

## English 102: Composition and Rhetoric II, Section

Fall 2012, MWF at 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. in 110 Woodburn Hall

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, noon to one p.m., unless otherwise announced.

### REQUIRED TEXTS

- English 102 Faculty. *Joining Academic Conversations (JAC)*, 6th ed. Plymouth, MI: Hayden-McNeil, 2013.
- Lunsford, Andrea. *Easy Writer (EW)*. 4th ed, WVU ed. Boston: Bedford, 2010.
- Other readings will be made available via email or as in-class handouts. Be prepared to print online readings and bring them to class (using an e-reader or laptop is also fine; see technology note on page 2).

English 102 is designed to build on the writing abilities you learned in English 101 (or the equivalent) by emphasizing research and argument and giving even greater attention to revision and organization strategies. No matter what your current level of writing proficiency, this course has the potential to help you improve—in that sense, it is a self-directed learning experience. However, your instructor and classmates are here to help!

**OFFICE HOURS & E-MAIL:** My office hours are from noon to 1 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. Feel free to stop by if you have any questions, about coursework or more general topics. I will respond to emails within 24 hours during the week. I do not check my university email on weekends. If you email me after noon on Friday, you should assume that your message will not be seen until Monday's office hours.

**COURSE GOALS:** Our class has five major goals. Each student can expect to:

1. Understand writing as a process
2. Argue effectively and persuasively in a variety of contexts
3. Explore and evaluate ideas
4. Integrate research effectively
5. Know the rules for effective communication, whether those are style or genre conventions, rules for grammar and punctuation, or rules for recognizing sources with correct research citations.

### POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

• **Attendance: Absenteeism and tardiness annoy me. Come to class and to conferences on time, with the necessary materials for each session.** Absences mean you will miss short writing assignments and other in-class activities. This will negatively impact your grade. If you absolutely must miss a class session, notify me in advance, and make arrangements beforehand to complete the work that you will miss. If you foresee having to miss class more than once, it may be preferable for you to take English 102 in a future semester instead.

• **Late work:** I feel much the same about late work as I do about absenteeism and tardiness, only more so. Since all major assignments are given weeks in advance, there is no reason to wait until the last minute to save or print your work. As deadlines approach, please plan ahead to avoid problems with equipment and to be sure you have access to a computer and printer. Failure to do so is not an acceptable excuse for turning in late work.

• **Cheating/Plagiarism:** The English 102 community assumes your honesty and that you will turn in original work written specifically in response to the assignments for *this* class. Failing to do so may result in a failing grade for a paper, a failing grade for the course, or a more serious penalty. These penalties can have negative effects on your permanent record and on your ability to complete your degree program. For more information refer to page xiii in JAC.

- **Technology:** You are welcome to bring into the classroom laptop computers and other electronic devices that support your educational endeavors. If, at any time, these devices become a distraction to me or other members of the class you will be asked to put them away. All phones should be turned off or set to a silent mode. Do not text during class. Period. If you must take a phone call due to an emergency please quietly excuse yourself from the room. Some class meetings will include in-class writing time. Please bring an electronic copy of the paper you're working on. Options for this include using removable media, attaching the file to an email to yourself, copying the text into the body of an email, or using online storage services.
- **Students with Disabilities:** Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate students with disabilities. If you have documentation of accommodations required from the Office of Disability Services, please bring it to my office during office hours or leave it in my mailbox.
- **Writing Center:** Any student can get free one-on-one help with writing issues through the English department's Writing Center, located in G02 Colson Hall. If you go to the Center, please bring the assignment you're having trouble with and make sure to prepare specific questions. Useful note for later: the Center can also help you with writing-intensive application materials for graduate school.
- **University Counseling Services:** The Carruth Center provides resources to help manage stress, improve relationships, make healthy lifestyle choices, and face new challenges and transitions. For more information about their hours, services, and location, see <http://well.wvu.edu/ccpps>.
- **Social Justice Policy:** West Virginia University strives to provide an atmosphere of reasonable, open discourse for all students. I will do my best to make sure that nobody is ever made to feel unsafe in class discussions, but I will not steer us away from uncomfortable, controversial topics if they arise. Please think before you speak, and be respectful of others, including those with different backgrounds and life experiences from yours. If you are racist, sexist, classist, homophobic, etc. on your own time, that's unfortunate. If you let those traits enter into the classroom, that's unacceptable.

