

# FRAMES

MWF 1:00-2:50 LLA 223 Spring 2006

Instructor: Cynthia A. Wood  
OfficeHrs: MW 10-11, 12-1, & by appt

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## Course Description:

Frames asks students to fit together and build on the elements from their first year of courses in Watauga College, and to produce and present collaboratively an original project reflecting these studies to the students, faculty, and staff of Watauga College. The course begins from the Watauga 100 list developed during the students' first year in Watauga College and frames, explores, integrates, connects, and pursues issues and elements on this list. Faculty help frame these elements through selected readings, guided discussion, and focused research. Students then work at developing and producing an original project, performance, publication, or other event. These projects are then presented to the entire College at the end of the semester and may take the form of a theatrical production, literary magazine, service-learning event, community research project, experiential education, travel opportunity, video, fine art, landscape design, Web project, or some other type of performance, publication, or event. Together, and combined with the interests and expertise of the students in the class, we will creatively explore the diverse facts, people, places, and events collected in the 2004-2005 Watauga 100, and will design, implement, and present a project, performance, or event emerging from our explorations.

Course credit will depend on the aspects of the Watauga 100 you pursue. For example, for a Social Science designator, course content must be dominated by social science (though because it is also an interdisciplinary course, you would be free to explore the connections between social science and the humanities, sciences, and the arts). Similarly, credit for the Humanities/Lit designator will require concentrating on literature in an interdisciplinary context. Because it is a capstone course, all students will be asked to make connections between the Watauga courses you took before Frames and the material we are exploring in this class.

## Texts:

Our main required text for this class is the Watauga 100 2004/2005:

<http://www.ids.appstate.edu/watauga100/20042005.html>

This will be supplemented with other readings and texts as appropriate.

## Objectives:

Demonstrate creative, independent, and collaborative learning; performative communication in a chosen medium; abilities in both research and creative expression; capacity for creative and synthetic thought; personal growth in responsibility and character by designing and carrying out independently a substantial group project.

Engage in self-conscious reflection on the interdisciplinary aspects of the topic, design, medium, and methods used in the course; self-conscious reflection on the student's own situated position within their own cultural tradition as well as in relation to the specific cultural and historical matrices explored in the class.

Display academic virtues and integrity in planning and carrying out the project.

Student involvement in class organization and governance.  
Explore opportunities for effecting paradigm shifts.

**Requirements and Evaluation:**

Participation	20%
Quizzes	10%
Project	60%
Reflection Paper	10%

*Participation:* Your participation in this class is vital to the “capstone” experience Frames is designed to be, for yourself as well as your colleagues. Active and prepared involvement in class, combined with regular punctual attendance denotes participation sufficient to receive an A for this component of your grade. **NB: Each absence over two will drop your participation grade by one letter. More than six absences during the semester and you fail the course. Please note that if you miss on a day we are meeting from 2 hours that it will count as 2 absences.** In addition to formal assignments related to the project, there will be required informal assignments which will count towards the participation grade.

*Quiz:* There will be a formal quiz to demonstrate your knowledge of the Watauga 100.

*Project:* There will be several components to your project grade, such as topic proposal, annotated bibliography, and project execution during Research Day and Common Time. You are expected to respond to comments by your instructor(s) as well as your classmates to improve your work.

*Paper:* You will write a final paper reflecting on your project and what you have learned in the class in the context of interdisciplinarity.

*Late assignments will be deducted one letter grade for every day late.*

*All assignments must be completed for you to receive a passing grade in the course.*

*Faculty and student conduct in this class must adhere to ASUs current Code of Academic Integrity.*

**Course Schedule:**

The class will typically meet three hours a week, during MWF 1-2:50. Some of our class meetings will take place from 1-1:50, and some from 1-2:50 with a short break. In the event of extra class time during one week, some other class will be cancelled to compensate. We will try to give you advance notice of the weekly schedule, but it is very important that you keep your schedule open so that you will be able to attend ALL classes in case something changes. You will present your project to the university during Research Day, to Watauga Freshmen during Common Time at the end of the semester, and to your parents during Watauga Graduation.

After an initial exploration of the Watauga 100, you will work towards the group project that will culminate in these presentations. To get there, we'll need the following intermediate steps:

1. Form groups based on subject interest
2. Choose topics for research
3. Meet reference librarian for possible sources
4. First annotated bibliography (everything)
5. Second (narrowed and useful) bibliography
6. Proposal for presentation
7. Research Day Abstract

All of these steps will require group conversation as you move from a general subject to a specific topic, based on individual discoveries through the research process. Your subject and topic will determine the type of research that predominates. You will need some scholarly sources and some primary sources. In addition, some personal interviews, magazines, films, websites, recordings, and pictures can be very helpful. Use a variety of sources to give you the greatest understanding of your subject and topic.

#### **PROPOSED FRAMES CALENDAR**

M 1/9	Introduction
W 1/11	1-1:50 Watauga 100 connections Form groups for division of labor on Watauga 100
F 1/13	1-1:50 Watauga 100 connections
M 1/16	NO CLASS MLK DAY
W 1/18	1-2:50 Groups divide items for future conversations
M 1/23	1-2:50 Conversations within/among groups
W 1/25	1-1:50 Jeopardy "answers" due (2 from each person)
M 1/30	1-2:50 WATAUGA 100 JEOPARDY
W 2/1	1-1:50 Matching Quiz Watauga 100
M 2/6	1-2:50 Form groups around subject interest
W 2/8	1-1:50 Groups sort out individual areas of research and exploration Schedule RAP sessions
M 2/13	1-2:50 Continue library/source work Meet with reference librarian for RAP session this week
W 2/15	1-1:50 Continue library/source work
M 2/20	1-2:50 Continue library/source work
W 2/22	1-1:50 Long bibliography due (one from each group)
M 2/27	1-2:50 Continue library/source work
W 3/1	1-1:50 Annotated bibliography due (one from each group)

M 3/6 1-2:50 Work on presentation proposal, continue source work  
W 3/8 1-1:50 Continue work on presentation proposal and source work

### **SPRING BREAK**

M 3/20 1-2:50 Continue work on presentation proposal and source work  
W 3/22 1-1:50 PRESENTATION PROPOSALS DUE  
(for Common Time, Research Day Abstract, Watauga Graduation)

M 3/27 1-2:50 organize projects, prepare for discussion  
W 3/29 1-1:50 organize projects, prepare for discussion

M 4/3 1-2:50 Topic Discussion  
W 4/5 1-1:50 Topic Discussion

M 4/10 1-2:50 Prepare for presentations  
W 4/12 1-1:50 Prepare for presentations

M 4/17 **EASTER HOLIDAY**  
W 4/19 1-1:50 Project Presentation Due, Common Time

**RESEARCH DAY THURSDAY APRIL 20 9-3. PLEMMONS STUDENT UNION**  
Research Day Presentation Due

**READING DAY APRIL 27 WATAUGA GRADUATION** Presentation Due

**FINAL Weds, May 3, 9-11:30 PROJECT REFLECTION PAPER DUE**