



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

ENG 108-08, -10 College Writing and Research

Murphy Hall 106, 11:00-12:20 (08), 2:00-3:20 (10), TTh
Fall 2005

*"There are days when the result is so bad that no fewer than five revisions are required.
In contrast, when I'm greatly inspired, only four revisions are needed."
--John Kenneth Galbraith*

Professor: Dr. Roberts
Office: Eder Hall 222G
Phone: 816-271-5810
E-mail: robertsi@missouriwestern.edu
Office Hours: 8:00-9:30, 1:00-2:00 TTh

Course Description and Objectives:

Students will complete three formal research projects in addition to other graded and ungraded work. In these assignments, students will learn to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate the thinking of others in order to discover, articulate, develop, test, and support their own points of view.

As part of the general studies goals for the course, students in ENG 108 will learn to write for different audiences and purposes, to use active reading and critical thinking, to use writing processes and conventions, to write for different audiences and purposes, and to use active reading and critical thinking. This course also meets the state level competencies of communicating, higher order thinking, and managing information. For more information on the institutional and state goals and competencies, see the English Department web site for general studies courses at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/eflj/eng108.asp>.

Required Materials:

- Weidenborner, Caruso, and Parks. *Writing Research Papers: A Guide to the Process*. 7th ed. Boston: Bedford, 2005.
- Eschholz, Rosa, and Clark. *Language Awareness: Readings for College Writers*. 9th ed. Boston: Bedford, 2005.
- A notebook exclusively devoted to keeping a research journal.
- An up-to-date unabridged college dictionary.
- A college handbook (guide to style, grammar and usage).
- At least two computer disks.
- Stamina and good humor.

Attendance:

Regular attendance is an essential part of the student's educational experience and a requirement for an adequate evaluation of student academic progress. For this and other reasons, attendance is mandatory. While certain absences may be necessary or unavoidable in the case of genuine illness, emergency, or when acting as a representative of MWSC, excessive absences will result in failure of the course. If you miss more than two classes during the semester, your final grade will be affected. Chronic lateness and/or leaving early will count toward absences. You are responsible for material covered or assignments given which you missed because of absence, so ask another student to inform you of what happened while you were gone. If I should be unable to meet class, you will be notified by the secretary, a fellow instructor, or an officially stamped and dated note on the classroom door.

Preparation and Participation:

You are required to make significant contributions to class in the form of preparation and participation. Preparation includes completing the readings and daily assignments, as well as bringing your assignments, textbook, and other materials with you on the appropriate days. If you come unprepared, you will receive a zero for any work due that day.

Participation includes the help you give to fellow writers and the contributions you make to class discussion. Active and insightful contributions to class discussion are therefore not "extra credit." Like the written assignments, your regular, tactful and substantive comments are part of the minimal requirements for successful completion of the course. If you are a naturally talkative person, you may have to restrain yourself so that everyone has the opportunity to contribute. Conversely, if you are a naturally quiet person, force yourself to be more vocal; do not assume that if I do not call on you that you need not participate, as it is your responsibility to voice your substantive observations at appropriate and relevant times. Since you obviously cannot make up for discussions from which you were absent, attendance is again critical.

Why is discussion so important? Because live classroom discussion:

- helps you think in terms of the subject matter.
- helps you learn to evaluate the logic and evidence of your own and others' positions.
- helps you understand how knowledge claims are arrived at in the discipline.
- gives you practice arguing with others respectfully and professionally.
- give you opportunities to formulate applications of principles.
- helps you to construct knowledge you can recall and apply when needed.
- gives you prompt feedback on difficult or confusing issues and material.
- increases your retention of material through explaining, summarizing, and questioning.
- stimulates new ideas, approaches, questions, reading, and research.
- helps me to evaluate your knowledge and abilities more effectively.

"Writing is the hardest work in the world not involving heavy lifting." --Peter Hamill

Student Conduct:

As a condition to remaining at MWSU, the college expects all students to conduct themselves so as to maintain an effective environment for learning, to act responsibly in accordance with good taste, and to respect fully the rights of others. Behavior that disrupts the classroom environment or interferes with other students' learning will result in dismissal from the classroom. Passionate and forceful language is sometimes appropriate; intolerance and dogmatism are not.

Assignments and Requirements:

In Project One, students will learn how to find and narrow topics, develop well focused and doubtless theses, generate arguments, find and evaluate sources, compile an annotated bibliography, and write a prospectus for a formal academic research paper. In Project Two, students will learn how to write, revise, and edit a formal academic research paper based upon the prospectus developed in Project One. In Project Three, students will gain practice going through the entire research and writing process from finding a topic to editing a formal academic research paper.

All out of class written assignments for this course must be word processed unless otherwise specified. Non-word processed submissions will be returned with no credit. Assignments must follow MLA format using no larger than twelve point font, and pages should be stapled together before you come to class (do not use folders or paper clips and do not fold down the corners of papers). Do not throw away any work you do for this class, from notes to drafts to final papers, and keep back-up copies of all papers you turn in to me.

