

# ENGLISH 4243/6243: WRITING CENTER TUTOR TRAINING

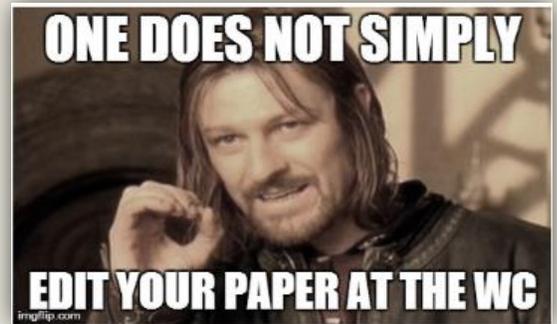
DR. STACY KASTNER  
FALL 2014

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Did you know we have FIVE writing center locations on our campus?! If you are a graduate student, you will likely be working in the writing center as part of your assistantship. If you are an undergraduate student, this course will give you the opportunity to intern in the writing center for 1-hour a week. Both are excellent opportunities to build your resume and, even better, improve your own writing skills.

The beginning of the semester will prepare you for your work in the writing center; therefore, we will start the course with readings that introduce you to practical tips and tricks from veteran writing center tutors and administrators related to face-to-face tutoring, online tutoring, and ESL student tutoring. As the semester moves forward, we will engage with readings that discuss the underlying socio-political and economic contexts: the historical and ongoing exigencies for writing centers that have and continue to influence writing center theory and practice. Finally, we will engage with readings that will introduce you to historical and contemporary writing research and theory. Readings are meant to provide a foundation for you to springboard from as practicing tutors and writers who will be building your own histories, theories, and practices.

In light of this, the course will provide you with the opportunity (1) to experiment with and critically reflect on different tutoring practices and spaces, (2) to observe both others and yourselves as writers and tutors, and (3) to engage in empirical research that arises out of unanswered questions you encounter in your tutoring, course readings, and course discussions. You will leave the course with the knowledge, experience, research tools, and theories-in-the-making to help you to communicate with and mentor others pursuing the (sometimes frustrating and intimidating) adventure of making meaning on the ever changing page/screen.



Meme created by Sava Kolev for the course in Fall 2013.

## COURSE ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Tutoring in the Writing Center
- ✓ A personal blog where you react to readings
- ✓ A tutoring journal where you reflect on your practice and experiences in the WC
- ✓ A mini self-study of your writing processes
- ✓ Three writing center observations (experienced tutor, peer tutor, and of yourself)
- ✓ 7-10 page research inquiry
- ✓ Professional tutoring portfolio and final presentation

## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

- ✓ Visit the course blog from Fall 2013: [www.bullygoodtutoring.wordpress.com](http://www.bullygoodtutoring.wordpress.com)
- ✓ Contact: [smk318@msstate.edu](mailto:smk318@msstate.edu)