

Missouri Western State University, Division of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Journalism
English 104: College Writing & Rhetoric
Section 14 MWF 10:00-10:50 Murphy 112

Teacher: Kelly K. Seymour

Office: Eder Hall 222T

Phone: (cell) 816-456-5648; (office) 816-271-4239

Office Hours: Wednesdays 12-2 pm; Mondays 12-1 pm & by appointment

E-mail: kseymour@missouriwestern.edu

Required Texts:

- *The Norton Field Guide to Writing with readings and Handbook* Second Edition. Eds. Richard Bullock, Maureen Daly Goggin and Fran Weinberg. W.W. Norton & Company, 2009.
- *In Cold Blood*. Truman Capote. First Vintage International Edition. 1965.

Required Materials:

- Computer disks/jump drives for revising and saving work.
- Notebook for notes, class work, journal entries, etc.
- Folder(s) to keep all writing and portfolio work.

Course Description:

"A word is not the same with one writer as with another. One tears it from his guts. The other pulls it out of his overcoat pocket." ~Charles Peguy

"And by the way, everything in life is writable about if you have the outgoing guts to do it, and the imagination to improvise. The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt."
~Sylvia Plath

"I'm not a very good writer, but I'm an excellent rewriter." ~James Michener

Course Goals:

Reading and Writing: Reading can help us to make sense of our experiences and of our lives by providing us with connections between ourselves and the larger world. We, as human beings, must understand our complex and changing world and we can accomplish this by understanding how language reflects and affects our world. In this course, we will be reading various texts and then writing about those texts. Writing about a text leads us to read that text critically and intelligently, stimulates our thinking and will enable us to react to that text. In order to achieve these goals, we will:

- Read and respond to various texts, such as textbook readings, a "novel," media (including film and pop culture) and our peers' work.
- Read and study written texts to improve and refine our own writing.
- Summarize, analyze and evaluate texts.

- Understand, find, shape, address and write arguments.
- Engage in active classroom dialogue and debate.
- Revise our written work.
- Participate in peer revision groups.

For common objectives/means and institutional competencies for ENG 104, also refer to the English department website at

<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/~engdept/eng104.html>

Methods of Instruction:

Methods of instruction include textbooks, lectures, class discussions, group work, presentations, informal writing assignments and formal writing assignments. Students will be expected to participate in peer revision groups and in-class writing exercises.

Discussion Circles: Discussion circles are designed to promote the rapid free flow and exchange of ideas, opinions, and reactions to the course content. This will also go far in aiding you in your writing by helping you reflect upon aspects of the material you may have not considered. To participate, you **MUST** have the reading circle sheet completed to enter the classroom on that day. **A MISSED DISCUSSION CIRCLE IS A ZERO, NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Peer Revision Groups: Prior to submitting your formal writing assignments, you will be required to participate in peer revision groups in which you will bring in word-processed copies of your rough draft to share with your group and receive feedback from your group in order to help you strengthen and revise your own written work. This is a required activity and will be part of your grade for the portfolio and the course. (Note: During these sessions I will also evaluate drafts).

Policies:

Attendance and Class Preparation/Participation: In order to improve student learning and to achieve compliance with federal financial aid policies, Western has a mandatory attendance policy for all 100 and 200-level courses. A student will be given an excused absence when acting as an official representative of the university, provided the student gives prior written verification from the faculty/staff supervisor of the event. A student will also be given an excused absence if he or she can provide documentation and prove that the absence was unavoidable. Please feel free to speak to me about any extenuating circumstances. All other absences will be deemed unexcused. The maximum number of unexcused absences allowed before the midterm report for this class is 5. Thus, when you have 6 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. If you exceed the allowed absences after midterm, your final grade will be affected. As a result, attendance is vital to your grade and success in this class and excessive absences will lead to failure.

Students are expected to attend every scheduled class meeting and arrive on time. Arriving to class late is disruptive. As a result, chronic lateness will likely affect your final grade. Students are also expected to come prepared to every class meeting and participate in class discussion for this is the only way we can all share ideas, ask questions and learn.

Late Work: All writing assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the due date. Each student is allowed one late paper (and only one late paper) and this must be discussed with the instructor. I will not accept/grade any other late papers. This is important because you must complete, turn in and receive a grade for all papers in order to pass this class. *Consequently, if you submit more than one late paper, you will fail the course.* If you are not in class on the due date you are still responsible for submitting your assignment on time. Your presentation must be delivered on the assigned date and you will not be allowed to use this policy for this assignment *nor any other assignments save the 4 formal papers.*

Revision: All formal, graded writing assignments can be revised and resubmitted for a “new” grade. You will have two weeks from the date the paper is returned in class to revise and resubmit each paper. However, you cannot revise other portfolio work. If you miss the two-week deadline, you forfeit the right to revise that specific paper. It is required that your original, graded essay accompanies your revised essay. Revision is important because each paper covers important skills that you will need to know for the next paper.