Late Work:

All assignments are due at the beginning of the hour on the due date. Learning is a cumulative process, and each assignment is designed to build on the previous one. Late work disrupts this important aspect of the learning process. Major papers will be lowered one letter grade for each day late. **No other late work will be accepted.**

"If we had to say what writing is, we would define it essentially as an act of courage." --Cynthia Ozick

Grading:

The standards for college English classes are higher than those used in high schools. All the guidelines and standards for classes at MWSU are similar to those used by other colleges and universities throughout the country. You, as a serious student, will appreciate the fact that we hold high standards for your work. Your grade will be determined by the quality of your drafts, major papers, quizzes, and other assignments, as well as by your preparation and participation. Assignments will be evaluated according to how well they meet the requirements outlined in the assignment descriptions and the following general scale.

A = Superior

B = Above Average

C = Average

D = Minimum = passing below average

F = Failing

Project #1 = 25%

Project #2 = 25%

Project #3 = 25%

Participation and Other Assignments = 25%

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a most serious offense and, therefore, will incur harsh punishment. Don't think you won't get caught; writing style is distinctive and verifiable. It is the student's responsibility to prove that all work is their own. Papers with evidence of plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind, intentional or not, will receive a zero. Plagiarism and/or academic dishonesty will also likely result in failure of the course.

Disabilities:

Any student who has a disability that prevents the fullest expression of abilities should contact me immediately so that we can discuss class requirements.

General:

This syllabus is of a contractual nature, and by remaining in the course you acknowledge your acceptance of its stipulations in their entirety. If the goals, policies, procedures, standards, expectations, or obligations are unclear, then you should speak with me immediately. If they are clear but unacceptable to you, then you should drop the course immediately.

If you choose to remain in the course, be sure to keep a copy of this syllabus with you and to refer to it regularly. Policies are enforced without exception to ensure uniformity and predictability, to avoid confusion and anxiety, and to facilitate fairness and objectivity for all students. In the interest of efficiency, however, I reserve the right to make necessary alterations to this syllabus and to make announced changes in daily plans. Any announcements made in class automatically supersede this syllabus. It is your responsibility to find out about announced changes.

Final Thoughts:

For further explanations, comments, and advice, I am available during office hours. For additional help outside of class, I strongly recommend the Center for Academic Support.

I genuinely want you to succeed in this class and at MWSU generally. I therefore urge you to keep in mind that what you gain from this course, and from your education generally, is proportional to the amount of productive time and careful attention you devote to it. In the words of Abigail Adams (1744-1818), "Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence."

*"I write when I'm inspired, and I see to it that I'm inspired at nine o'clock every morning."
--Peter De Vries*

Course Outline:

This outline shows major readings and assignments, but additional readings and assignments will be given in class throughout the semester.

8/30 Introduction, syllabus

9/1 Doublespeak: Lutz (152) and Cullen (165) in *LA*

9/6 English Only: King (180) and Hayakawa (190) in *LA*

9/8 Ch. 1: Understanding the Research Process in *WRP* and Censorship: Bronner (260) in *LA*

9/13 Ch. 2: Deciding on a Topic in *WRP* and Censorship: Ravitch (276) in *LA*

9/15 Ch. 3: Moving from Topic to Hypothesis in *WRP* and Gender: Cobb (300) in *LA*

9/20 Ch. 4: Developing a Search Strategy in *WRP* and Gender: Thompson (322) in *LA*

9/22 Ch. 5: Finding Books and Ch. 6: Finding Periodicals in *WRP*

9/27 Ch. 7: Finding Internet Sources and Ch. 8: Finding Other Kinds of Sources in *WRP*

9/29 Ch. 9: Developing a Working Bibliography and Ch. 10: Evaluating Potential Sources in *WRP*

10/4 Ch. 11: Taking Effective Notes and Ch. 12: Paraphrasing, Summarizing, and Quoting in *WRP*

10/6 Ch. 18: Using MLA (p. 250-266) in *WRP* and work on bibliographies

10/11 **Project One (Prospectus/bibliography) due** and film TBA

10/13 Ch. 14: Organizing and Outlining and Ch. 15: Writing the Rough Draft in *WRP*

10/18 Drafting day

10/20 Drafting day

10/25 Ch. 13: Avoiding Plagiarism and Ch. 16: Revising the Rough Draft in *WRP*

10/27 Ch. 17: Understanding Documentation and Ch. 18: Using MLA (p.240-249) and Ch. 21: Following Format Requirements in *WRP*

11/1 **Project Two (Paper) due** and film TBA

11/3 Advertising: Bryson (423) and Lutz (442) in *LA*; 11/4 Last day to drop

11/8 Advertising: Federman (471) and Critser (476) in *LA*

11/10 Names: Wach (605) and Hayakawa (611) in *LA*

11/15 Topic formation

11/17 Gathering sources

11/22 Gathering sources, taking notes

11/24 Developing prospectus/bibliography

11/29 Prospectus/bibliography due and work on drafts

12/1 Drafts due for critiques

12/6 Editing, formatting

12/8 **Project Three (Paper) due**

12/13 Final Exam (section 08: 11:30-1:20; section 10: 2:00-3:50)