

Melissa Atkinson
ENGL 102, Sections 030 & 071
Spring 2013
MWF 1:30-2:20pm & 2:30-3:20pm
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Office Hours: Mon. and Weds. 12:30-1:20pm
or by appointment

English 102: Composition and Rhetoric

Creative thinking may mean simply the realization that there is no particular virtue in doing things the way they always have been done.

-Rudolf Flesch

It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.

-Aristotle

Introduction

Welcome to English 102, a course all about rhetoric, argumentation, and research. Knowing how to present, evaluate, and argue key ideas is essential to every business and academic field. This course will expand on the skill set that you acquired in English 101 and will ask you to enter into dialogue with your peers and with published texts/scholars in order to analyze, synthesize, critique, and create arguments. You will continue to expand your knowledge of structure, audience, and validity as you practice finding, evaluating, and utilizing research sources. This class will ask you to come prepared to examine written and visual texts, scholarly research, current issues, and your own beliefs in order to become more effective communicators – in this class, in the university, and beyond.

Texts

English 102 Faculty. *Joining Academic Conversations (JAC)*. 6th ed. Plymouth, MI: Hayden-McNeil, 2012. Print.

Graff, Gerald, Cathy Birkenstein, and Russel Durst. *They Say, I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*. 2nd Ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2009. Print.

Lunsford, Andrea. *Easy Writer (EW)*. 4th ed, WVU ed. Boston: Bedford, 2010. Print.

Creating a Respectful Environment

This course relies heavily on workshop and discussion. As a result, it is important that you be respectful of your classmates. As a class, it is our responsibility to create a safe and open environment where everyone feels welcome to share opinions and ideas. Part of what we are learning is the art of personal expression and effective argument; a supportive classroom environment is essential to this endeavor. Remember: everyone comes into class with different backgrounds and perspectives and these differences enrich our classroom experience. Disrespect and discrimination will not be tolerated.

Standard of Work

You must bring pen or pencil, paper, USB/flash storage device with all of your current work (when meeting in the computer lab), and your textbooks to all class meetings. English 102 builds on the skills acquired in English 101 and, as a result, you are expected to be comfortable with the mechanics of writing; that is, to understand and use proper grammar, syntax, and punctuation in order to communicate effectively. *Easy Writer* is a valuable tool that offers guidelines and activities to help you with these mechanics. The Writing Center is another resource available to you—peer tutors are equipped to assist you with the development of basic grammar and style skills as

well as to support you at all stages of the writing process. If you find yourself struggling with any assignment or concept, please make an appointment with me and/or a writing center tutor.

WVU Writing Center

Call 304-293-5788 to schedule an appointment or stop by to see if a tutor is available.

Spring Semester Hours: Monday-Thursday 10am-5pm, Friday 10am-3pm

Web address: http://english.wvu.edu/centers_and_projects/wcenter/writing_center_home

Disability Accommodations

If you have a documented learning disability or other special need that may impact your classroom performance or participation, please talk to me as soon as possible. Also be aware that support services are available through Disability Services.

West Virginia University Office of Disability Services

G-30 Mountainlair

Phone: (304) 293-6700 Voice/TDD: (304) 293-7740 Email: access2@mail.wvu.edu

Attendance

This is a workshop-based course, so prompt attendance is crucial not only to your success, but to that of your classmates. If you are necessarily absent for illness, injury, personal emergency, required university activities, or religious observances, please notify me before the class period, if possible. Note that it is an official English Department policy that if you miss more than three class periods **for whatever reason**, your overall grade will be lowered by one letter grade for each subsequent absence. **Students with six or more absences will automatically fail the course.**

Frequent lateness (more than five times) or excessive lateness (arriving to class more than 20 minutes late) will count as an absence. I take attendance at the beginning of every class period. If you arrive after attendance has been taken, it is your responsibility to talk to me after class.

Participation

Participation is an essential part of this class and includes active involvement in class discussions, group activities, peer review, in-class writings, etc. Being disruptive, impolite to your classmates, or unengaged in class/group discussion are ways to lose your participation points.

Note on Cell Phones: Cell phones and other communication devices may never be used during this class. If you use your cell phone or other device in class, the first offence will be met with zero participation for the day. A second offense will result in an absence. Continuous violation of the cell phone policy will result in additional absences.

Computer Lab Policies: For some class sessions, we will be meeting in Colson G18, a computer lab in the basement of Colson Hall. On these days, it is your responsibility to arrive at the computer lab on-time and prepared. Bring a flash drive with all your current work to each computer lab session. Use of these computers will be beneficial to your writing process, but they should only be used for assigned activities. Any unauthorized use of the computers will negatively impact your participation grade and may result in you being asked to leave class (in which case, you will receive an absence for the day).

