

# Writing Instruction in the American University: An Interactive Teaching Workshop

*May 28 to June 13, 2018, Lanzhou University*

This three-week teaching workshop will introduce participants to the ways in which writing, particularly academic writing, is taught in the American university. We will read scholarly texts and engage in hands-on activities designed to model a progressive, process-based writing pedagogy. Participants will be encouraged to reflect on the ways in which the methods and values of the American paradigm might inform their work in the Chinese university classroom.

About the facilitator: Dr. Matthew Overstreet is an assistant professor of English at the New Economic School in Moscow, Russia. He holds a PhD in rhetoric and composition, and has taught writing all over the world.

## Schedule & Readings

### May 28 | Mapping the Terrain

Explore the differences between 1L and 2L writing, and writing instruction in the US and China.

Read: Dwight Atkinson & Vai Ramanathan – “Cultures of Writing”  
Patrick Sullivan, Yufeng Zhang & Fenglan Zheng – “College Writing in China & America”

### May 30 | What is Composition?

Learn about rhetoric and composition, the academic discipline tasked with teaching writing in the US.

Read: Donald Murray – “Teach Writing as Process Not Product”  
Maxine Hairston – “The Winds of Change”  
David Bartholomae – “Inventing the University”

### June 4 | Classic Writing Problems

Learn about some classic writing problems (and how to overcome them).

Read: Mike Rose – “Rigid Rules, Inflexible Plans, and the Stifling of Language”  
Linda Flower – “Writer-based Prose”  
Mina Shaughnessy – *Errors & Expectations* (excerpt)

### June 6 | They Say / I Say

Read and discuss a popular US academic writing textbook.

Read: Gerald Graff & Cathy Birkenstein – *They Say / I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*

### June 11 | Responding to Student Writing

Learn how to better respond to student writing

Read: Nancy Sommers – “Responding to Student Writing” (1982)  
Vivian Zamel – “Responding to Student Writing” (1985)

### June 13 | Global Englishes

Examine debates surrounding the globalization of English.

Read: Suresh Carnagarah – “The Place of World Englishes in Composition”

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