

Missouri Western State University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English, Foreign Language, and Journalism
ENG104-15 College Writing and Rhetoric, 10:30-1:20 MTWR, Murphy Hall 119
Dr. Stacia Bensyl, Eder Hall 222 I
Phone 271-5936 [email—bensyl@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:bensyl@missouriwestern.edu)
Office hours: 10:00-10:30 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:

- Students will practice and learn that writing is a recursive process.
- Students will practice and learn editing and proofreading through peer review.
- Students will develop, write, draft, edit and final draft a 3-4 page paper using each of the four rhetorical modes listed below.
- Students will practice individual aspects and skills of the writing process daily in order to build confidence and develop skills.

Paper Topics:

Paper #1: Descriptive essay

Paper #2: Comparison/contrast essay

Paper #3: Process Analysis essay

Paper #4: Argumentative essay

- **Your four portfolios are each worth 20% of your final grade.**
- **Your daily in class assignments are, collectively, worth 20% of your final grade. Daily assignments are worth ten points each, because tens are easy to keep track of.**

In class writing/portfolio policy:

You will write something in class every day. Some of those assignments are “practice,” and some of those assignments will lead directly to the production of that week’s essay. Don’t worry; I’ll let you know what needs to go in your portfolio. Each day's assignment must be dated. Individual assignments that lead to your papers 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 given a zero. 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:

In a class that is this condensed, students simply cannot be absent. One day’s absence is the same as one week’s absence in a “normal” semester-long class. Therefore, if a student is absent once he/she will receive a final grade that is one full letter grade lower than the grade he/she would have earned if he/she had attended all classes. Students who miss more than one class will be asked to drop or will simply be given an “F.”

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. 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.

Class Assignment 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 there to give you ideas or extra help. 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 about the reading in class. Also, be prepared to write in class every day.

Reading/Writing Assignments:**Week I**

June 5 10:30-12:00 Introduction to the Descriptive essay
12:10 -1:20 "The 'Shaw'" page 108

6 10:30-12:00 "A View from the Bridge" page 119
12:10-1:20 "The Death of My Father" page 130

7 10:30-12:00 invention/prewriting
12:10-1:20 invention/prewriting

8 10:30-12:00 peer review of rough draft
12:10-1:20 **Portfolio #1 due**

Week II

12 10:30-12:00 Introduction to the Comparison/Contrast essay
12:10-1:20 "Neat People vs. Sloppy People" page 293

13 10:30-12:00 "Mac or PC: There Is Simply No Comparison" page 299
12:10-1:20 "Sex, Lies, and Conversation" page 312

14 10:30-12:00 invention/prewriting
12:10-1:20 invention/prewriting

15 10:30-12:00 peer review of rough draft
12:10-1:20 revision
Portfolio #2 due at end of class

Week III

19 10:30-12:00 Introduction to the Process Analysis essay
12:10-1:20 "I Bet You Can" page 213

20 10:30-12:00 "How to Say Nothing in 500 Words" page 233
12:10-1:20 "Anatomy of an Urban Legend" page 248

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| 21 | 10:30-12:00
12:10-1:20 | invention/prewriting
invention/prewriting |
| 22 | 10:30-12:00
12:10-1:20 | peer review of rough draft
revision
Portfolio #3 due at end of class |
| Week IV | | |
| 26 | 10:30-12:00
12:10-1:20 | introduction to argumentative essay
“The Liberal Arts: A Practical View” page 492 |
| 27 | 10:30-12:00
12:10-1:20 | “The Case for Short Words” page 513
“Simplicity” page 666 |
| 28 | 10:30-12:00
12:10-1:20 | invention/prewriting
invention/prewriting |
| 29 | 10:30-12:00
12:10-1:20 | peer review of rough draft
revision
Portfolio #4 due at end of class |