

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

English 104

Fall 2007

MWF 9-9:50, Section 03

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Welcome

In this class we will attack a barrage of issues that are alive in contemporary America, and then we will write about them, becoming stronger writers, readers, critical thinkers, agitators, conversationalists, citizens, proletariats, social critics, etc.

Course Texts

Textbook

Atwan, Robert. *America Now: Short Readings from Recent Periodicals*. Boston:
Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007. [\[1\]](#)

Response Journal (RJ)

Throughout the semester you will be asked to respond to readings assigned in class. In 1 ½ to 2 pages you should explain your reaction to the reading, or respond to a prompt I will give. This is due at the beginning of class. Typed, double-spaced, TNR, clean copy. [\[2\]](#)

Drafts

The drafts you compose for the assignments are also important, as you'll workshop your drafts with peers in class workshops and conferences. You will need to bring multiple copies of drafts to class. Be sure you have printing or photocopying access.

Working Portfolio

This is a collection of all the writing you do for this class. Keep all your in-class writing, your response journal, notes, drafts, and peer critiques in a binder to serve as a portfolio you will turn in every time a paper is due. This ever-developing text gives you the chance to reflect on your work as we move through the semester, and a place for you to keep your work organized.

Assignment Overview/Grade Breakdown

Expect to write four papers and one reflection throughout the semester, in addition to the other informal writing in and out of class. I will also give you a detailed assignment sheet as we begin each paper.

1. Subculture Manifesto (15%)
2. Editorial Analysis (15%)
3. Midterm Reflective Letter (10%)
4. The Un-Paper/The Paper (20%)
5. Examination of Ethics (25%)

You will also be graded on your class participation; this will be 15% of your grade. In order to receive a good participation grade, you must do more than show up. I expect, and look forward to, your thoughtful contributions to

class discussions, conferences, presentations, and group work. Your Response Journal counts toward your participation credit.

Absence/Tardiness Policy

In order to improve student learning as well as to achieve compliance with federal financial aid policies, Western has a mandatory attendance policy for all 100- and 200-level courses for Fall 2007.

You will be given an excused absence when acting as an official representative of the university, provided you give prior written verification from the faculty/staff supervisor of the event.

All other absences will be deemed unexcused. The maximum number of unexcused absences allowed for this class before the midterm report, October 17th, is five. Thus, when you have six unexcused absences you will be reported to the Registrar's Office, who will automatically withdraw you from this class. The Financial Aid Office will reduce financial aid as appropriate.

Your first two absences will have no effect on your grade, but on the third, fourth, and fifth I reserve the right to lower your grade by one letter. You are responsible for all material covered and assignments given during your absence.

If you know you are going to be absent on a particular date when an assignment is due you must turn it in ahead of time. Any work missed in class cannot be made up if the absence is unexcused.

If you come in after I take attendance you are considered tardy. Every three times you do this it counts as an absence.

Conferences

Several times throughout the course, class will be cancelled for individual conferences with me. These conferences will last 10-15 minutes and are something you should prepare for by thinking of questions to ask me, looking over your peer critiques, and finding problem areas in the draft.

Communication/Community

Communication is essential to this class. Please ask questions whenever they arise, and make sure your email account is active.

Community is important to a small, discussion-based class where we will work together to create an environment that promotes creative thinking, critical discussion, and learning through collaborative work. While this class is meant to challenge you, I also want it to be fun. I just don't believe in a class where the teacher lectures the whole session. So, get to know the names of the people sitting around you. Participate. It makes the time fly and it's a lot more interesting.

Student Disability

Any student who has a disability should contact Missouri Western's special needs coordinator for possible certification of special needs and expert recommendation for assistance. We can discuss class requirements.

Academic Honesty Policy

Academic honesty is required in all academic endeavors. Violations of academic honesty include any instance of plagiarism, cheating, seeking credit for another's work, falsifying documents or academic records or any other fraudulent classroom activity. Cheating and plagiarism are not acceptable. If there is evidence of cheating or plagiarism, you have the burden of showing that the paper has in fact been written by you. You should keep thorough evidence of your writing processes for all papers so that you can meet this burden of proof. You will receive a grade of F (0 points) for any paper/assignment/exam that shows evidence of cheating and/or plagiarism. If you plagiarize a paper, you forfeit the right to revise that paper; if you cheat on an exam, you will not be allowed to retake the exam. Violations of academic honesty will be reported to the Provost of the designated representative on the Academic Honesty Violation Report Forms. Please see the 2007-2008 Student Handbook and Calendar for specific activities identified as violations of this policy and student due process procedure. This handbook is also available online at

Misc.