Peer Review: Participation in peer review is an essential component of your participation grade. You are required to complete drafts by peer review dates and to provide thoughtful and constructive feedback to your peers. If you do not bring a draft to peer review days, you will be unable to participate in the day's lesson and will be counted as absent.

Conferences: During each unit, there will be a conference day. These days will require you to meet with me one-on-one to discuss paper ideas and drafting. Because class will be canceled on these days, missing a conference will count as a class absence.

E-mail and eCampus

You are responsible for checking your mix email every day. I may use email to notify you of any changes to assignments or class meetings. You are also encouraged to use your email to contact me.

In addition, we will use eCampus for readings and research throughout the semester. You are responsible for knowing where to access assignment prompts, readings, discussion posts, databases, etc. If you have questions, please ask.

Academic Dishonesty

Each and every one of you already possesses unique insights and writing skills that will be developed and strengthened throughout the semester. Academic dishonesty of any kind (whether intentional or unintentional) will not be tolerated and is taken extremely seriously by the English Department and by WVU. Trust yourself and your ideas and, when in doubt, come talk to me. Please see *Joining Academic Conversations* pp. xxiii for a more detailed explanation of the university's policies.

Response and Evaluation

Final Portfolio	60%
Homework, Reading Responses, Informal Assignments	20%
Participation	20%

Final Portfolio (60%):

The majority of your grade depends on the final portfolio. As the semester progresses, you will receive more detailed information about what this entails, but it is essentially drafts and revisions of the writing you engage in throughout the semester. As a result, your major papers will not receive traditional grades, but my comments (and those of your peers) will encourage you to revise and re-imagine them for the final portfolio. **You are required to keep copies (both paper and electronic) of ALL drafts of every paper.** If at any point you are concerned about your grade in the class, feel free to talk to me and I will let you know where you stand.

Homework, Reading Responses, Informal Assignments (20%):

This portion of your grade encompasses informal writing assignments, which include homework, reading responses, presentations, and other out-of-class activities/preparations. These assignments will be graded on timeliness, completion, and level of engagement with the prompt. Remember that each reading and writing assignment is beneficial to your development as a writer during the semester, so completing every assignment is helpful to you and to your grade.

Participation (20%):

Participation involves coming to class on time and prepared. It also requires active engagement in discussions, peer reviews, and activities. It is an easy way to earn points and is essential to our classroom experience.

Note: Falling behind in this class is detrimental to your writing process and, as a result, **late work will NOT be accepted.** The due dates for major assignments are listed on the syllabus so that you have time to plan ahead. If for any reason you are unable to complete an assignment on-time due to an emergency or other extraordinary circumstance, it is your responsibility to talk to me before the assignment is due.

Please keep all the writing you do in this class until the end of the semester. You will use most of it to compile your Final Portfolio.

Office Hours

My office hours are 12:30pm-1:20pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. Office hours provide us with an opportunity to talk one-on-one. I encourage you to make use of them for any questions or comments you may have about assignments and/or your progress in the course. You may drop in during these times or make an appointment with me to meet at another time. I'd be happy to talk with you via email as well, and you can expect that I will respond to you (in email or in class) within 48 hours Monday through Friday.

SCHEDULE OF WORK

**Subject to change according to progress

Week One

Monday 01/14: Introductions; Syllabus Overview

HW: Brief introductory essay – introduce yourself and discuss an experience that highlights your relationship with writing (1-2 typed pages); Read *Joining Academic Conversations (JAC)* pp. x-xix

Wednesday 01/16: Assign Ad Analysis; Introduction to Rhetoric

HW: JAC pp. 39-42; *They Say, I Say (TSIS)* Introduction (pp. 1-14)

Friday 01/18: Reading Quiz; The Art of Rhetoric

HW: Read Shrank's "The Language of Advertising Claims"; Bring to class an electronic advertisement corresponding to your assigned advertising claim

Week Two

Monday 01/21: CLASS CANCELED--MLK Day

Wednesday 01/23: Meet in Colson G18; Analyzing a visual text; Advertisement Activity

HW: Select your advertisements; Review Rhetorical Terms

Friday 01/25: Quiz; Rhetoric activity; Thesis Statements

HW: Bring paper planning assignment to conference; Begin drafting Ad Analysis

Week Three

Monday 01/28: Class Canceled for Unit 1 Conferences (in Colson 307)

