall organization including topic sentences, transition sentences and introductory and conclusion paragraphs
• Approximately 950-1200 words in length (3-4 pages)
• Typed in Times New Roman, size 12 font
• Double-spaced with one-inch margins on all sides
• Written according to current MLA guidelines (from owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/)
  o In the upper left-hand corner of the first page, list your name, your instructor's name, the course, and the date.
  o Insert page numbers in the upper right-hand corner that include your last name followed by a space with the page number.
• Late papers will not be accepted.
ENGLISH 1310 Fall 2012
Dana Sprayberry-Thompson
10.22.12

Assignment for Paper #3
Thursday 10.25, 10PM: Thesis due via email (d_s96@txstate.edu)
Wednesday 10.31 (Halloween!): Peer Review (bring two copies of typed draft to class)
Friday 11.2: Paper #3 Due

Address the following in a focused paper of 800-1000 words (2.5-3 typewritten pages).
Your paper should meet the following minimum requirements:
  • Have a creative title
  • Include a clear thesis statement in your introductory paragraph
  • Include 2-4 body paragraphs that offer concrete examples and support
  • Each body paragraph should open with a topic sentence
  • Be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font
  • Be formatted according to class standards (see TRACS for resource if needed)
  • Use first person (I) if writing about a personal experience or example; do not use second person (you).

For your next essay, you will be writing about a type of social change you believe needs to be enacted. This could be a law you disagree with and believe should be changed or it could be social dogma that you argue for or against. How you argue it and what side you take is completely up to you. That being said, this is an opportunity to enlist the rhetorical devices we’ve been discussing, to be creative, and to write with passion, clarity, and deliberation about something you care about.

If you’re having trouble thinking of a topic that fits into the guidelines, here are a few directions: changing the drinking age; making gay marriage legal nationally; the role of political correctness; immigration reform; reforming our two-party system; freshman housing policies; standardized test requirements. Really, the topic is limited only by your imagination; just make sure you can argue your position with (at least) three substantial supports.
Essay #3 Assignment

DUE DATES:
Thesis and outline/plan due: 10/8
2 typed copies of rough draft due for peer review: 10/15
(Remember, peer review is 5% of your grade.)
Final draft due: 10/17

Read over the following topics and choose the one that most interests you. Remember that your goal in the essay is to present a main idea (thesis) based on one of the topics and to explain your idea as thoroughly and convincingly as possible. Remember the topics themselves are not theses—you must take a position based on the question(s) posed.

Topic #1

As Ruth Benedict tells us in her book Patterns of Culture, some people will always be better adapted to the norms of culture than others. Behavior that falls outside those norms is labeled abnormal. Discuss a type of behavior that is considered abnormal in our society and/or elsewhere. What change(s) would you recommend to better serve these “abnormal” people? You may wish to discuss your own personal experience as someone who feels or has been labeled abnormal (are any of us normal?) or as someone who has encountered others considered abnormal.

Topic #2

In "How To Tame A Wild Tongue," Gloria Anzalduá writes, “If you really want to hurt me talk badly about my language.... I am my language.” What unique language do you use, and how are you your language? How has language shaped your identity? Does your language help you and/or does it hinder you as you make your way in the world?

Remember that “language” can be defined in many ways and that all cultures and subcultures can be said to have their own language.