

Missouri Western State University, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Journalism
English 112: Honors Writing and Research
Spring 2007 ENG 112-01 (CRN# 20368)

Teacher: Dr. Cynthia Jenéy
Office: S/SC 222-K
Phone: 271-4447
Class Meets: MWF 10:00-10:50
E-mail: jeney@missouriwestern.edu
Office Hours: MW 1:00-3:00; Th 12:00-1:00

Required Text:

- Lunsford & Ruszkiewicz. *Everything's an Argument*. 4th Edition. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins Press, 2007
 - Bring this textbook with you to every class meeting.
- Nonfiction book chosen from list provided in class (book chosen off-list must be approved by professor)
 - Choose well. You will work with this book as your primary resource and subject matter for the semester. I recommend buying your own copy of the book *after* your choice has been approved (you are responsible for having access to this book for the duration; should you use a library copy that is recalled, you will still be responsible for finding another copy).

Reading assignments are on the class schedule page: make sure you read ahead, and come to class prepared to discuss the chapters/pages listed on the date they appear.

Materials:

- 1 Acco Binder
- Folder for handouts
- Notebook or notepad for note-taking
- Flash drive, zip disk, or other storage device

This Syllabus:

Read this syllabus very carefully, and refer to it often. All information presented here is regarded as part of your own knowledge for the course. All answers to your questions about the class will be based on an assumption that you understand the syllabus and seek further clarification. The teacher reserves the right to alter this syllabus and to make announced changes as need arises during the course of the semester.

Time & Access Management:

- Working Missouri Western Email & P-Drive account (know your *exact* address, user ID, and password)
- Current, viable campus Library card and borrowing privileges
- Internet use (yes, know your MWSU userid and password). Labs are available at several locations on MWSU campus. Check schedules and availability here: <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/ComputerLabs/>

The Official Course Description:

ENG 112 Honors Composition and Rhetoric Course Goals and Objectives:

Communicating

To develop students' effective use of the English language and quantitative and other symbolic systems essential to their success in school and in the world. Students should be able to read and listen critically and to write and speak with thoughtfulness, clarity, coherence, and persuasiveness.

- A. Analyze and evaluate their own and others' speaking and writing.
- B. Conceive of writing as a recursive process that involves many strategies, including generating material, evaluating sources when used, drafting, revising, and editing.
- C. Make formal written and oral presentations employing correct diction, syntax, usage, grammar, and mechanics.

- D. Focus on a purpose (e.g., explaining, problem solving, argument) and vary approaches to writing and speaking based on that purpose.
- E. Respond to the needs of different audiences and choose words for appropriateness and effect.

Higher-Order Thinking

To develop students' ability to distinguish among opinions, facts, and inferences; to identify underlying or implicit assumptions; to make informed judgments; and to solve problems by applying evaluative standards.

- A. Recognize the problematic elements of presentations of information and argument.
- B. Formulate questions for clarifying issues and solving problems.
- C. Use linguistic, mathematical or other symbolic approaches to describe problems, identify alternative solutions, and make reasoned choices among those solutions.
- D. Analyze and synthesize information from a variety of relevant sources and use the results to address complex situations and problems.
- E. Defend conclusions using relevant evidence and reasoned argument.
- F. Reflect on and evaluate their critical-thinking processes.

Managing Information

To develop students' abilities to locate, organize, store, retrieve, evaluate, synthesize, and annotate information from print, electronic, and other sources in preparation for solving problems and making informed decisions.

- A. Access and/or generate information from a variety of sources, including the most contemporary technological information services.
- B. Evaluate information for its currency, usefulness, truthfulness, and accuracy.
- C. Organize, store, and retrieve information efficiently.
- D. Reorganize information for an intended purpose, such as research projects.
- E. Present information clearly and concisely, using traditional and contemporary technologies.

