

**WVU**  
**English 101: Composition and Rhetoric,**  
**Section 411**

Spring Semester, 2013- M,W,F at Lyon Tower Rm. G07 (2:00-2:50)

Instructor: Jessica Lewis

**Email:**  
jlewis59@mix.wvu.edu (*best choice*)

**Phone:**  
304-293-3107 (Messages Only)

**Office:**  
Rm. 228 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Colson Hall

**Office Hours:**  
From 1:00-2:00 pm, Mondays in Lyon Tower M 10A

**Required Texts:**

- English 101 Faculty. *Work in Progress (WiP)*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Plymouth, MI: Hayden-McNeil, 2012. Print.
- Lunsford, Andrea. *Easy Writer (EW)*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed, WVU ed. Boston: Bedford, 2010. Print.

Welcome to Composition and Rhetoric, the first writing course of your WVU career. Writing influences students of all majors and lifestyles, and thus, this course is meant to help you to read and produce written communication that reaches the audience. To help you through a process and revision-focused semester, this class aims to create a personal and supportive environment. You have a great chance here to express yourself—take advantage of it! We'll be working with a specific theme this year, so view it as creatively and individualistically as you can. It's important to see how our society is shackled to the concepts of food and consumption of nutrition. This is what we'll be exploring from our own viewpoints and the view of society as a whole.

**Course Goals**

Our class has four major goals. 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 for effective communication, whether those are style or genre conventions, rules for grammar and punctuation, or rules for recognizing sources with correct research citations.

**Course Schedule:**

The following lists a simplified course plan for this class. In addition, you will receive a master schedule to help clarify due dates of small and larger works.

**Unit 1:** Multi-Angle Personal Narrative (Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>-Feb. 1st).  
Conference in Colson 228: Jan. 23rd  
Paper due Feb. 1st.

**Unit 2:** Feature Article (Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>-Feb. 21st)  
Conference in Colson 228: February 13th

Paper due Feb. 22nd.

**Midterm Portfolio:** Due March 1st

**Unit 3:** Text Analysis (March 1<sup>st</sup>-March 22nd)  
Conference in Colson 228: March 13th  
Paper 3 due Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>

**Unit 4:** Stakeholder Research Paper (March 22<sup>nd</sup>-April 19th).  
Paper 4 due April 19th

**Spring Break:** March 25<sup>th</sup>-29th

**Final Portfolio:** Due May 3rd

### **Policies and Procedures:**

#### ***Response and Evaluation:***

This is a portfolio-based class, which means you will not receive a letter grade on each individual assignment, but throughout the semester, you will receive extensive feedback on major assignments, and letter grades at the midterm point (an in-progress grade), and for your portfolio at the end of the semester. Your mid-term and final grades are based on the following percentages:

- *Portfolio (based on major assignments and reflective writing) = 70%*
- *Short Writing Assignments & Homework = 20%*
- *Participation = 10%*

Please refer to *Work in Progress* for information about my grading criteria. We will also review this information in class. If you have any questions regarding your progress in the course, please let me know and we can set up an appointment at any time.

\*\*Please note that if a final portfolio is in any way incomplete (in other words, if I do not receive two drafts of each paper) then that portfolio will automatically fail. This is a good rule to recognize: Since writing is so important in college and life, we must uphold our standards in this class.\*\*

#### ***Absences***

For more information about absence policies for 101, see xxi-xxii in *Work in Progress*. **Pay special attention to the fact that you have three absences for your own use. Each absence after those three will cause your final grade to drop by one full letter.** If you have any problems or issues with this policy, speak to me.

Lateness is an issue that we all experience, but if a student has a consistent pattern of lateness, then it will affect his/her participation grade. In addition, we will have conferences throughout the semester to meet one-on-one and talk about the assignments. Every student is required to come in to his or her conference in a timely manner with fully prepared material. If a student fails to do this, or fails to show up at all, then this missed conference will count as one absence and influence the participation grade. Conferences are so important—take advantage of them.

### ***Participation***

Please note that participation is a significant portion of your final grade. Participation includes class involvement, preparedness, open communication with me and an understanding of appropriate conduct in the classroom. Appropriate classroom behavior includes respect for the professor, for fellow students, and for yourself. If I feel a student is being inappropriate in class, I reserve the right to ask him or her to leave.

### ***Cheating and Plagiarism***

For a detailed description of the 101 policy on plagiarism, see page xxiii in *Work In Progress*. Simply put, do not plagiarize as it does not help your relationship with me as your professor and it works against the learning process you need in college. In addition, consequences can arise in response to a plagiarism offense, including failure in the assignment, failure in the class, and/or further reprimand from the university.

### ***Technology Policy***

Once we get into the schedule of classes, we will take advantage of a computer lab. When we are in the lab, it is expected that all students will follow laboratory rules and respect the provided equipment. As for personal electronics such as cell phones and laptops, this form of technology is acceptable in the classroom if it does not distract from the lesson at hand. See page xxiii in *Work in Progress* for more information. Remember to silence your cell phones. If cell phones prove to be distracting, I will pull participation points or even go as far as asking you to leave. I don't want to do this—English class and cell phones can live together in peace, but I will respond if your electronics are keeping you from fulfilling class performance expectations.

### ***Communication and Office Hour***

In general, communication with me is key. My office hour for this course is held in Colson 228 from 10:00 to 11:00 on Tuesdays. Take advantage of this time. In addition, I respond to email in a timely manner, so take advantage of this resource too. Be very clear in your emails to me—I will not respond to an email that is unclear or unmarked by the sender, and I don't have a smart phone that keeps track of emails constantly. Be realistic and remember to consider my schedule in addition to yours. In general, this class is dependent on flexibility of both the professor and student. Together we make it work.

### ***Social Justice***

West Virginia University and any of its branches, and the West Virginia University Institute of Technology, are 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 and veteran 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 (304-293-6700)

### ***Students with Disabilities***

If you have a documented learning disability, a serious hearing or vision problem, or any other special need that might affect your performance and participation in class, please be sure to inform me. Also, please be aware of the support services available to you through Disability Services in room G30 of the Mountainlair. Their phone number is 304-293-6700, their email is [access2@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:access2@mail.wvu.edu). Their website is <http://disabilityservices.wvu.edu/>.

### ***Tutoring***

The greatest lesson most students will learn in college is that there is no shame in seeking help. For this course, you can seek out tutoring and help on individual papers through the WVU Writing Center. The office is located in G02 Colson Hall (Call 304-293-4444 for appointments). You can find more information at [http://english.wvu.edu/centers/centers/writing\\_center](http://english.wvu.edu/centers/centers/writing_center).

### ***Counseling Services***

If you are having issues outside of the classroom that are influencing your work, demeanor, or overall enjoyment of life, please visit the Carruth Center, a fantastic resource on campus. See page xxiv in *Work in Progress* or visit <http://well.wvu.edu/ccps>.

Finally, please note that I have the right to change any syllabus-related or schedule-related policies as long as I fully communicate these changes to the class.