

**Missouri Western State University**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**  
**Department of English, Foreign Language, and Journalism**  
**English 104, Sections 16 and 17**

16: TR 11:00-12:20 Murphy 103

17: TR 2:00-3:20 Murphy 103

Dr. Michael Charlton, EFLJ, Eder 212F

Office Hours: M 2:00-4:00

T 3:30-4:30

W 1:30-3:30

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**Course Description:**

This class is intended as a continuation of your experience with writing, whether that was in high school or in English 100. Specifically, we're here to talk about what college writing is and how standards and expectations for college writing differ from your previous experience. We want to prepare you not just for the second comp course, English 108, but for much of the writing you will be expected to do in college, whether your major is literature, business, or nursing.

Some of the goals for this class include analytical reading skills and the ability to closely read texts, critical writing skills in a variety of genres and modes, using research and credible sources in your writing, and learning to write with a greater awareness of and focus on your audience and purpose (particularly the red-pen-wielding college professor audience).

**Required Materials:**

- Graff, Birkenstein, Durst, *They Say, I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing, with Readings*
- Frank Miller, *The Dark Knight Returns*
- A course folder in which you submit all major assignments – this simple manila or pocket folder is cumulative, so that when it is turned in at the final exam it should include all of your graded final drafts

**One Big Content Note:**

In an effort to save paper and printing costs in these difficult economic times, Western has pushed us to limit the amount of handouts and printouts we use in class. All of these materials (syllabi, assignment schedules, assignment sheets, handouts, etc.) can be found on the O drive (look for EFLJ/Charlton/Spring 2010/Comp).

**Major Assignments and Grading:**

There will be three major papers. The first paper is worth 200 points (20% of the final grade); the second and third papers are each worth 300 points (30% of the final grade).

The remaining 200 points (20% of the final grade) will be made of homework, quizzes, and class participation. Homework is generally short reading or writing assignments. Quizzes may or may not be announced beforehand. Broadly speaking, if the class as a whole is keeping up with the reading and response assignments, quizzes tend to be few and far between; conversely, if the class as a whole does not seem to be keeping up with the reading and response assignments, quizzes become more frequent (and of the “pop” variety). Class participation does not mean simply attending class on a regular basis. It means coming prepared and taking an active and constructive role in class discussions and group work. People who seldom ask questions or make comments in class rarely receive the best class participation scores.

This course uses a normal grading scale: 90-100% (900-1000 points earned) is an A, 80-89% (800-899 points earned) is a B, 70-79% (700-799 points earned) is a C, 60-69% (600-699 points earned) is a D, and 0-59% (0-599 points earned) is an F.

To anticipate a few grading questions: no, I do not curve; no, I do not assign extra credit; no, I do not normally round up. Generally speaking, I think the normal coursework and the re-write policy (see below) offer you ample opportunities to demonstrate your work in this class.

### **Re-write Policy:**

With a few exceptions, I will normally allow you to re-write a paper receiving a grade of 75% or below. This does not include papers found guilty of cheating and/or plagiarism, papers which were incomplete or not turned in at the due date, and any other circumstances which I feel would make it unfair to other students for you to receive a second chance (such as papers that were obviously intended as a rough draft).

Any person wanting to re-write a paper must schedule an appointment outside of class with me within a week of the graded paper being returned in which we will discuss the original paper and your plans for revision. We will set a deadline for the re-write at this time (generally a week to two weeks from the conference date).

Your grade on the re-write will be the two averaged scores. For example, if your original draft received 70 points and your re-write received 130 points, you would receive 100 points for your final score.

Since it is turned in at the final exam, Paper 3 cannot be rewritten.

### **Final Exam:**

Final Exam for 104.16: Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30-1:20

Final Exam for 104.17: Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00-3:50

### **Attendance:**

You are allowed three unexcused absences. The fourth unexcused absence will result in automatic failure of this course. Please note that this is Western’s policy and that I have no control over it, though it is my job to enforce it.

Students representing the university in officially sanctioned activities must give notice before their absence. All absences due to illness must be documented in order to be excused. Documentation must be presented immediately after the student returns to class.

Be to class on time. Being late or leaving early will result in absences.

### **Academic Honesty:**

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 2009-10 Student Handbook 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>

### **Special Needs:**

Any student who has a special need or disability that might affect performance in this course should contact the appropriate MWSU coordinator for assistance. Also, let me know immediately so that arrangements can be made to make sure your needs are met as quickly and completely as possible.

### **Final Notes:**

Please visit me in my office. If you cannot come by during my posted office hours, please make an appointment.

I encourage lively discussion but please show appropriate respect for the learning environment, including your peers. If your behavior is insulting or disruptive, you may be asked to leave and counted absent for the day.

Please turn off all cell phones upon entering the classroom. I think I'm a fairly reasonable person but I really, really hate ringing cell phones. It interrupts discussions, lectures, and activities and can make it difficult to get back on track. For the same reason, don't check or send messages during class (trust me, you're not as stealthy as you think you are).

### **Assignment Schedule:**

All assignments and due dates are tentative and subject to change. Unless otherwise noted, all reading assignments refer to *They Say, I Say*.

