

English 101: Composition and Rhetoric

Fall 2011

Section 414, TR 9:30-10:45, G07 Lyon Tower

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Hours: T 12:30-4

Introduction:

Welcome to English 101: Composition and Rhetoric. This course will focus on developing the skills needed for effective writing of all kinds. There is no secret to becoming a better writer. In order to improve, you must write. So, this class will require you to write ... a lot. Not only will you write research papers and essays, you will write news articles, narratives, journal entries, and maybe even a poem or two. The goal here is to explore effective writing in a variety of contexts while learning to understand and develop your own writing process, one that will help you complete the many different writing tasks that await you in future classes and beyond.

Required Texts:

- English 101 Faculty. *Work in Progress (WiP)*. 5th ed. Plymouth, MI: Hayden-McNeil, 2012. Print.
- Lunsford, Andrea. *Easy Writer (EW)*. 4th ed, WVU ed. Boston: Bedford, 2010.

Course Goals:

Over the course of the semester, each student can expect to:

1. Develop a personal learning process for effective writing.
2. Recognize contexts that shape writing and research.
3. Think critically to understand texts, contexts, and writing strategies.
4. Know the rules of effective communication, whether those are style or genre conventions, rules for grammar and punctuation, or rules for recognizing sources with correct research citations.

Response and Evaluation:

Since this is a portfolio-based course, you will not receive a letter grade on each individual assignment, but don't worry, you'll still receive lots of feedback on your writing to help you improve throughout the semester. You will also receive an overall letter grade at the midterm point and again at the end of the semester. Your midterm and final grades will be based on the following percentages:

Portfolio (70%): The four major writing assignments (at least 20 pages total), reflective writing, and other supplemental materials. Writing and revising for the final portfolio is the primary focus of this course.

Informal Writing, Homework, Quizzes, Etc. (20%): Shorter writing assignments and other work you'll do throughout the semester.

Participation (10%): Your overall engagement with the course. This includes (but is not limited to) attendance, on-time arrival to class, contribution to in-class discussions, participation in peer workshops, appropriate use of the computers in the technology classroom, and anything/everything else.

I will assess your midterm and final portfolios in accordance with the rubrics found on p. xix-xxi of *Work in Progress*. We will also review these rubrics in class. Additionally, if you ever have any questions about your progress in the course, let me know and we can set up an appointment to meet outside of class time.

Policies and Procedures:

- Attendance: Your consistent presence is vital to your success in this course. Thus, you are excused for up to **2** absences. I repeat, you are excused for up to **2** absences. Period. Each absence after that will drop your overall grade a letter (e.g. from a B to a C). After 5 absences, you will NOT pass this course. This does NOT mean you are allowed two unexcused absences and an unlimited number of excused absences; this means you are allowed **2** absences, regardless of your reason for missing. If you have a legitimate personal emergency (serious illness, death in the family, etc.), please notify me as soon as possible (preferably before you miss class), and I will do what I can to accommodate you.
- Lateness: When a student shows up late, I take it personally, because, in addition to being rude and disruptive, it tells me that student doesn't care if he/she misses part of my lesson. Since alarm clocks

occasionally falter, I will overlook the first late arrival. For every subsequent late arrival (i.e. more than 2-3 minutes after the start of class), I will dock your overall participation grade by one letter, which amounts to one point off your final grade. If lateness continues to be a problem, I will start counting you absent. Bottom line: show up on time consistently, and in return, on the very rare occasion where an extenuating circumstance causes you to be late, I won't need to penalize you.

- Late Work: I do NOT accept late work. Thus, I strongly recommend you keep up with deadlines. Even a handful of missed assignments can significantly bring down your grade. In the event of a personal emergency, contact me BEFORE the deadline passes.
- Academic Integrity: I expect your honesty in completing all of your assignments. Plagiarism is a VERY serious offense. If I catch you plagiarizing (I will be able to tell) you will fail that assignment and potentially the course. You absolutely cannot use someone else's words or ideas in ANY capacity without giving credit through citation. If in doubt, cite!
- Computers, Cell Phones, Tablets, etc.: You are responsible for appropriate use of technology in the classroom. For example, you can't fully engage in an in depth discussion of Mark Brazaitis' use of anachronistic storytelling in "The Ferry" AND play Angry Birds on your iPhone. This also applies to texting, tweeting, looking at Facebook, watching a cat play the piano on Youtube, or anything else that isn't DIRECTLY related to the subject matter of this class. And, of course, set your phones to silent and put them away.
- Students with Disabilities: If you need any special accommodations please speak with me as soon as possible, or contact the West Virginia University Office of Disability Services at (304) 293-6700.
- Social Justice: We will maintain a positive learning environment built on civility, tolerance, and mutual respect. Each of us has a unique background and something to contribute to the common goals of this course. Any unruly or inappropriate behavior will NOT be tolerated.

A Few More Things to Note:

Reading:

Reading and writing are inextricably linked. You can NOT meaningfully improve as a writer without exposing yourself to, and learning from, the writing of others. Therefore, I expect you to do ALL the reading assignments I give out this semester. Additionally, I ask that you read each selection thoroughly, patiently, and generously. Be prepared to talk about each reading IN DETAIL. I expect every one of you to verbally contribute to reading discussions on a regular basis. I can and will give out unannounced reading quizzes throughout the semester. These will become less frequent in direct proportion to how invigorating and insightful our in class discussions are.

