

# ENG 104: College Writing and Rhetoric

Section 40 - Internet

Fall 2003

Missouri Western State College

Division of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Journalism

Instructor: Dr. Donaher

Office: SS/C 222 L

Office Hours: TTh 9:30-11:00 and 1:30-2:00, and by appointment

Phone: 816-271-5964

E-mail: [donaher@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:donaher@missouriwestern.edu)

URL: <http://staff.missouriwestern.edu/~donaher>

## Course Philosophy and Objectives

*You will have to write and put away or burn a lot of material before you are comfortable in this medium. You might as well start now and get the necessary work done. For I believe that eventually quantity will make for quality. -- Ray Bradbury*

*A professional writer is an amateur who didn't quit. -- Richard Bach*

There are a lot of ways to go about learning about writing; one approach is to do a lot of writing and to do a lot of "writing about writing," your own and other people's. This class utilizes this approach.

At the end of English 104, you will understand that:

- writing can be used for different purposes;
- multiple audiences exist;
- writing is a recursive process;
- there are many productive ways to generate ideas and arguments;
- common patterns of organization exist;
- formal distinctions exist among different prose genres;
- polished writing keeps the reader's attention on the message;
- reading is interactive.

These goals are more clearly articulated in the [General Studies webpage for ENG104](#).

## Required Materials

Textbook:

- Goshgarian, Gary. *Exploring Language*. Tenth Edition. New York: Pearson/Longman, 2004.

Other:

- A Student E-mail Account at MWSC.
- To participate fully in this course, you must have ready internet access and be able to complete the assignments in a timely manner. Assignments are due every Tuesday, at noon CST, and no late work is accepted, except as outlined in the Course Policies.
- For word processing, you must use Microsoft Word, or another compatible program. Compatibility means that files converted from some other program to MSWord retain their original format and layout and conform to MLA manuscript guidelines.
- To get started, read over the Syllabus and the linked Getting Started Instructions and Paper Assignment Overview Pages on the Course Schedule below.

## Assignments

Pre-Writings and Other Assignments

Students will do a number of invention writings for each paper including brainstorming, freewriting, and topic evaluation. These invention

strategies allow the student to explore a variety of topics and topic approaches before drafting and revising the paper. Students will also respond to the readings and do other kinds of assignments and sharing on WebBoard, an online bulletin board.

### Paper One - Language and Literacy Narrative

In this narrative essay, you will examine and reflect upon a significant experience you have had with language, whether spoken or written. As you explore your own history as a reader, writer, and speaker, you will also read about and respond to the significant experiences of others. This paper is based upon your personal research and will use minimal citation.

### Paper Two - Speech Community Profile

In this explanatory essay, you will profile and analyze a particular speech community, its uses, and users. As you study your chosen community, you will read about and respond to essays about other kinds of language communities. This paper will require some outside research and formal citation of sources.

### Paper Three - Language Issue Paper

In this persuasive essay, you will be researching and writing about a language issue, like gendered communication, language in the mass media and advertising, language censorship, or the English Only movement. As you study your issue, you will read about and respond to essays about a variety of language issues that will provide you with ideas and references for your own paper. This paper will require some outside research and formal citation of sources.

## Course Policies and Requirements

### Saving Work

Students should save all their work, both graded and ungraded, for this class--from notes to drafts to final papers. There may be occasions when work needs to be re-submitted or grades verified. Back up disk copies should be made religiously at the end of each day's work, and if possible, make a current print copy as well.

### Formats for Submitting Work

All work for this course must be word processed and submitted in the format specified by the assignment. **Be sure to follow submission guidelines provided with each assignment carefully in order to receive full credit for your submissions.**

### Late Work

Learning is a cumulative process and each assignment in this course is designed to build on the last assignment; therefore late work disrupts this important aspect of the learning process. **Except for the papers, no late work will be accepted under any circumstances.** Late papers will not be discounted if turned in within 24 hours of the due date. After 24 hours, papers will be discounted one letter grade for each additional 24 hours late (including weekends and holidays). No work will be accepted after noon CST on December 2, 2003.

### Plagiarism

*. . . it is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation.* -- Herman Melville

Plagiarism is literally the stealing of others' words and ideas and using them as your own. Make every effort to give credit where credit is due, and if you are not sure of "how"--ASK. Students are responsible for proving that all work turned in for grading is their own original work. Plagiarism is a serious offense and, therefore, will receive harsh punishment. Work and papers with evidence of plagiarism will receive a zero and may result in failure of the course. Don't think that you won't be caught; writing style is distinctive and verifiable.

### Classroom Courtesy

Students are expected to be courteous and respectful in all of their exchanges with the instructor and other students. Because this course is conducted without face-to-face encounters, one should be particularly careful to note how tone, rhetoric, and language all contribute to the overall impression of one's communications.

## Student Disability

Any student in this course who has a disability that prevents the fullest expression of abilities should contact me by the end of the first week so that we can discuss class requirements.

## Computer Usage

You must have daily access to a computer with internet capability in order to do well in this course. For this course, you must use your MWSC email account for all correspondence and assignment submission.

Most students can set up their email accounts via the MWSC homepage. Go to: <http://www.missouriwestern.edu> and click on the New Web Mail link for more information.

## Time Expectations

As with all college courses, a steady devotion to duty is expected. The readings and assignments are exactly the same as those given in my on campus version of this course, and you are expected to devote the same amount of time to completing the course requirements that you would be required to devote were the class held on campus. This means that you will have three hours of course activities in lieu of three hours of traditional classroom time and that you will have up to nine hours of homework per week. On the average, however, you can expect to spend about an hour per day (7 hours per week) completing course activities and requirements.

Unlike a traditional on campus course, however, you do have greater flexibility in determining how you will distribute your weekly workload. While assignments are due each week by Tuesday, at noon, Central Standard Time, you can choose to complete your work over several short work sessions or over fewer, longer work sessions. Keep in mind, though, that you cannot hope to do well if you wait until the last minute to complete the week's work--you may miscalculate how long it will actually take you to do the work or you may have computer problems that interfere with the completion of your duties. Remember: no late work is accepted *under any circumstances*, so anticipate that there will be occasional glitches, whether personal or technical, and strive to turn in your work a little ahead of the Tuesday deadlines.

## Grading

Students will do a variety of writing assignments over the course of the semester, including pre-writings, responses and other kinds of sharing, and formal papers. In order to pass the course, students must complete the papers; in addition, the quality of their work and the percentage of the other assignments completed will determine the final grade.

A word of caution: don't underestimate the value of small assignments since no late work (other than papers) is accepted. Occasional lapses are understood, but chronic lapses can only pull the final grade downward.

Your Final Grade Distribution is as follows:

- Paper One and Preparatory Work = 20%
- Paper Two and Preparatory Work = 30%
- Paper Three and Preparatory Work = 50%

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## Course Schedule

A detailed Writing Assignment Calendar is attached to each Unit Overview. Please refer to it for specific dates, details, and instructions.

## Getting Started

### Day One (August 23)

- Meet on Campus for Orientation
- Getting Started Instructions

### Paper One

Weeks One - Four (August 27 - September 23)

- Paper One Overview and Assignment Calendar

Paper Two

Weeks Five - (September 24 - )

- Paper Two Overview and Assignment Calendar

Paper Three

Weeks (NOVember - December 2)

- Paper Three Overview and Assignment Calendar