This Section of English 112 College Writing and Research:

This semester's course will be based upon the principles and ideas in Lunsford and Ruszkiewicz, *Everything's an Argument*. Moreover your writing and research in this class will eventually center upon a topic that interests you and its coverage in one single work of nonfiction which you will choose from a pre-selected list. The books listed have been chosen for various reasons. Most have landed on bestseller lists and some have won prestigious awards, and they cover a wide range of subject matter including health/medical issues, race, history, economics, culture, and even religion. Once you have selected your book and written your survey of reviews, you *must continue to work with this book for the remainder of the semester*. Therefore, it is a good idea to be aware of library renewal/due dates. Many are available in paperback, so I strongly recommend you purchase your own copy. Used copies are often available at lower prices through online book dealers such as Amazon.com, and can be shipped overnight.

Class meetings:

Read chapters listed in the schedule *before* you come to class on the day they appear. Bring your book and come to class prepared to discuss the chapter. This course is a writing and discussion based class—final grades are based on the quality and substance of written work and on participation in class. Class meetings are conducted under the assumption that students are well-versed in the conventions of classrooms and academic environments. Come to class prepared, and plan to participate and remain engaged with the materials for the entire class period. Turn off or silence all cell phone ringers (no texting please, it is just rude). In the unlikely and unfortunate event that you find yourself unprepared, come anyway – absence only compounds the problem. Good academic habits should produce satisfactory results. Any failure to act in a civilized, academic manner is interpreted as an act of disruption, and the uncivilized brute will be ejected forthwith from the premises either by the professor, or by the local constabulary.

Due Dates:

Dates for handing in all required assignments *and scheduled dates for in-class presentations* are listed in the course schedule attached. There is no provision for late papers or for “make-up” of missed assignments or quizzes. An assignment not received on its due date constitutes a failure to meet one of the minimum requirements of the course. Such a failure in turn will mean failure of the course. Make a note of all due dates now, and plan accordingly. *This includes the Final Exam date: do not ask that final exam dates be changed or rescheduled. See instructor for details.*

Attendance:

- **Do not miss class.** Attendance is mandatory, and counts toward your “in-class participation” grade.
- A student with **more than 5 absences will automatically receive a failing grade for the course** (this is the equivalent of missing two weeks of class).
- **Do not email your professor about absences.** If you are/were/will be absent, it is your responsibility to get notes and information from a classmate.
- Expect to spend approximately 3 to 6 hours per week reading, studying, and preparing for class. Good things happen when students show regard for the subject matter, the professor, and their classmates.
- You should refer to this syllabus and class schedule to keep yourself up to date regarding course work. I strongly recommend that you exchange contact information with a classmate regarding announcements, assignments, changes, class notes, and additional assigned readings or writing.

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-level courses. 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, March 21, is five (5). Thus, when you have five 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 Job:

Employment issues are the sole responsibility of the student. Failure to attend class, meet deadlines, or participate in assigned work is not excused due to workplace considerations.

Contacting Dr. Jenéy:

Polite phone or written messages requesting further help with class assignments are given priority and are answered within 48 hours, as per campus policy. I am available to meet with you during my office hours (no appointment necessary—just stop by!), or we can make an appointment to meet if your schedule conflicts with my scheduled hours.

Email:

- Campus policy requires that professors respond to reasonable email requests *within 48 hours* (translation: if it can’t wait, you probably need to call or stop by my office ASAP).
- **DO email about questions, ideas, and drafts of your papers. If you’re up to speed, attending class, and want some feedback, need help understanding the reading or assignment, or want to discuss ideas about your paper, your message is *extremely important to me*.**
- All email messages must identify the student, the course number and section number.
- Do not send email concerning personal illnesses, absences or missed assignments. Please talk to me in person, preferably *in advance*, should serious emergency or hardship circumstances arise.
- All nastygrams (rude or abusive messages) are saved and forwarded to the dean of students.

[Disclaimer: Please be patient with email communication; the campus webmail systems are not very sturdy, and sometimes glitches happen]

Assignments:

Requirements for the course are four papers, regular (approx.1/week) posts to the electronic forum, and a final exam. The final exam will be an “exit interview” about the work you have done, and the progress you have made as a writer throughout this semester. Grades will be weighted as follows:

10% Paper #1 Ethos and Appeal—Writing for Audience

10% Paper #2 Pathos—Writing from the Heart

10% Paper #3 Synthesis—Writing about Texts

20%	Paper #4 (Part I: Research Proposal Discovery/Exposition)	Informative Research Paper
20%	Paper #5 (Part II: Research Proposal Argument/Persuasion)	Argumentative Research Paper
10%	Chapter Outlines and In-Class Presentation	
20%	<u>Attendance, In-Class Participation, Quizzes, Class Activities, Textbook Exercises</u>	
100%	Total	

A note about the writing in this course: although we will all encourage each other to be open and to explore ideas, experiences, thoughts, emotions, and beliefs, essay assignments and in class writing shall be considered public texts. Be mature. Be courteous. Be excellent.

