

Tony Clavelli
English 201 Section 001
MWF 10:30-11:20 101 Woodburn Hall
e-mail: aclavell@mix.wvu.edu
Office hours: MW 11:30-12:20 or by appt. in room 242 Colson (293-3107 messages only)

English 201: Advanced Composition and Rhetoric

Introduction

Argument and persuasion can take many forms. A detailed argument essay could have just as strong an impact as a television advertisement or even a feature-length comedy movie. Whatever the format, the ability to captivate an audience using the tools of the medium is an important step. This course is about writing, so language will be our medium.

The purpose of this class is to help you develop skills as a reader and writer of texts that are creative, persuasive, and critical. You will read both non-fiction and fiction texts and experiment with writing your own diverse, short essays and stories. You will expand on these writings to form three major essays that you will thoroughly develop and revise for your final portfolio. This course will help develop your skills to better edit your own writing and better respond to your peers' work, too. Essays and stories can take a broad variety of forms—essays can range from the personal to the journalistic to the academic, and similarly broad categories exist for short stories—so I will leave it to you to decide what topics you choose (but understand the entire class will read your work).

Policies and Procedures

ATTENDANCE

I am strict about the English Department's attendance policy for writing courses. You may take up to three absences; each absence beyond that will result in a letter grade lower on your final grade. Six absences or more will result in a failure of the course.

In addition, use of cell phones in my class, particularly text messaging, is not allowed and will result in an absence. Failure to turn in a major assignment on the due date or having a draft ready for peer review will also result in an absence, so come prepared. Missing a scheduled conference counts as an absence. If you are late by 10 minutes or more you will be counted absent. Keeping this policy in place allows for more consistent group discussion and a better writing atmosphere.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

We are here to build a welcome community to help grow as writers and students. Supporting WVU's policy, members of this classroom community will show mutual respect to all members of the classroom. Everyone has the right to feel comfortable in this classroom. I welcome suggestions to help meet this commitment.

PORTFOLIOS

The course will follow a portfolio approach. This means that English 201 is about the *process* as much as it is about the result. You will receive feedback from your peers and me on your drafts to help you revise your work. Please keep track of all your work.

PLAGIARISM

In order for the writing process to proceed successfully, honesty is a must. This is an enormously serious issue, and plagiarism of any sort will not be tolerated. Plagiarism will result in at least an F on the assignment, with other academic discipline as well.

DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS

If you have a documented learning disability, hearing or vision problem, or any other special need that may affect your performance in class, please talk to me at any time. There are many support services available through Disability Services (address listed below).

West Virginia University Office of Disability Services
G-30 Mountainlair

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

Texts

You will need a copy of the following two books:

Maps and Legends by Michael Chabon

Invisible Cities by Italo Calvino

In addition to these two texts, you will also be required to have access to ecampus, where many reading assignments will be downloadable. Plan to print these (as well as your own writing) for class, so have extra ink and paper ready. You will also need to check your MIX account regularly.

Assignment Overview

Much of the work in this class will take place in our discussions—that is why it is so important to come to class prepared with your texts, having read the assignment and being ready to talk about it.

Your portfolio will consist of three major essays, one for each of the three larger units in this class:

- 1.) Writing About Yourself – Where you'll explore personal essays and creative non-fiction.
- 2.) Writing About the World – Where you'll explore topics outside of yourself in the world around you.
- 3.) Reimagining the World – Where you rethink the world around you in allegory or speculative fiction.

Planning for these major essays will include some smaller assignments (brief proposals for the three major essays and short essays). You will also be graded on your work on ecampus through discussion posts. There will be six short essays and five discussion posts—you can miss one discussion post with no penalty.

Standard of Work

As this is an advanced course, you are expected to be comfortable with the proper mechanics of writing including grammar, punctuation and spelling. The WVU Writing Center is also an excellent resource to help you with these skills, but they can also help with the entire writing process. I highly recommend you put in the effort to seek their assistance. They are located at: G02 Colson Hall. Hours: M 11:30 AM-1:30 PM, TWR: 11:30 AM-3:30 PM, F 11:30 AM-1:30 PM. For an appointment, call 304-293-5788

Office Hours

My office hours are Mondays and Wednesdays 11:30AM-12:20PM in 242 Colson. Feel free to come by or set up an appointment to discuss your progress in course. I will also be able to respond to e-mails within 24 hours during the week if you have questions.

Response and Evaluation

Your writing will be graded as a process, which is why it is so important to collect and organize all of your work. Remember that an A constitutes exceptional work beyond requirements, a B is above average work, a C meets requirements and no further, and a D does not meet requirements. For each essay, you will be given written feedback as opposed to a letter grade to stress the importance of revision. The short writes and written homework (there will be about 8 short assignments during the semester total about 20 pages) will be graded based on completion (many of which will be handled on ecampus). Participation is also considered in the grading the process. This includes not only attendance but also participation in discussion, giving feedback in peer review, and any other way you can actively participate in the class.

The breakdown of your grade is as follows:

Portfolio Writing: 3 revised major essays	70%
Short essays (out of 6)	15%
Discussion posts (out of 5, with one free pass)	5%
Participation	10%

-Includes sharing responses and ideas with the class through discussion and workshops, and many opportunities to participate in class (or out of class in my office hours or at the Writing Center).

If you have any other questions, or you can just ask. I hope you enjoy your semester!