**RESPONSE AND EVALUATION:** This is a college level class. Students' work is expected to reflect this. As a college student, you are expected to show understanding of syntax, grammar, structure, and critical thinking as an effective communicator. This is also a portfolio-based class, which means you will not receive a letter grade on each individual assignment, but you will receive feedback that can assist you in revision. You will receive further feedback and a letter grade based on your progress at the midterm point, and a final letter grade based on your final portfolio. Your mid-term and final grades are based on:

### **Formal Writing (70%):**

By the end of the semester, everyone will have over twenty pages of polished, formal writing. Please note that all formal writing should be in MLA format (double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font, one-inch margins, name and page number on each page). These are the formal papers assigned for this class. Please note: if a student fails to adhere to the paper's criteria (i.e. lack of MLA formatting, citations, length, etc), his or her final grade on that paper will be dropped a half a letter for each criteria missed.

- Advertisement analysis (4+ pages) (25%) DUE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7: Write an essay in which you examine the rhetoric and effectiveness of an advertisement. Pay particular attention to how audience is invoked. Goals: a clear, well-established thesis statement and demonstration of understanding of rhetorical analysis, particularly audience.
- Editorial analysis (4-5+ pages) (25%) DUE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14: Based on a CURRENT editorial or speech. Identify the major parts of the argument--claim, support, warrant. Evaluate the success of the argument. Pay particular attention to how the author relates to the audience. Goals: a

clear, well-established thesis statement, understanding of rhetorical appeals, and analysis of the construction and effectiveness of an argument.

- Research proposal (2+ pages) (12.5%) DUE MONDAY OCTOBER 1. Create a research-driven question, immerse yourself in resources that explore that question, and develop a plan of action for your work. You must have at least 2 credible sources with a works cited page. The proposal helps you to articulate the direction of and purpose for your research. This assignment is not available for revision.
- Annotated bibliography (6+ pages) (12.5%) DUE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24. An annotated bibliography is an alphabetical list of citations to books, articles, interviews, and other texts. An annotation, which follows each citation, is a brief summary and evaluation of the source that helps identify the content, quality, and relevance of the source cited. You will need at least ten sources (6 scholarly, 1 video, and at least 1 text). You will also write a preface with a working thesis. This assignment is not available for revision.
- Researched Argument (6+ pages) (25%) DUE 11-15. This is the culmination of work begun with your research proposal and extended in the annotated bibliography. Your research will allow you to have authority on a topic so that you can present a cogent, well-supported argument. Goals: well-established thesis statement, coordination and appropriate use of sources, and an effective argument.

### **Informal Writing (20%):**

- Your informal writing grade is comprised of homework assignments. For each unit, you will typically have at least one homework assignment that addresses your formal paper. The majority of your homework assignments will be responses to the readings.

### **Participation (10%):**

- Participation is assessed based not only on attendance, but also on your investment in class activities and discussion, and your ability to respect others (this includes, but is not limited to, avoiding disruptions by coming late or engaging in non-class related activities during class time).

Please refer to JAC for information about my grading criteria—or, if you need clarification beyond that—ask me! If you have any questions regarding your progress in the course, please email me and/or come see me during office hours. **Do not** wait until near midterms or the end of the semester if you are having difficulties.