The Writing Center:

All writers, even professionals, seek the help of another set of eyes every now and again. Getting help at the Writing Center, no matter how good or bad a writer you think you are, can pay dividends when it comes to improving the quality of your work. Since it's free, it seems silly not to take advantage of such a helpful service. For more information, visit http://english.wvu.edu/centers_and_projects/wcenter/writing_center_home.

eCampus:

We will be using eCampus (<http://ecampus.wvu.edu>) this semester. Please make sure you know how to access its features.

Tech Support:

You are responsible for safeguarding against tech-related setbacks. Have multiple backups for important files. If I ask you to bring a digital copy of a paper to class, bring a jump drive AND email a copy to yourself. Also, a broken printer is NOT an excuse for missing a deadline. There are labs all over campus where you can print.

Save Everything:

Keep all the work you do in this class. This includes using "Save As" to save multiple drafts of the same paper to your hard drive. In this course, the process is almost as important as the result. Thus, it will be important to have a copy of all your work from every stage of the writing process.

Schedule of Work

**Subject to change according to progress.

August/September	
Tuesday	Thursday
<p>23 (Late Registration Fee in Effect after Aug 22)</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Short Write #1: "A Time in My Life When I Communicated Well"</p> <p>Read "Bird by Bird" by Lamott, p. 87-94 WiP</p>	<p>25</p> <p>UNIT 1: Multi-Angle Personal Narrative (Last day to register and add new courses is 8/26)</p> <p>Due Today: Short Write #1</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Decide on a topic for your Multi-Angle Personal Narrative</p>
<p>30</p> <p>CONFERENCES in 208 Colson Hall Class will not meet.</p> <p>Note: Email me immediately if you did not sign up for a conference in class. A missed conference counts as an absence.</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Read "China Diary" by Watson, via eCampus</p> <p>Short Write #2</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Note: Meet in G06 every Thursday beginning today.</p> <p>Due Today: Short Write #2</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Read "The Ferry" by Brazaitis, via eCampus</p>

September	
Tuesday	Thursday
<p>6</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Bring rough draft of MAPN to class</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Peer Review for the MAPN</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Finish Multi-Angle Personal Narrative "Final for Now"</p>
<p>13</p> <p>UNIT 2: Feature Article</p> <p><u>Due Today: Multi-Angle Personal Narrative "Final For Now"</u></p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Explore community, decide on FA topic</p>	<p>15</p> <p>CONFERENCES in 208 Colson Hall Class will not meet.</p> <p>Note: Email me immediately if you did not sign up for a conference in class. A missed conference counts as an absence.</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Read "Buzzkill" by Collins, via eCampus</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Read "Badlands" by O'Connor, via eCampus</p> <p>Short Write #3</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Due Today: Short Write #3</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Bring rough draft of FA to class</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Peer Review for the FA</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Finish Feature Article "Final for Now"</p>	<p>29</p> <p><u>Due Today: Feature Article "Final for Now"</u></p> <p>Midterm Activities</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Short write #4</p> <p>Midterm Portfolio due Thursday, 10/6</p>

October	
Tuesday	Thursday
<p>4 UNIT 3 – Text Analysis</p> <p>Due Today: Short Write #4</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Finish Midterm Portfolio</p>	<p>6 (Mid-Semester is Oct 7)</p> <p>Due Today: <u>MIDTERM PORTFOLIO</u></p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Decide on topic for TA</p>
<p>11</p> <p>CONFERENCES in 208 Colson Hall Class will not meet.</p> <p>Note: Email me immediately if you did not sign up for a conference in class. A missed conference counts as an absence.</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Read “The Art of Playing Grand Theft Auto” by Murray, via eCampus</p> <p>Short Write #5</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Due Today: Short Write #5</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Read “The Motor City is Blanching” by Mosher, via eCampus</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Short Write #6</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Due Today: Short Write #6</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Bring rough draft of TA to class</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Peer Review for the TA</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Finish Text Analysis “Final for Now”</p>	<p>27 UNIT 4: Stakeholder Research Paper (October 28 is the Last Day to Drop)</p> <p>Due Today: <u>Text Analysis Essay “Final For Now”</u></p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Decide on a topic for the SRP</p>

November	
Tuesday	Thursday
<p>1</p> <p>CONFERENCES in 208 Colson Hall Class will not meet.</p> <p>Note: Email me immediately if you did not sign up for a conference in class. A missed conference counts as an absence.</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Read "I Don't" by Bennett and Ellison, via eCampus</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Due Today: Short Write #7</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Read "Separation of Church and State" by Mock, via eCampus</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Short Write #8</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Due Today: Short Write #8</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Bring rough draft of SRP to class</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Peer Review for SRP</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Finish Stakeholder Research Paper "Final for Now"</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Due Today: Stakeholder Research Paper "Final For Now"</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Eat turkey, etc.</p>
<p>22</p> <p>NO CLASS - Thanksgiving Break!</p>	<p>24</p> <p>NO CLASS - Thanksgiving Break!</p>
<p>29 REVISION UNIT</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Read "How to Say Nothing in Five Hundred Words" by Roberts, p. 95-102</p> <p>Short Write #9</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Due Today: Short Write #9</p> <p>Homework:</p> <p>Revise!</p> <p>Bring fresh copies of drafts to class.</p> <p>Short Write #10</p>

December

6 (Dec 8 is the Last Day to Withdraw from the University)

Due Today: Short Write #10

Homework:

Finish putting together final portfolio

8 (December 9 is Last Day of Classes for Fall semester)

Read Around–Please select a passage (about 250 words) from anything you’ve written this semester that you’re proud of and would like to share with the class.

Due Today: FINAL PORTFOLIO

***Portfolios Returned By Final Exam Time Slot**