

Department of English, Foreign Language, and Journalism
English 104-02 MWF 9:00-9:50
English 104-11 MWF 12:00-12:50
Dr. Stacia Bensyl SSC 222 I
Phone 271-5936 [email—bensyl@griffon.mwsc.edu](mailto:bensyl@griffon.mwsc.edu)
Office hours: M-F 10:00-11:00 and by appointment

Required Text:

Signs of Life in the USA

Optional Text:

The New Century Handbook

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

Please bring your books to class every day. You never know when you might need them. We will be discussing readings in *Signs of Life* or writing about the readings every day.

Course Objectives:

The course objectives for English 104 are outlined at: <http://www2.mwsc.edu/eflj/eng104.html#Institutional>. I strongly recommend that students review these course objectives in addition to my going over them the first day of class.

Paper Topics:

Paper #1: Descriptive Essay

Paper #2: Comparison/contrast essay

Paper #3: Solution essay

Paper #4: Position essay

- · Your four portfolios are each worth 25% of your final grade.
- · NOTE: I will bring portfolios to class once to hand them back. If you're not in class to receive your portfolio, you need to come to my office to pick it up.

Final Exam Period:

- · You MUST attend the final exam period to pass the class. It is college policy that we meet during the final exam period. I will hand back your fourth portfolio and give you your final grade at that time. If you do not attend the final exam meeting, you will fail the class.

In class writing/portfolio policy:

You will write something in class almost every day. I say almost, because sometimes peer reviews or class discussion will take up all of our class time. You cannot make up the in class writings. Each day's assignment must be dated. Individual assignments will not be graded; instead, you will be graded on your portfolio performance as a whole. All rough drafts **must be** word-processed. On portfolio due dates, I will collect your completed portfolio. You will receive a typed evaluation of the in class work in the portfolio, as well as an evaluation of the process and final draft of your paper.

Attendance policy:

I take attendance every day. I will allow you one mental health day and two excused absences for things such as an on campus event you must participate in, jury duty, a death, illness, etc. After the third absence you will receive an "F" in the class.

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.

Grading policy:

First off, you can't pass this class without turning in all four of your portfolios and attending the final exam meeting.

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.

Late paper policy:

You may turn in **one** late portfolio. Your late portfolio **cannot** be the final portfolio. The late portfolio must be turned in the class meeting after its original due date.

Rewrite Policy:

You may re-write papers in portfolios #1, #2, and #3 for a better grade. Due dates for re-writes will be announced in class when I hand back papers. The grade you receive for the re-write will be averaged with the grade you initially received for the portfolio. I do not require students to re-write. The process is optional. I do require you, however, to take the re-write process seriously. Simply making mechanical changes in the paper is not re-writing--it's editing. That should have been done initially. Re-writes will be handed back to you at some point during the semester, but I give precedence to current assignments. It is possible that a re-write might not get back to you until the last week of class.

Class Assignment Schedule:

Please remember that this is a TENTATIVE schedule. We may need to adjust due dates or assignment dates as the semester progresses. The term "invention" refers to any writing that we do which is "brainstorming" or "prewriting" for your final paper, or any writing which lets you practice techniques and methods of writing. Please come to class having read the assignment for that day. Be prepared to discuss your ideas in class. Also be prepared to write in class every day.

Reading/Writing Assignments:

Jan.	21	Introduction and class standards
	23	"The Signs of Shopping" page 63
	26	"The Addictive Virus" page 71
	28	"The Haunted Superstore" page 76
	30	"What's in a Package?" page 84
Feb.	2	invention
	4	invention
	6	invention
	9	Rough draft of Essay #1 due for peer review
	11	Portfolio #1 due
	13	"American Icons" page 721
	16	No class—Presidents' Day
	18	"Be Like Mike" page 729

- 20 “Our Barbies, Ourselves” page 766
 23 “Larger Than Life” page 785
 25 “A Patriot’s Tale” page 795
 27 invention
- Mar. 1 invention
 3 invention
 5 Rough draft of Essay #2 due for peer review
 8 Portfolio #2 due—This will not be returned to you before March 24
 10 “Kid Kustomers” page 181
 12 No class—Bensyl with ENG399
 15 Spring Break
 17 Spring Break
 19 Spring Break
 22 “The Haves and the Have-Nots” page 623
 24 “I Won. I’m Sorry.” page 679
 26 “Athletics 101: A Change in Eligibility Rules Is Long Overdue” page 659
 29 invention
 31 invention
- Apr. 2 invention
 5 invention
 7 Rough draft of Essay #3 due for peer review
 9 No class—Bensyl at conference
 12 Portfolio #3 due
 14 “Disney World: Public Use/Private State” page 415
 16 “The Oprah Winfrey Show and the Talk-Show Furor” page 243
 19 “Careful, You May Run Out of Planet: SUVs and the Exploitation of the American Myth” page 112
 21 “You Can’t Say That” page 258
 23 invention
 26 invention
 28 invention
 30 Rough draft of Essay #4 due for peer review
- May 3 Portfolio #4 due

FINAL EXAM:

- ENG104-02 Wednesday, May 12 8:30-10:20
 ENG104-11 Monday, May 10 11:30-1:20