### **IMPORTANT NOTES**

- Hold onto all of your writing, as well as handouts and feedback that you receive from me. I may ask for any (or all) of it in your portfolio.
- The schedule of work that makes up the next few pages is subject to change. Each class tends to develop its own particular pace, and the syllabus may be adapted to conform.
- Please double space all papers, put your name, my name, the section number, and the date on the first page, use 12 point Times New Roman font, and include page numbers.
- Conferences are held in my office, 309 Colson Hall, generally from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sign up sheets will be available during the class session before conferences, if not sooner.
- I will try to read, comment on, and return your papers very quickly, but it may not always happen. Please be patient, and don't panic. Panic doesn't help anyone.

**SCHEDULE OF WORK:****Unit One: Advertising Analysis. Due Date: Friday, September 7****Section One: Generating Ideas**

**Monday, August 20:** Go over syllabus, get to know one another, talk about course goals, first unit, and in-class writing/research technology issues. Homework: Type up first short write.

**Wednesday, August 22:** First short write due. Sign up for introductory conferences. In-class reading and discussion, topic ideas for advertisement analysis. Reading homework for Monday, August 27: JAC pages 39 through 43, re: types of rhetorical appeals.

**Friday, August 24:** Introductory conferences: no class. We will meet individually in my office throughout the day. Allow about five minutes for the conference. Be on time! Bring a question or two.

**Section Two: Writing Drafts**

**Monday, August 27:** Discussion, activities based on reading homework, JAC p. 39-43. Topic: Types of rhetorical appeals.

**Wednesday, August 29:** In-class reading, discussion. JAC p. 44-45. Topic: Toulmin model of argument. Homework: Write up an example using this model. Due Friday, August 31.

**Friday, August 31:** In-class research/writing day. If necessary/possible, we'll meet in the library or in one of the Colson Hall computer labs. Details to be announced. Toulmin model example homework due. Brief in-class discussion: visual rhetoric.

**Monday, September 3:** NO CLASS. (Labor Day)

**Section Three: Revision**

**Wednesday, September 5:** In-class peer review (bring a full-length draft, both hard copy and electronic!). Some writing time and revision activities.

**Friday, September 7:** Advertisement Analysis Due! Be prepared to discuss this assignment, and to begin talking about the next.

**Unit Two: Editorial Analysis. Due Date: Friday, September 21****Section One: Generating Ideas**

**Monday, September 10:** Readings, in-class discussion/activities, homework.

**Wednesday, September 12:** Readings, in-class discussion/activities.

**Section Two: Writing Drafts**

**Friday, September 14:** Conferences: no class. We will meet in small groups in my office throughout the day. Allow five to ten minutes for the conference. Be on time! Bring materials and questions as specified in class.

**Monday, September 17:** In-class research/writing day. If necessary/possible, we'll meet in the library or in one of the Colson Hall computer labs. Details to be announced.

**Section Three: Revision**

**Wednesday, September 19:** In-class peer review (bring a full-length draft, both hard copy and electronic!). Some writing time and revision activities.

**Friday, September 21:** Editorial Analysis Due! Be prepared to discuss this assignment, and to begin talking about the next.

**Unit Three: Researched Analysis. Due Date: Wednesday, November 14****Section One: Generating Ideas/Working With Research Sources**

**Monday, September 24:** In-class discussion, re: sources, citation, etc. Readings, homework.

**Wednesday, September 26:** In-class discussion/activities based on homework. Topic selection activities, In-class discussion re: research proposal. Research proposal will be due on Monday, October 1.

**Friday, September 28:** Possible library visit and research tutorial. DO NOT miss this; I took my class over the summer and it was amazingly useful. Have topic and thesis statement firmly in mind. Details to be announced.

**Monday, October 1:** Research proposal DUE. No late work is possible; I will be reviewing these and returning them with comments on Wednesday, October 3. In-class discussion, readings, activities.

**Wednesday, October 3:** Midterm portfolio and reflection DUE. Class will be canceled on this date; turn in portfolios at my office between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. (or as announced in class). **No late work will be accepted.** I will return your research proposals during this time. This is also an excellent time to ask me any questions you have concerning the ongoing research project.

