

Missouri Western State University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English, Foreign Language, and Journalism
ENG104- College Writing and Rhetoric
9:30-10:50 TR Murphy Hall 120
Dr. Stacia Bensyl, Eder Hall 222 I
Phone 271-5936 [email—bensyl@missouri western.edu](mailto:bensyl@missouriwestern.edu)
Office hours: 1:30-3:30 TR, 10:00-12:00 W, and by appointment

Required Text:

Hirschberg, Stuart and Terry Hirschberg, eds. *One World, Many Cultures*. 7th ed. New York: Pearson, 2009.

Optional Text:

I cannot stress the importance of having a good handbook. If you already have a handbook from another class, that is fine.

Course Objectives:

This course is the first of a two-part composition requirement at Missouri Western. In this course you will begin to look at your own, your peers' and professionals' writing as ways to communicate complex ideas effectively. For the purposes of this course, let's define *rhetoric* as the art of employing specific modes, or elements, in your writing, with the idea of influencing your reader in some way. The term also applies to speaking, and you may have heard it used in that context.

In English 104- you will meet the following objectives:

- Learn the elements of four specific rhetorical modes
- Be aware of the audience for each of these papers
- Practice pre-writing as a way to organize your ideas for your papers
- Edit your own and your peers' papers
- Read essays which use each of the four modes and be able to evaluate their effectiveness
- Begin to synthesize your ideas with others' in your writing

To meet these objectives you will:

- Write four papers, each of which uses one of four modes
- Share ideas with others in the class to establish a sense of audience
- Complete pre-writing assignments
- Edit your own and your peers' papers both for content and form
- Incorporate outside sources into your own work to support your thesis

Assessment:

You will be turning in four "mini-portfolios" which will contain all the work you will do for each paper. Each assignment you are given will be worth a specific amount of points, and the possible total points value of each assignment will be clearly indicated on

the assignment. You will also be taking frequent quizzes over the assigned readings, as well as a final exam over correct documentation. Each of your papers, and the combined grade from your quizzes and your final, will be weighed equally. You will have a total of five grades, then, that will be figured for your final grade.

Grading policy:

The grading scale is as follows:

100-90% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

59-0% = F

Remember, you must receive a grade of "C" or above to enroll in English 108 next semester.

Requirements and advice:

- I will not accept late work. If you miss a quiz, I will simply double the score of the next quiz you take. If you miss an in-class assignment, you must get the information from me or a fellow student and complete the assignment to include in your mini-portfolio. You cannot make up peer reviews. That process cannot be duplicated.
- Make sure you save your work to something you have access to. Don't save it to a desktop you may not be able to get to each day. NEVER save anything to a MWSU desktop. They are cleared daily and your work will disappear.
- I insist on professionalism and respect in your interactions, both with me and with your peers. This doesn't mean we can't disagree. I encourage it, as long as we are all civil with one another
- If you have some unforeseen problem, contact me. I cannot help you if I don't know what is going on. Students often think the problem will just go away.

Paper Topics and Due Dates:

Paper #1: Process Analysis essay—February 11

Paper #2: Comparison/contrast essay—March 9

Paper #3: Cause and Effect Analysis essay—April 1

Paper #4: Argumentative essay— April 29

Attendance policy:

In order to improve student learning as well as to achieve compliance with federal financial aid policies, Western has a mandatory attendance policy for all 100 and 200-level courses. You will be given an excused absence when acting as an official representative of the university, provided you give prior written verification from the faculty/staff supervisor of the event.

All other absences will be deemed unexcused. **If you are absent three times by the midterm reporting date of March 26 you will be reported to the Registrar's Office,**

who will automatically withdraw you from this class. The Financial Aid Office will reduce financial aid as appropriate.

Student Disability:

Students with disabilities (impaired hearing, vision, reading disorders, etc.) should notify me in writing of the disability before the end of the first week of class. In consultation with the Center for Academic Support, I will work out a course of study for such students.

Academic Honesty Policy:

I abide by all the regulations outlined in the Missouri Western State College Catalog and Student Handbook:

Academic Honesty Policy and Due Process

Academic honesty is required in all academic endeavors. Violations of academic honesty include any instance of plagiarism, cheating, seeking credit for another's work, falsifying documents or academic records, or any other fraudulent activity. Violations of academic honesty may result in a failing grade on the assignment, failure in the course, or expulsion from the University. When a student's grade has been affected, violations of academic honesty will be reported to the Provost or designated representative on the Academic Honesty Violation Report forms.

Please see the 2006-07 Student Handbook and Calendar on page 21 for specific activities identified as violations of this policy and the student due process procedure. This handbook is also available online at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/handbook/index.pdf>

I will not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or claiming another's work as your own. Please don't cheat! If I find evidence of academic dishonesty, I will automatically assign that student an "F" for the course.

Tentative Assignment Schedule

N.B. Please be prepared for adjustments to this schedule. I will announce any changes in class, well in advance.

Jan	19	Introduction
	21	Read "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema" page 475 Complete analysis of "Body Ritual" Quiz
	26	Read "China Chic: East Meets West" page 508 Complete analysis of "China Chic" Quiz
	28	Prewrite #1
Feb	2	Prewrite #2
	4	Prewrite #3
	9	Peer Review
	11	Portfolio #1 due Read "What We Think of America" page 284

		Complete analysis of “What We Think”
		Quiz
	16	Read “Learning from Ladakh” page 275
		Complete analysis of “Learning”
		Quiz
	18	Read “ The Scent of Two Cities” page 445
		Complete analysis of “Scent”
		Quiz
	23	Prewrite #1
	25	Prewrite #2
Mar	2	Prewrite #3
	4	Rough draft due for peer review
	9	Portfolio #2 due
		Read “The Little Emperors” page 64
		Complete analysis of “Little Emperors”
		Quiz
	11	Prewrite #1
	16	Spring Break
	18	Spring Break
	23	Prewrite #2
	25	Prewrite #3
	30	Rough draft due for peer review
Apr.	1	Portfolio #3 due
		Read “Civilize Them With a Stick” page 304
		Complete analysis of “Civilize Them”
		Quiz
	6	Read “The Threat of National ID” page 405
		Read “Why Fear National ID Cards?” page 408
		Complete analysis of “The Threat and Why Fear”
		Quiz
	8	Documentation
	13	Prewrite #1
	15	Prewrite #2
	20	More Documentation
	22	Prewrite #3
	27	Rough draft due for peer review
	29	Portfolio #4 due

Final Exam: Thursday, May 6, from 8:30-10:20 a.m.