### **Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> – Introductions**

Assignment due 1/21: Acquire course materials and print syllabus/assignment schedule

### **Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup> – Paper 1: Autobiography as Argument**

Assignment due 1/26: Complete in-class activity for homework

### **Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> – Paper 1: Your Autobiography**

Assignment due 1/28: Print out Example Narrative Essays handout on the O Drive and read the first two essays ("Josie's Triumph" and "Senior Prom"); complete one-sentence topic proposal (life event, lesson learned)

### **Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> – Paper 1: Setting the Scene**

Assignment due 2/2: Complete scene description activity; read next two essays in Example Narrative Essays handout (“Learning to Swim” and “Holiday Warfare”)

**Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Paper 1: Describing the Characters**

Assignment due 2/4: Complete character description activity; read final two essays in Example Narrative Essays handout (“Small Town Terror” and “Attitude is Everything”)

**Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> – Paper 1: Making the Speeches**

Assignment due 2/9: Complete dialogue activity

**Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> – Paper 1: Creating a Dominant Impression**

Assignment due 2/11: Complete Paper 1 Rough Draft and bring hard copy to class

**Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> – Paper 1 Peer Review (Rough Draft Due)**

Assignment due 2/16: Complete Paper 1 Final Draft and bring in course folder

**Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> – Paper 1 Due/Paper 2: Introducing *The Dark Knight Returns***

Assignment due 2/18: Read *TDKR*, Book 1

**Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> – Paper 2: *TDKR*, Book 1**

Assignment due 2/23: Read *TDKR*, Book 2

**Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Paper 2: *TDKR*, Book 2**

Assignment due 2/25: Read *TDKR*, Book 3

**Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> – Paper 2: *TDKR*, Book 3**

Assignment due 3/2: Read *TDKR*, Book 4

**Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Paper 2: *TDKR*, Book 4**

Assignment due 3/4: Practice taking notes for class film screening; continue work on Paper 2

**Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup> – Paper 2: *The Dark Knight*, Part 1**

Assignment due 3/9: Organize notes from class film screening; continue work on Paper 2

**Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> – Paper 2: *The Dark Knight*, Part 2**

Assignment due 3/11: Organize notes from class film screening; continue work on Paper 2

**Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup> – Paper 2: Structuring Your Argument**

Assignment due 3/23: Complete Paper 2 Rough Draft and bring hard copy to class

**Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> – No Class/Spring Break**

Assignment due 3/23: Complete Paper 2 Rough Draft and bring hard copy to class

**Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> – No Class/Spring Break**

Assignment due 3/23: Complete Paper 2 Rough Draft and bring hard copy to class

**Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Paper 2 Peer Review (Rough Draft Due)**

Assignment due 3/25: Complete Paper 2 Final Draft and bring in course folder; read Introduction and Chapter 1

**Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> – Paper 2 Due/ Paper 3: The College-Level Argument**

Assignment due 3/30: Read Chapters 2 and 3 and Zinczenko, “Don’t Blame the Eater”, Balko, “What You Eat is Your Business”, Banzhaf, “Lawsuits . . .” and Engler, “Obesity”

**Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> – Paper 3: “They Say”/Summarizing and Quoting**

Assignment due 4/1: Read Chapter 4 and Schlosser, “Your Trusted Friends”, Orbach, “Fat as a Feminist Issue”, and Campos, “Being Fat is OK”

**Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – Paper 3: “I Say”/Responding**

Assignment due 4/6: Read Chapters 5 and 6 and Sklar, “The Growing Gulf”, Bartlett, “The Truth about Wages”, *The Economist*, “Inequality and the American Dream”, and Obama, “A More Perfect Union”

**Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> – Paper 3: Expressing Your Viewpoint and Dealing with Skeptics**

Assignment due 4/8: Read Chapter 7 and Krugman, “Confronting Inequality”, Olsson, “Up Against Wal-Mart”, Mallaby, “Progressive Wal-Mart”, and Draut, “The Growing College Gap”

**Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> – Paper 3: Establishing Significance and Presence**

Assignment due 4/13: Read Chapter 8 and Johnson, “Watching TV”, Stevens, “Thinking Outside the Idiot Box”, and Goldwasser, “What’s the Matter with Kids Today?”

**Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – Paper 3: Structuring Your Argument**

Assignment due 4/15: Read Chapters 9 and 10 and Rushkoff, “Bart Simpson”, Peacocke, “Family Guy and Freud”, and Turkle, “Can You Hear Me Now?”

**Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> – Paper 3: Your “Voice” and Metacommenting**

Assignment due 4/20: Read Chapter 11 and Chast, “The I.M.s of Romeo and Juliet”, Rockler-Gladen, “Me Against the Media”, Will, “Reality Television”, and Graff, “Hidden Intellectualism”

**Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> – Paper 3: The Professor as Reader**

Assignment due 4/22: Read Chapter 12

**Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Paper 3: Research as Learning the Conversation**

Assignment due 4/27: Bring print copies of your sources to class

**Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> – Paper 3: Integrating Your Research**

Assignment due 4/29: Complete Paper 3 Rough Draft and bring hard copy to class

**Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup> – Paper 3 Peer Review (Rough Draft Due)**

Assignment due at final exam: Complete Paper 3 Final Draft and bring in course folder

**Final Exam for 104.16: Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30-1:20 (Paper 3 Final Draft Due)**

**Final Exam for 104.17: Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00-3:50 (Paper 3 Final Draft Due)**