

English Department Minutes
Monmouth College
Monday, November 12, 2007
3pm-4:15pm

Absent: Watson

1. Introduction: Rob Hale noted that this was the last department meeting for the semester. He would like the department to meet again in January, before classes resume, to review the fall semester of English 110. A joint meeting with CATA will be scheduled for some time in January or February.
2. English 110
 - Final Exam: Kevin Roberts and Rob Hale will select the shared final terms from the lexicon; Kevin will generate grammar questions (as before), but also a grammar paragraph which students will have to edit—the department will select one or the other once Kevin distributes them. There are three possible final diagnostic essays: “First Amendment Junkie” by Susan Jacoby; “A Global Green Deal” by Mark Hertsgaard; and “Children Need to Play, Not Compete” by Jessica Statsky—a departmental vote will select one by November 19. As for the portfolio/self-assessment assignment as part of the exam: it is up to the instructor whether or not to offer pre-exam help with a draft of a portfolio assignment since it is due at the beginning of the exam.
 - Sourced Essay: the following topics were presented from various sections of 110: immigration (Willhardt); media (Belschner); same-sex marriage (Bruce); mandatory drug testing (Solberg); legal drinking age (Hale); school violence (Kitchen). The point of the essay is to make an arguable assertion by entering a “climate of controversy” through pre-selected sources.
 - Miscellaneous: During this “dark time” of the semester, Hale wondered how we can get students to read assignments since some have not done so in various sections of 110. Willhardt chastised his class and noted that they did not have the privilege of discussing a reading with him since they did not read the assignment beforehand. Such an approach may be a beneficial way of getting students to refocus efforts and gain an insight into the narrative of the course.
3. Wallace Hall Room Assignments
 - The English Department probably will not receive a devoted classroom in Wallace Hall; therefore, Rob Hale will advocate for a classroom in the building.
 - By the beginning of next year, most rooms in that building will be electronic classrooms.

4. Grade Data

- The Faculty Senate will review this issue one more time, then it will go to the faculty for a vote, probably in January or February. The proposal includes the following issues: everyone will be able to see his or her own grade data; in English 110, CATA 101, and ILA, the average of all grades per section will be public; chairs will be able to access everyone's data in the department and the dean and registrar will have access to all information, as will course coordinators.

5. Registration

- The department has good numbers for the spring. There are currently 35 enrolled for English 200 with two sections of the course available.
- Mary Bruce will teach a one hour/one week course in May with Irish literature.
- There are 20 slots left in English 110 for spring; there may be a group of transfer students coming in who will fill these spaces.
- Marlo Belschner will be teaching the spring session of ILA and Kevin Roberts will take an overload to teach Marlo's section of English 110.
- David King has been hired to teach two sections of English 110 in the spring.
- Steve Price asked for recommendations of good writers for English 299; juniors are acceptable.

Respectfully submitted by Kevin Roberts.