

# **BIS300A Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies: Water Spring 2006**

## **C. Jackels**

**Writing Assignment #0:** This is an ungraded practice assignment to be sure that you can successfully submit “real” assignments electronically when they are due. Submit a word doc with nothing but a test message and your name to the e-submit site for the course as “Test Assignment” due before 6 AM on March 31. I will return it to you as well, to be sure that the e-mail assignment return procedure is working. *Although ungraded, this assignment is important.*

### **Writing Assignment #1**

The purpose of the first writing assignment is two-fold: 1) Reflection upon the nature of a liberating education and this section of BIS 300; 2) Preparation of a sample of your formal writing, in order to develop a self-assessment and plan for writing improvement.

**Preliminary Work:** Read and take journal notes on the essay by Paulo Friere, available on E-reserve. Examine the course syllabus, web site, initial handouts, list of readings on electronic reserve, and the tables of contents for the course textbooks. Obviously, you are not to read all these materials for this paper, but you do need to gain a sense of the breadth and type of reading you will be doing.

**Topic or thesis:** This paper is to be a reflection paper on the nature of BIS300A, as perceived from the course materials in dialogue with the ideas of Friere and your own educational goals. What do you hope to learn from the course? How are your goals consistent or inconsistent with the apparent nature of the course? How are your goals and the apparent nature of the course consistent with or inconsistent with the ideas of Friere? I am especially interested in what may surprise you about the course and about Friere’s thinking.

**Development:** Each idea should be expressed concretely with direct explicit reference to the course content, the reading, and your goals. If you characterize your learning style or educational aspirations, give specific examples of them. If you discuss the course content, be explicit about what part of the course you are referring to and why you view it the way you do. When you refer to Friere’s ideas, be specific about what he has said and give citations to his paper (Friere, p. xxx) rather than vague general impressions of his work. The ideas are yours, but the burden on you is to convince me that they are grounded in the actual reading, course content, and your specific educational goals. *Do not hesitate to express a dissonance between your expectations and the nature of the course or the ideas of Friere; just be very clear and explicit about what they are and why you may disagree with them.*

**Organization:** As you firm up your thinking and outline the paper, give considerable thought to the organization. Make sure there is an introduction, development section, and conclusion. A two-page rambling narrative will not be effective in making your point!

**Style:** This is formal writing and should be an example of good grammar, correct spelling, effective word choice, and articulate sentence and paragraph structure.

**Length:** No more than 750 words max (approx three pages, double spaced, one inch margins, 12-pt font). *These formats are to be observed!*

**Schedule:** The assignment is due electronically before 6:00 AM on April 7. No late submissions will be accepted. The papers will be returned with my comments and grade via E-mail before April 10. You are then required to complete the self evaluation from of the writing center and to make an appointment with the writing center to consider your paper and to draft a plan for improvement of your writing. *Making and keeping this appointment with the Writing Center is necessary for you to receive your grade on Writing Assignment #1.*