Grading Policy: Your grade will be determined on the writings and portfolios you submit, a presentation and final examination. Please note that smaller assignments and class preparation/participation are very important and do affect your grade. The components of your grade in the course are:

Paper One* -- Analyzing a Text/Textual Analysis:	100 points
Paper Two*-- Evaluation	100 points
Paper Three*-- Memoir/Profile/Reflection	100 points
Paper Four*-- Argument	100 points
Quizzes-- all unannounced	100 points
<i>In Cold Blood</i> Exam	100 points
Reading/Discussion Circles (4 at 25 points each)	100 points
Argument Presentation	100 points
Class Participation	100 points
Final exam (mandatory)	100 points

TOTAL	1000 points

GRADING SCALE	
A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	75-79
D	74-70
F	69 and below

**Formal writing assignments. A student who does not turn in responses to all writing assignments will not pass the course even if the grades achieved in the other writing assignments are satisfactory.*

Students with Disabilities: Anyone who has a disability that prevents the fullest expression of his or her potential to succeed in this course must notify me as soon as possible so that we can discuss class requirements and accommodations. You must also contact Michael Ritter, Special Needs Coordinator, and submit all necessary documentation to his office.

Academic Honesty Policy: 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 classroom activity. Cheating and plagiarism are not acceptable. You will receive a grade of F (0 points) for any paper/assignment/exam that shows evidence of cheating and/or plagiarism. You have the burden of proving that a paper/assignment/exam showing evidence of cheating and/or plagiarism has been in fact written by you. You should keep thorough evidence of your writing processes for all papers so that you can meet this burden of proof. If you plagiarize a paper, you forfeit the right to revise that paper; if you cheat on an exam, you will not be allowed to retake the exam. Violations of academic honesty will be reported to the Provost or the designated representative on the Academic Honesty Violation Report Forms. Please see the Student Handbook for specific activities identified as violations of this policy and the student due process procedure (beginning on page 23). This handbook is also available online at <http://missouriwetsern.edu/handbook/index.pdf>.

Miscellaneous: Civility and Cooperation: Missouri Western requires all students to help us maintain good conditions for teaching and learning. All students will treat their classmates and teachers with civility and respect, both inside and outside the classroom. Students who violate this policy may, among other penalties, be counted absent and asked to leave. You should review your Missouri Western student handbook, specifically sections of Community Expectations and Code of Conduct and Procedures, for further information. This handbook is also available online at <http://missouriwetsern.edu/handbook/index.pdf>

Please note that you must complete all writing assignments in order to pass this course. In addition, admission into ENG 108 requires a "C" or higher in ENG 104. All drafts and

final papers for this course must be word-processed. It is also important to save all work on disks, jump drives, etc., keeping back-ups if necessary.

Please feel free to come see me if you have *any* problems or questions. I believe communication is very important between an instructor and her students and, as a result, I will make myself available to you for any reason.

ENG 104 Assignment Schedule

Please note that this is a tentative schedule and changes can be made.

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Friday	Dates
1	NO CLASS	Intro to Class Read "A Rose for Emily" p. 787 by Friday Intro to In Cold Blood 1-30 by Friday	Literary Analysis: Read in class "One of us..." p. 781 Evaluate techniques employed 30-49 by Monday	1/18- 1/22
2	ICB Paper (Literary Analysis) assigned 50-74 by Wednesday Discuss characteristics of analyzing a text & textual analysis Read also-- P. 598 "Parallel Worlds"	75-117 by Friday Employing MLA documentation in your paper	118-155 by Monday The Works Cited page	1/25- 1/29
3	159-191 by Wednesday; Reading Circle One	192-224 by Friday; ICB Draft One Due/Writing Conferences	224-248 by Monday ICB Draft One Due/ Writing Conferences	2/1-2/5
4	252-279 by Wednesday Draft Two Due	279-302 by Friday;	302-325 by Monday ICB Paper Due	2/8- 2/12
5	NO CLASS	325-343 by Wednesday In Cold Blood Exam Review	In Cold Blood Exam Paper Two: Juno Evaluation assigned	2/15- 2/19
6	View Juno Read p.125 "Juno: Not Just Another Teen Movie"	View Juno Read "Playing God" p. 725	Discussion Circle Two	2/22- 2/26
7	Juno Evaluation Techniques employed in reading samples	Writing Conferences Read "Us & Them" p. 802 & "When I Was a Child" p. 819 for Wednesday	Writing Conferences	3/1-2/5

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Friday	Dates
8	Paper Two Draft Two Due Paper Three Reflection/Memoir/Profile Characteristics & Elements	Read "Our Mother's Face" p. 826 Read "Guys vs. Men" p. 903 Read "Grief" p. 929	Paper Two: Juno Evaluation due Paper Three Reflection/Memoir/Profile Assigned Read p. 180 "My Life as a Dog" & "All Over But the Shoutin' " p. 153	3/8-3/12
9	*****SPRING	BREAK*****	*****	3/15-3/19
10	Read p. 161 in class "Rural Idaho Town" & Sports Illustrated Article	Reading Circle Three	Guest Speaker Michael Atchison, freelance writer for Sports Illustrated	3/22-3/26
11	Writing Conferences	Writing Conferences	Guest Speaker Paper Three Draft Two Due	3/29-4/2
12	Read "What if It's All Been a Big Fat Lie?" p.83 & "What's the Matter With Kids Today?" p. 666 for Wednesday	Paper 3 Due Paper 4 Assigned: Arguing a Position- Read & ""Election Night Remarks" p. 677 & "Victory Speech" p. 610	Read "Whodunit" p.684; Just Be Nice" p. 671 & "Organ Sales Will Save Lives" p. 92	4/5-4/9
13	Reading Circle Four	Writing Conferences	Writing Conferences	4/12-4/16
14	Elements of Effective Presentations	Paper Four Draft Two Due	Presentations	4/19-4/23
15	Presentations	Presentations	Paper 4 Due	4/26-4/30
16	Last day of class (5/3) Final Exam Review	FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE TBA	FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE TBA	5/3