- Turn off your cell phone. Now. Trust me. I will lower your participation grade if you pay more attention to your phone than class.
- I don't accept late work.

Inspiration

- "A class learns to teach itself."
- "Don't mistake kindness for weakness."

English 104 Schedule for Fall 2007 (subject to revision)

Wk.	Date	Class Agenda	Homework
1	8.27	Course introduction; informal writing exercise	Purchase course materials; Read "Here's Looking at You," pg. 55
	8.29	Reading discussion	Read "Men's Faces Go Under the Knife," pg. 73; Compose RJ
	8.31	RJ Due; Reading discussion; Introduce first paper	Contemplate a topic; Read "Facing the Facebook," pg. 85 and "The Facebook Addiction Spreads," pg. 93
2	9.3	No Class – Labor Day	Not to belabor anything
	9.5	Reading discussion; Topic discussion; How to begin the first draft	Read "The Dude Manifesto," and "Reppin Islam," pg. 121; Compose RJ
	9.7	RJ Due; Your thesis	Keep working on your draft
3	9.10	Effective workshopping techniques	Prepare your draft for peer workshops; Bring copies for your group and me
	9.12	Peer workshops; conference sign-up	Prepare for your conference
	9.14	Class cancelled for conferences	Prepare for your conference
4	9.17	Class cancelled for conferences	Prepare to hand in your paper
	9.19	First paper due; Introduce second paper	Contemplate an editorial to analyze; Read, "Are Men Smarter Than Women?" pg. 165; Compose RJ
	9.21	RJ Due; Topic discussion	Draft a thesis statement
5	9.24	Outlining your topic; connecting ideas	Create an outline of your paper focusing on how you will link ideas
	9.26	Examining structure	Find examples in your editorial which support your thesis
	9.28	In-class reading and writing activity	Keep working on your draft
6	10.1	Techniques for editing and revision	Prepare your draft for peer workshops; Bring copies for your group and me
	10.3	Peer workshops; sign up for conferences	Prepare for your conference
	10.5	Class cancelled for conferences	Prepare for your conference
7	10.8	Class cancelled for conferences	Prepare to hand in your paper
	10.10	Second paper due	Contemplate progress thus far and goals for the rest of the semester;

			Compose mid-term reflective letter
	10.12	Mid-term break – No Class	
8	10.15	Introduce third paper; Letter Due	Contemplate topic; Read “Definition of Terms,” pg. 223 and “Global Wording,” pg. 231; Compose RJ
	10.17	Mid-term; Reading discussion; RJ Due	Find your word/phrase; Read “Queering the Campus,” pg. 217
	10.19	Discussion of words/phrases	Start working on your draft
9	10.22	Definitions/the tricks of language	Read “Awash in Euphenisms,” pg. 210
	10.24	Reading discussion	Read “The Pleasures of the Text,” pg. 241; Compose RJ
	10.26	RJ Due ; Text message your draft	
10	10.29	Debate	Keep working on your draft
	10.31	Debate, part two	Bring an outline to class
	11.2	Outline discussion/workshop	Prepare your draft for peer workshops; Bring copies for your group and me
11	11.5	Peer workshops; Conference sign-up	Prepare for your conference
	11.7	Class cancelled for conferences	Prepare for your conference
	11.9	Class cancelled for conferences	Prepare to turn in your third paper
12	11.12	Third paper due ; Introduce final paper; Pre-writing	Contemplate a topic; Read “Solidarity Manifesto,” pg. 324 and “A Call for More Sweatshop Labor,” pg. 328; Compose RJ
	11.14	RJ Due ; Being a critic of our own work	Keep working on your draft
	11.16	Reading discussion; Revising and editing	Read “Pie in the Sky,” pg. 303 and “The Evolution of Buy Nothing Day,” pg. 307; Compose RJ
13	11.19	RJ Due	Keep working on your draft
	11.20-23	Thanksgiving break – No Class	Prepare your draft for peer workshops; Bring copies for your group and me
14	11.26	Peer workshops; conference sign-up	Prepare for your conference
	11.28	Class cancelled for conferences	Prepare for your conference
	11.30	Class cancelled for conferences	Prepare to hand in your final paper
15	12.3	Final paper due	Prepare for your presentation
	12.5	Presentations	Prepare for your presentation
	12.7	Presentations; evaluations; last day of classes	Prepare for the rest of your life

[1] Bring this to class everyday unless specific directions are given otherwise, such as, “Throw your book in the river today instead of bringing it to class.”

[2] Every single thing you turn in should be in TNR, BTW.