

Missouri Western State University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English, Foreign Language, and Journalism

ENG104-10 College Writing and Rhetoric, 11:00-11:50 MWF, Murphy Hall 119
ENG104-13 College Writing and Rhetoric, 1:00-1:50 MWF, Murphy Hall 103

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Phone 271-5936 [email—bensyl@mWSC.edu](mailto:bensyl@mWSC.edu)
Office hours: 10:00-11:00 daily, and by appointment

Required Text:

Subjects/Strategies: A Writer's Reader

Optional Text:

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.

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: Process Analysis essay

Paper #2: Comparison/contrast essay

Paper #3: Cause and Effect Analysis essay

Paper #4: Argumentative essay

- Your four portfolios are each worth 20% of your final grade.
- Because good writing hinges on one's ability to read well, accurately, and actively, you will be quizzed over each reading assignment, both those on the syllabus and those that I assign verbally in class. The total of your quiz scores is worth 20% of your 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. You will receive instructions for each of the four papers well in advance of their due dates. All rough drafts **must be** word-processed. Handwritten rough drafts will be docked points. On portfolio due dates, I will collect your completed portfolio. You will receive an 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 don't take daily attendance. Quizzes cannot be made up, so please do not ask to do so. Missed quizzes will count as a zero in my grade book. Students who arrive late will not be given the quiz. Remember, there will be a quiz over each reading assignment.

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.

Academic honesty policy:

I abide by all the regulations outlines in the Missouri Western State University Catalog and Student Handbook. I will not tolerate plagiarism or claiming another's work as your own. Please don't cheat! If I find evidence of any academic dishonesty, the student will receive an "F" in the course.

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 #1and #2, 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.

Most of the essays you will be reading are on this schedule. I will also be assigning "how to" or instructional readings from the text orally in class. It's important that you note any additional reading assignments. They are fair game for quizzes. 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 take a quiz over the assigned writing and to discuss your ideas in class. Also, be prepared to write in class every day.

Reading/Writing Assignments:

Aug.	29	Introduction and class standards
	31	assignment TBA
Sep.	2	"How to Mark a Book" page 226
	5	Labor Day—no class
	7	"How to Say Nothing in 500 Words" page 233
	9	"Anatomy of an Urban Legend" page 248
	12	invention—Process Analysis essay
	14	invention—Process Analysis essay
	16	invention—Process Analysis essay
	19	Rough draft of Essay #1 due for peer review
	21	Portfolio #1 due/Introduction to Comparison/Contrast essay
	23	"Neat People vs. Sloppy People" page 293
	26	"Mac or PC: There Is Simply No Comparison" page 299
	28	"Crazy Horse and Custer as Young Warriors" page 306
	30	"Sex, Lies, and Conversation" page 312
Oct.	3	invention—Comparison/Contrast essay
	5	invention—Comparison/Contrast essay
	7	invention—Comparison/Contrast essay
	10	invention—Comparison/Contrast essay
	12	Rough draft of Essay #2 due for peer review
	14	no class
	17	Portfolio #2 due/Introduction to Cause and Effect Analysis essay
	19	"How Boys Become Men" page 444
	21	Bensyl at conference—no class
	24	"Tip Jars and the New Economy" page 450
	26	"The Great Kern County Mouse War" page 456
	28	"The Real Computer Virus" page 463
	31	invention—Cause and Effect Analysis essay

Nov.	2	invention—Cause and Effect Analysis essay
	4	invention—Cause and Effect Analysis essay
	7	invention—Cause and Effect Analysis essay
	9	invention— Cause and Effect Analysis essay
	11	Rough draft of essay #3 due for peer review
	14	Paper #3 due/Introduction to Argumentative essay
	16	“The Liberal Arts: A Practical View” page 492
	18	“The Case for Short Words” page 513
	21	“Simplicity” page 666
	23	No class—Thanksgiving Break
	25	No class—Thanksgiving Break
	28	invention—Argumentative essay
	30	invention—Argumentative essay
Dec.	2	invention—Argumentative essay
	5	invention—Argumentative essay
	7	Rough draft of essay #4 due for peer review
	9	Portfolio #4 due

FINAL EXAM:

English 104-10 Friday, December 16, 11:30-12:20

English 104-13 Monday, December 12, 11:30-12:20