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**ENGL 298 (J)**

WRITING LINK FOR SOC 270:  
 SOCIAL PROBLEMS  
 FALL 2016  
 RAITT 107  
 T/Th 12:30-1:50PM

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**JEN MALONE**

OFFICE HRS: T/Th 11AM-12PM  
 BURKE MUSEUM CAFÉ

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COURSE WEBSITE:

[HTTPS://CATALYST.UW.EDU/WORKSPACE/JENANNE/54626/](https://catalyst.uw.edu/workspace/jenanne/54626/)  
 (THIS MAY BE ACCESSED VIA THE CATALYST LINK ON YOUR MYUW PAGE)

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**GOALS**

The goals of English 298 J are to improve your abilities to:

- 1) carefully and critically read texts by academic and other professional participants in a discipline, identifying such writers' purposes and recognizing rhetorical principles that underlie basic genres in a field
- 2) learn, through a process of drafting and revising, to write well, and to be able to assess that writing, in the manner expected of undergraduates at UW
- 3) learn to identify and/or generate material relevant to discipline-based paper assignments, and to respond to arguments by other participants
- 4) use critical comments on your work to extend and refine your thinking
- 5) through critical editing/discussion, to support your peers in their own quests to write well, thereby improving your own ability to evaluate and revise your own writing
- 6) integrate material across linked courses, as well as to anticipate the ways in which what is identified as “academic writing” will vary across, and sometimes within, disciplines

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

“Writing is an exploration. You start from nothing and learn as you go.”

--E.L. Doctorow

Welcome to the writing link for Social Problems! English 298 J is an intensive writing course designed for participants in SOC 270. In our class, we will learn and practice skills for analyzing texts and data, organizing evidence, and presenting effective arguments in the manner expected of University of Washington students. We will draw in part on the lectures

and readings for SOC 270, and we will explore some of the texts and concepts you will study in that class in more depth through writing (and some discussion).

Much of English 298 J is taught in a “writers’ workshop” format, wherein students share ideas and write in small groups and full class workshops. As much as is possible, emphasis in this class will be placed on learning through thinking, writing and revising, both individually and in groups. We will workshop papers extensively as we move through the processes of drafting and revision that quality writing, in any discipline and at any level, requires. Not only will you benefit from the sets of critical eyes under which your work will pass, but you’ll have the chance to develop critical capacities through thinking about your classmates’ writing – a practice that likely will significantly improve your talents in evaluating and editing your own essays.

Many activities in this writing link will reflect the importance of writing as a means of learning. Students will write to think through interpretive and critical issues and problems. Students will do much of this writing as homework assignments that may include analyses of readings, development of short pieces leading to longer papers, reflections on past processes, off-the-cuff responses to new materials, and so forth. Although we’ll share texts and other content with SOC 270, English 298 J will have some separate readings, as well as some separate discussion topics, and the papers for this class will be independent from SOC 270 assignments.

### **GRADING BREAKDOWN AND DUE DATES**

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Essay #1	20%
Essay #2	25%
Essay #3	30%
Homework and Participation:	25%

Please be aware that there will be other homework and work in class in addition to the assignments listed above. Also, although my feedback on your writing will be designed to help you write more critically, and if you follow my suggestions your paper will probably improve, you will not automatically receive a 4.0. In our conferences, and in my comments, we will focus on selected aspects of your draft—there will not be enough time to address everything. Moreover, while revising will help you to progress as a writer, revision on an individual draft may not improve all aspects of that draft, and new issues may arise as you rewrite. However, the more willing you are to revise substantially (which often means rewriting from scratch), and the more often you repeat the process of critiquing and revising, the better your grade on each paper is likely to be.

### **COURSE POLICIES**

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#### **CONFERENCES**

In addition to regular class meetings, students will attend a number of **mandatory** conferences with the instructor (we will cancel some class periods to make up for these). Such conferences allow us to talk one-on-one or in a small group about drafts and ideas for revision. You should come to conferences with your own assessment of your draft,

with your plans for revision, and prepared to discuss the responses you have received from peers.

