

End-of-Course Reflections

Course: Writing 7100: *Teaching Writing*

Semester: Fall, 2015

Institution: Cornell University

Overall Impressions / Takeaways

- An enjoyable class. Tracey Carrick, the other co-facilitator, did most of the class-to-class planning
- A very different experience than FWS teaching...graduate students are more serious than first-years
- Weekly group planning meetings felt less productive, esp. for the graduate students
- Teaching this class during the semester, rather than in the summer, when at least half of the class was already teaching for the first time, was as much an issue of triage as anything else
- I had a good conversation at the end of the class with Tracey, pitching the idea of incorporating a large number of workshops into the Writing 7100 curriculum

Things That Went Well

- This is the first time I have co-taught anything at all. I felt that Tracey and I complimented each other well, and balanced our input and teaching against each other.

Things That Need Improvement

- The FWS classes would benefit from setting aside time, space, and resources for introducing tech issues such as Blackboard
- The class could also use a workshop in actual teaching – how to create a teaching persona, how to act in the classroom and with students, etc.

Problems

- No major problems

Thoughts on Specific Lessons

- I liked Tracey's lesson on sentence analysis using the "mother road" line from *The Grapes of Wrath*. That is a sentence worth remembering, given my focus on pilgrim movement