

❖ Sample Syllabus Explanation #1

Spring 2010 Philosophy/Jewish Studies 442: Moral Philosophy and the Holocaust Claudia Card

Writing Fellow (WF) Essays

We are fortunate to have peer writing tutors, called Writing Fellows, assigned to this course this semester. They are Hannah Furfaro (xxx@wisc.edu) and Stacey Schultz (xxx@wisc.edu). Each of you will work with one of them individually outside the classroom on two of your writing assignments to improve the clarity and effectiveness of your writing. The underlying philosophy behind the Writing Fellows program is: "All writers, no matter how accomplished, can improve their writing by sharing works in progress and making revisions based on constructive criticism." (Similar programs are in place at Brown, Michigan, Harvard, Swarthmore, and Penn.)

Writing Fellows Are:

- undergraduate students who read your writing and make constructive suggestions for revision
- trained in how to evaluate critically and respond helpfully
- supervised closely by your professor

Writing Fellows Will Not:

- grade your essays
- teach you course-specific content (they are not expected to attend classes or do course readings).

How It Works:

You write a required total of 4 short essays for this course. The WF will work with you on **two** of these essays (dates below). For each WF essay, you submit a ***polished draft** on the due date indicated. I collect these drafts in class. The WF will read your essay carefully within a week, make comments, and meet with you individually the following week in conferences to discuss your writing and make suggestions for revision. **You then revise your essay and submit within two weeks of the date of the polished draft both the polished draft (with your WF's comments) and your revised version with a cover sheet on top saying what you changed and why.**

*What's a "Polished Draft"?

A polished draft represents your **best efforts**, to date, at the assignment. It is typed (double-spaced), appropriately documented, of quality comparable to what you would turn in for grading. It is *not* an outline, rough draft, or first draft. **Proofread** for grammar and spelling to ensure that your WF can focus on larger issues like organization, presentation, and clarity of style.