Directions for First Seminar
Due: Thursday, Sept 29

Read: Rose Lives on the Boundary, Chapters 1, 2, and 3

Plan on reading these chapters twice. Time yourself on how long it will take you to read one page then multiply by number of pages (approx. 70). This will give you an idea on how much time you will have to budget for reading. If you read one page in two minutes figure you will need about two and one half hours, at a minimum, to read through this piece once.

As you read you should underline, highlight, note in the margin, or index in a reading journal or on blank pages at end of the book passages, specific terms, sentences or paragraphs that strike you as important, interesting, confusing or simply those you want to share with others in the seminar.

Make a list of new words, names, phrases that you looked up in a dictionary. A good reader will have a dictionary available and look up several words in each section of reading. [somnambulant (27,60) =sleepwalking]

You should identify major concepts the author uses and how he labels and defines them. What does he mean when he uses phrases such as: Gramatica (1), liberal education (58), complex ties between literacy and culture (8).

Your objective is more than just getting through these pages and more than just a passive read to generally familiarize yourself with the topic. Rather your purpose should be to explore this work to see what you can discover or what the author would want you to underline? To do this you will need to first understand what the author is saying. Why did he/she write it? Where are the major questions or problems that the author is trying to address stated? Review the whole book, including title and subtitle, Acknowledgements, Table of Contents, chapter titles, Index, Notes, Bibliography, even the back cover! Who is the author? Do a Web search.

To make the seminar work you will need able to be able to point to specific passages and explain in your own words what they mean and why they are important.

(Over)
Seminar Preparation Paper to be typed:

1. Make a list of words you needed to look up in a dictionary and be ready to explain them to your seminar.

2. From each chapter (1, 2, 3) prioritize five of the most important passages you underlined, marking them #1, 2, 3, etc.

3. Then choose one passage from each chapter and copy it out exactly including quote marks and page number. Format for this from Modern Language Association (MLA) is to put author's name and page number in parenthesis after the quote marks but before the period. Example: "Blah, blah, blah" (Harnish 23).

4. Finally in a few sentences explain what each of these quotes mean in your own words and why you think they are important.

Helpful Seminar Online Follow-up Suggestion

After the seminar, over the weekend, continue the conversation on FirstClass website:

- What new insights into the reading did you get in the seminar?
- What or who was helpful in the seminar process?
- How might you prepare differently for future seminars?
- What questions would you pose to the group about the reading now?