

Students and parents must understand that this is a University of Minnesota course. Both the U of M and I expect students to be mature and responsible and to make a significant time commitment to the course.

To complete this course successfully, students will find it necessary to do extensive off-campus work in various libraries and/or at a number of individual sites in the Twin Cities area. Field work includes interviews and observations at a variety of sites, depending on the student's choice of topics. For example, the ethnography will require students to make a number of visits to an unfamiliar subculture of their choice and conduct interviews; NOT other students or family members. Parental and teacher involvement may be helpful when selecting topics but not during the writing process. The work must be wholly the student's own.

Parents must realize that this course creates special situations. Travel is required, unsupervised meetings and activities will frequently occur; the workload contributes to the academic, social, and work pressures these students already feel. Additionally, we may read or view college-level material. Parents need to be aware of the personal topic choices the students will make to fulfill course requirements. Although writing assignments are planned to expand the experiences of our students, this does not mean that the student has to choose a "high risk" topic to do well (i.e. spending a night on the street with homeless teens).

Parent involvement is welcome, with student permission: suggesting topics, driving students to interviews, offering editorial comments, bringing in assignments if students are ill, calling me with questions or concerns.

Student name (printed)

For Writ 1301, University Writing and Critical Reading, I have read and understood the course goals, course description, course requirements, assignment breakdown, grading scale, class procedure, expectations, drop/withdraw schedule and this special note, and will adhere to the criteria laid out to the best of my ability. As a student, signing this document is also a pledge not to plagiarize.

Student signature Date

As a parent, signing this document is an acknowledgment that I have read and understand this special note.

Parent signature Date