### LATE WORK

All assignments are due on the date specified **during the first ten minutes of class**. **Deadlines are deadlines.** Papers turned in late will be noted as such. Each late paper will result in a deduction of **at least .1** (depending upon how late it is) from your final course grade. If you arrive at class on a peer-revision/editing day without an *appropriate* paper with which to work, you will need to leave class and be credited with an absence. This is because if some students have papers and other don't, the equilibrium of the revision/editing groups is thrown off. **You must turn in all major assignments in order to pass this class.** If requested, be prepared to submit final essays with all previous drafts, peer critiques, and conference worksheets attached. Final drafts turned in without these materials will be considered late.

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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Minimum and maximum length guidelines need to be respected, so try not to write too much, and definitely don't write too little. I will return for resubmission papers that are much too short, and they will be considered late and incur the above stated penalty when resubmitted. All assignments should be typed according to MLA (Modern Language Association) or ASA (American Sociological Association) guidelines. This includes (but is not limited to): 12 pt. Times New Roman font, standard margins, double-spaced, page numbers w/ last name, works cited page in either MLA style or ASA style (we will talk about this). If you feel unsure about what any of this means, or if you have a concern about this matter (or any other), please feel free to come talk to me. For assistance with MLA/ASA formatting and such, **I also strongly recommend the Purdue OWL website** (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>).

### ACCOMMODATIONS

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If you need accommodation of any sort, please let me know so that I can work with the UW Disability Services Office (DSO) to provide what you require. This syllabus is available in large print, as are other class materials. More information about accommodation may be found at <http://www.washington.edu/admin/dso/>.

### WRITING RESOURCES

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There are two particularly fantastic general writing resources for you here on campus at UW. Both are free of charge, and I would **very** strongly encourage you to take advantage of these resources. The **Odegaard Writing and Research Center** allows you to schedule 45-minute tutoring sessions in which to talk about your writing or specific writing assignments for any class. You may book these on-line at: <http://depts.washington.edu/owrc/> (and I would suggest booking early, as they tend to fill up quickly!) The **CLUE Writing Center** is located in Mary Gates Hall, and offers late-night drop-in tutoring. You can get the details here: [http://depts.washington.edu/clue/dropintutor\\_writing.php](http://depts.washington.edu/clue/dropintutor_writing.php)

Additionally, the sociology department also offers free 45-minute tutoring sessions through the **Sociology Writing Center** in Savery 203. You may sign up for these appointments at the front desk of the center, or call 206-543-5396.

## **PLAGIARISM**

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Plagiarism, or academic dishonesty, is presenting someone else's ideas or writing as your own. In your writing for this class, you are encouraged to refer to other people's thoughts and writing--as long as you cite them. As a matter of policy, any student found to have plagiarized any piece of writing in this class will be immediately reported to the College of Arts and Sciences for review.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

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Please come to class prepared to participate in the activities for the day.

**Class/Group Discussions:** The more you engage in this academic community, the more you will learn. As with class attendance, it is important for you to participate in class and/or group discussions as thoroughly as possible; we want our time to be productive. Even if you have a hard time participating in discussion, for whatever reason, I ask that you give it your best shot. Stretching yourself is rarely a bad thing. In the same way, if you tend to be talkative, remember that not all participation is good participation and a key part of a class discussion is what you hear, not merely what you say. Also, be respectful of one another, yes?

You will be expected to set your cell phone to “silent” before class begins (NOT “vibrate”). **Don't text during class.** It is disrespectful, and, as mentioned above, you will lose participation points if you do so. A similar policy applies to laptops. **Ultimately, don't e-mail during class, don't check Instagram** “just for a second” (we all know no one is ever actually on Instagram for “just a second,” anyway), **don't do work for your other classes during this one.**

When you e-mail me, which I invite you to do when you have any questions/concerns/etc... I will get back to you within 24 hours (48 on the weekends). **Please be aware that I often check my e-mail only once a day, before 5pm.** So if you e-mail me after 5pm, I **may** not respond until the next day. So don't wait until the last minute, yes?

In the unlikely event that I would ever have to **cancel** a class, I would let you know as soon as possible by e-mail, generally by 8:00am the day of class.

**The Small Print (but LARGE!):** YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL INFORMATION ANNOUNCED IN CLASS. IF YOU MISS CLASS, YOU NEED TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU MISSED, EITHER BY ASKING A FRIEND OR EMAILING ME.