**Friday, October 5:** Class canceled again, so that I may grade your midterm materials in a timely manner (and so that we can all heave a huge mid-semester sigh of relief).

### **Section Two: A Whole Lot of Research, and Writing Drafts**

**Monday, October 8:** Welcome back! In-class discussion, readings. We'll review some of the material from the library visit and talk about different types of sources, research strategies, etc.

**Wednesday, October 10:** I'll return midterm portfolios and reflections. We'll talk more about research strategies and a little about structuring your paper.

**Friday, October 12:** More readings/activities/discussion designed to help you find good sources and think about how to structure your paper. We'll start talking about the annotated bibliography. This is a great tool to help you assess your sources and do preliminary research for the final paper. It's due on Wednesday, October 24.

**Monday, October 15:** Conferences: no class. We will meet in small groups in my office throughout the day. Allow five to ten minutes for the conference. Be on time! Bring materials and questions as specified in class.

**Wednesday, October 17:** Readings, activities, discussion.

**Friday, October 19:** In-class research/writing day, focusing on the annotated bibliography. If necessary/possible, we'll meet in the library or in one of the Colson Hall computer labs. Details to be announced.

**Monday, October 22:** Readings, activities, discussion.

**Wednesday, October 24:** Annotated bibliography DUE. Class will be canceled on this date; turn in annotated bibliographies at my office between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. (or as announced in class). **No late work will be accepted.** This is also an excellent time to ask me any questions you have concerning the ongoing research project.

**Friday, October 26:** Readings, activities, discussion. Also, this is the last day to drop the class (or any WVU class) without it affecting your grade point average for the semester.

**Monday, October 29:** Discussion and activities focusing on how to take the work you did for the annotated bibliography and use it to best effect when working on your final paper.

**Wednesday, October 31:** In-class research/writing day, focusing on the final paper. If necessary/possible, we'll meet in the library or in one of the Colson Hall computer labs. Details to be announced.

### **Section Three: Revision**

**Friday, November 2:** Final paper peer review day #1. In-class peer review (bring a draft of what you have so far, both hard copy and electronic, **and** a copy of your annotated bibliography!). There will be some writing time and revision activities.

**Monday, November 5:** Readings, activities, discussion. Also, if you're a United States citizen over the age of 18, please remember to go out on Tuesday November 6 and vote.

**Wednesday, November 7:** In-class research/writing day, focusing on the final paper. If necessary/possible, we'll meet in the library or in one of the Colson Hall computer labs. Details to be announced.

**Friday, November 9:** Final paper peer review day #2. In-class peer review (bring a **full-length** draft, both hard copy and electronic!). Some writing time and revision activities, including a review of MLA format for your

works cited page. I will hand out the checklist for final portfolios and assignment sheet for the final reflection.  
**Monday, November 12:** Conferences: no class. We will meet in small groups in my office throughout the day. Allow five to ten minutes for the conference. Be on time! Bring materials and questions as specified in class.

**Wednesday, November 14: Researched Argument paper DUE.** Class will be canceled on this date; turn in annotated bibliographies at my office between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. (or as announced in class). **No late work will be accepted.**

**Friday, November 16:** Class canceled.

**Unit Four: Massive Revision, More Work On Final Version of Researched Argument**  
**Remember: Final Portfolio Due on December 7<sup>th</sup>!**

**Monday, November 26 – Friday, December 7:**

Welcome back from break! Now the real work begins. During these six days:

- We will work in class on revisions to your advertisement analysis, editorial analysis, and researched argument.
- We will talk more about what's expected in the final portfolio.
- Each student will also give a five to ten minute interactive presentation that covers a topic we discussed this semester. These presentations will be counted toward your homework grade, and an excellent job presenting can also help to slightly boost a lagging participation grade if necessary.

A schedule of presentations and in-class revision time will be handed out on Monday, November 26. The attendance and tardiness policy for this section of the class is the same as that for the rest of the semester.

**Final portfolio is due on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, in class. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

**Have a wonderful winter break!**