

Course Description

ENGL 201, Advanced Composition, is a course designed to further the writing skills of students who've finished their ENGL 101-102 sequence. In this course, we'll be focusing specifically on ethnographic writing—writing about culture. This mode of writing, while most often associated with anthropology, has also become widely used by folklorists, sociologists, linguists, and educators as a way of understanding cultural groups both familiar and "exotic." We'll look at several different kinds of ethnographic writing and do our own ethnographic research and writing over the course of the semester.

**Contact Information**

Prof. Rosemary V. Hathaway
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 Class website: <https://ecampus.wvu.edu/webct/logon/501121361051>
 Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30-11:00 a.m., and by appointment

Social Justice Statement: West Virginia University is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veterans status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Disability Services (293-6700). Feel free to talk with me about how we can work together most effectively.

Texts

Nathan, Rebekah. *My Freshman Year: What a Professor Learned by Becoming a Student*.
 Spiegelman, Art. *Maus I and II*.
 Sunstein, Bonnie and Elizabeth Chiseri-Strater. *FieldWorking*.

Policies and Procedures

It should go without saying, but please turn off cell phones and put them away during class. If you're expecting an important call, please set your phone to vibrate and take the call in the hallway.

Attendance—Since most of the learning in this course will happen via class discussion, I expect you to attend every class. I trust that you'll check in if you've missed class to find out what you've missed, and that you will get notes from another class member. Missed in-class work must be made up before the next class meeting—no exceptions.

Late arrivals—We will start class on time, so please plan to be here at 11:30 a.m. Late arrivals are really disruptive, and if chronic lateness becomes a problem, it will affect your final grade.

Leaving early—Please let me know before class begins if you need to leave early, and what time you will need to leave. In this situation, I'd also appreciate it if you'd sit close to the door so that you can slip out unobtrusively.

End of class—The end of class is usually devoted to summarizing material or making announcements, so please refrain from packing up books, etc., so that you don't miss anything yourself or distract others. I know that some professors have a bad habit of going way over the scheduled ending time for their classes (I had some of them myself)—but I do keep track of the time and promise to always let you out at the class' scheduled ending time.

Course Requirements

To pass the class, you must complete all major assignments. These include four papers, including drafts and peer responses for each; a final portfolio with all your papers and an analysis of your ethnographic work for the semester; and in-class writing assignments, quizzes, and other activities. Detailed instructions about each of these assignments will be provided separately. Your grade will be calculated as follows:

Four papers	60%	
Drafts and peer-response sheets	10%	
In-class writing, quizzes, and other short assignments		20%
Final Portfolio with analysis	10%	

Grades

Most assignments will be graded on a 100-point scale, with 90-100 being an A, 80 to 89 a B, 70 to 79 a C, 60 to 69 a D, and anything below 60 an F. Shorter assignments will be graded on a 5- or 10-point scale, or (in some cases) just with a checkmark to indicate completion.

Late Papers/Assignments and Extensions

All assignments are due *in class*, at the *beginning* of class, on the days they are due. Late assignments will be penalized as follows:

Turned in on the due date, but after class meeting, or e-mailed/left in mailbox: 5 points deducted from final grade
 Turned in one day late: 10 points deducted from final grade
 Turned in two or more days late: Additional 5 points deducted from final grade for each day

PLEASE NOTE: I'm always willing to grant extensions, but you must talk to me first and submit a written extension request to me before the assignment is due. I will ask you to set your own revised due date, subject to my approval, and you will be held to that due date.

Academic Integrity

My policy regarding plagiarism is zero tolerance: plagiarize even one part of one assignment, and fail the entire course. Period. If I can document the plagiarism, I will also turn the materials over to the chair of the English Department and the Dean of Student Life. However, I am committed to helping you learn how to cite and document sources correctly, so please feel free to ask questions when they come up.

The following definitions are from the *West Virginia University Undergraduate Catalog*. Please see the catalog's section on Academic Integrity/Dishonesty for the full definition and discussion of procedures.

Plagiarism. "Submitting, without appropriate acknowledgment . . . material that has been knowingly obtained or copied in whole or in part, from the work of others, whether such source is published or not, including (but not limited to) another individual's academic composition, compilation, or other product, or commercially prepared paper."

Cheating. "Doing academic work for another student, or providing one's own work for another student to copy and submit as his/her own."

DAY-TO-DAY SCHEDULE

("FW" =Sunstein's *FieldWorking*; "MFY" = Nathan's *My Freshman Year*; *Maus* = Speigelman's *Maus I & II*;
 "ER" = Electronic reserve materials on eCampus)

WEEK ONE

T Aug 19 Introduction to course
 R 21 READ: FW, pp. 1-24

WEEK TWO

T 26 READ: FW, pp. 286-298 and 307-319
 R 28 READ: FW, pp. 130-141 and 237-247
 IN CLASS: Discussion of basic fieldwork technique and ethics

WEEK THREE

T Sep 2 READ: FW, pp. 331-335 and 257-269 (Work cultures)
 R 4 READ: ER, Bell essay

WEEK FOUR

T 9 READ: ER, essays by Kaplan, Shuman, and Theophano (Foodways)
 R 11 IN CLASS: Film

WEEK FIVE

T 16 READ: FW, pp. 143-155 (Material culture)
 R 18 READ: FW, pp. 363-369 (section on "Family Archives")
 DUE: Draft of paper 1
 IN CLASS: Peer response and revising

WEEK SIX

T 23 READ: MFY, Chapters 1-2
 R 25 DUE: Paper 1
 IN CLASS: Continued discussion of MFY

WEEK SEVEN

T 30 READ: MFY, Chapter 3 and ER, student project on dorm bathrooms
 R Oct 2 READ: MFY, Chapter 4

WEEK EIGHT

T 7 READ: MFY, Chapters 5-6
 R 9 READ: MFY, Chapter 7 and afterword
 DUE: Draft of paper 2

WEEK NINE

T 14 READ: FW, pp. 175-189 (Ethnography of place)
 R 16 READ: FW, pp. 97-101 and 109-110
 DUE: Paper 2
 IN CLASS: Discussion of paper 3

WEEK TEN

T 21 READ: FW, pp. 194-204 (Section on "Learning How to Look")
 R 23 *Fieldwork Day*

WEEK ELEVEN

T 28 IN CLASS: Film, *The Amish & Us*
 R 30 READ: FW, pp. 272-280 (section on collecting oral histories)
 DUE: Draft of paper 3
 IN CLASS: Peer response and revising

WEEK TWELVE

T Nov 4 *No class - Election Day Holiday*
 R 6 DUE: Paper 3

WEEK THIRTEEN

T 11 READ: *Maus I*, chapters 1-3
 R 13 READ: Finish *Maus I*

WEEK FOURTEEN

T 18 READ: *Maus II*, chapters 1-2
 R 20 READ: Finish *Maus II*

WEEK FIFTEEN

T Dec 2 DUE: Draft of paper 4
 IN CLASS: Peer responding and revising; discussion of final portfolio and analysis
 R 4 IN CLASS: Course wrap-up and Q&A time about portfolios

FINALS WEEK

Monday, December 8th - Final exam period, 8-10 a.m.
 Final portfolios, including paper 4 and the final analysis, are due during the final exam period.