HW: Complete draft of Ad Analysis

Wednesday 01/30: Peer Review of Ad Analysis

HW: Revise Ad Analysis; Bring in a copy of the *Daily Athenaeum*

Friday 02/01: "Final for Now" Ad Analysis due today; Assign Editorial Analysis

HW: Read JAC pp. 49-50; Reading Response

Week Four

Monday 02/04: Logical Fallacies

HW: Read handout; Reading Response

Wednesday 02/06: Meet in Colson G18; Textual Analysis Activity

HW: Read handout; Read JAC pp. 44-45

Friday 02/08: Toulmin Model of Argument; Rhetorical Strategies

HW: Prepare for Quiz

Week Five

Monday 02/11: Quiz; Analysis Activity; Review Thesis

HW: Read JAC pp. 14-19

Wednesday 02/13: MLA Citation Style; ABCD Format

HW: Bring thesis statements to conference

Friday 02/15: Class Canceled for Unit 2 Conferences (in Colson 307)

HW: Complete draft of Editorial Analysis

Week Six

Monday 02/18: Peer Review of Editorial Analysis

HW: Revise Editorial Analysis

Wednesday 02/20: Editorial Analysis due today; Assign midterm portfolio and research project

HW: Begin drafting midterm memo; Read handout; Reading Response

Friday 02/22: Proposal and Rebuttal Arguments

HW: Brainstorm possible research topics; Read TSIS Chapter 1 (pp. 19-29)

Week Seven

Monday 02/25: Meet in Colson G18; Introduction to research

HW: Complete midterm memo/portfolio; Exploratory research; Read TSIS Chapter 4, 6 (pp. 55-67 and 78-91)

Wednesday 02/27: MIDTERM PORTFOLIO DUE TODAY; Primary/Secondary Research

HW: Exploratory research; Read TSIS Chapter 7 (pp. 92-101)

Friday 03/01: Post research proposals to eCampus

HW: Read "Champion of the World" (TSIS pp. 484-488); Reading Response

Week Eight

Monday 03/04: Reading Discussion; Personal Narratives as Arguments

HW: Begin work on narrative essay

Wednesday 03/06: Meet in Colson G18; Mini-Conferences

HW: Read "Why Sports Matter" (TSIS pp. 489-510); Reading Response

Friday 03/08: Reading Discussion; Different Types of Arguments

HW: Complete narrative essay

Week Nine

Monday 03/11: Narrative Essay due today

HW: Work on primary research

Wednesday 03/13: Meet in Colson G18; Assign Annotated Bibliography and Final Research Paper; Source validity; Scholarly Research

HW: Find at least two scholarly research sources; Read TSIS Chapter 2-3 (pp. 30-51)

Friday 03/15: Incorporating Research/Quotations

HW: Read “Watching TV Makes You Smarter” and “Thinking Outside the Idiot Box” (TSIS pp. 277-298); Reading Response

Week Ten

Monday 03/18: Audience and Intent; Reading Discussion

HW: Read “The Good, the Bad, and The Daily Show” (TSIS pp.363-379); Reading Response; Bring thesis statement to class

Wednesday 03/20: Reading Discussion; Thesis Workshop

HW: Work on Annotated Bibliography

Friday 03/22: Documenting an argument; MLA Citation Style

HW: Work on Annotated Bibliography

Spring Break 03/25-03/29

Week Eleven

Monday 04/01: Class Canceled for Research Conferences (in Colson 307)

HW: Annotated Bibliography

Wednesday 04/03: Annotated Bibliography due today

HW: Research; Read TSIS pp. 121-128; Read “Hidden Intellectualism” (TSIS pp. 380-386); Reading Response

Friday 04/05: Preserving your voice; Establishing Ethos

HW: Begin drafting research paper

Week Twelve

Monday 04/08: Meet in Colson G18; Using Research

HW: Prepare for debate

Wednesday 04/10: Debate Activity

HW: Debate Response; Read "2b or Not 2b" (TSIS pp. 335-345)

Friday 04/12: Reading Discussion

HW: Complete draft of Research Paper

Week Thirteen

Monday 04/15: Peer Review of Research Paper

HW: Revise Research Paper

Wednesday 04/17: **Meet in Colson G18; "Final for Now" Research Paper due today;** Assign Final Portfolio

HW: Begin working on revisions; Prepare for presentation

Friday 04/19: Class canceled for revision conferences (in Colson 307)

HW: Work on revisions; Prepare for presentation

Week Fourteen

Monday 04/22: Revision Discussion; Presentations

HW: Work on revision

Wednesday 04/24: Presentations

HW: Revision; Work on Final Memo

Friday 04/26: Presentations

HW: Revision

Week Fifteen

Monday 04/29: Presentations

HW: Revision; Bring questions and drafts to conference

Wednesday 05/01: Class Canceled for end of semester conferences (in Colson 307)

HW: Revision; Compile Portfolio and Final Memo

Friday 05/03: LAST DAY OF CLASS; FINAL PORTFOLIOS DUE TODAY

HW: Happy end of the semester!

***Portfolio pick-up TBA for following week.**