Legal stuff:

This course has a strict policy against writing about any un-prosecuted crime or suspected illegal activity which you have witnessed, or in which you have been involved. When in doubt, I will always err on the side of safety.

Web Board:

Depending upon the available technologies, students in English 112 may be required to post assignments to the class electronic forum. Written work posted to the forum may include responses to exercises in our textbook, sometimes summaries of reading material, and at other times analytical questions, commentaries, and working drafts of formal essays. The Web Board posts draw from the reading and writing assignments in the class. Since internet technologies are often subject to snafu's, crashes, viruses, and glitches, you should save a printed copy of every post you make. I also recommend backing up your writing on a flash drive, floppy disk, zip disk, or CD.

You must use your MWSU email account for subscribing to the Web Board. Do not shift around with Yahoo and Hotmail account subscriptions, as this will confuse the moderator, and possibly cause her to delete your membership. I tend to use different technologies as time goes by, and as internet services evolve. I will try to make it as painless and easy as possible for you, but there is a certain amount of meticulous attention required at the outset, in order to get the forum up and running efficiently for us all.

Academic Honesty Policy:

You will receive a grade of F for any paper that shows evidence of cheating and/or plagiarism. You have the burden of proving that a paper showing evidence of cheating or plagiarism 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. Any time another writer's words, ideas, or information appear in your paper they must be properly punctuated and cited. Evidence proving plagiarism may lead to further penalties. Please note carefully the statement on plagiarism on the departmental website, found at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/EFLJ/plagiarism.asp>.

Paper Format:

Formal Assignments should be typed (word-processed), double-spaced, with 1-inch margins all around. The preferred typeface is Times New Roman (or a similar font), and the preferred size is 12 point. Type your name and the date in the upper right-hand corner. In the upper-left hand corner type "Jeney" and "English 112."

Special Needs:

The Disability Services Office provides comprehensive services and programs for students with visual, hearing, mobility and chronic impairments, as well as learning disabilities. They ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to all programs and activities offered at Missouri Western as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. For assistance, please feel welcome to contact them:

Michael Ritter, Coordinator
 Disability Services Office
 Eder Hall, Room 203N
 (816) 271-4330
 Email: mritter@missouriwestern.edu

Tentative Class Schedule
English 112 Honors Composition and Rhetoric
Spring 2007 Missouri Western State University
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Jan		
W	17	Intro—syllabus
F	19	Getting Started (more intro)
M	22	Chapter 1 Everything is an Argument
W	24	Chapter 1 Everything is an Argument
F	26	Chapter 1 Everything is an Argument; Discuss Paper #1
M	29	Chapter 2 Arguments from the Heart— <i>Pathos</i>
W	31	Chapter 2 Arguments from the Heart— <i>Pathos</i>
Feb		
F	2	Chapter 2 Arguments from the Heart— <i>Pathos</i>
M	5	Chapter 3 Arguments Based on Character— <i>Ethos</i>
W	7	Chapter 3 Arguments Based on Character— <i>Ethos</i>
F	9	Chapter 3 Arguments Based on Character— <i>Ethos</i>
M	12	Paper #1 Due ; Chapter 4 Arguments Based on Facts and Reason— <i>Logos</i> Discuss Paper #2
W	14	Chapter 4 Arguments Based on Facts and Reason— <i>Logos</i>
F	16	Chapter 4 Arguments Based on Facts and Reason— <i>Logos</i>
M	19	PRESIDENTS DAY—NO CLASS MEETING
W	21	Workshop Paper #2
F	23	Workshop Paper #2
M	26	Paper #2 Due ; Discuss Selection of NonFiction Book (sign-up sheet) Chapter 5 Thinking Rhetorically; Discuss Paper #3
W	28	Chapter 5 Thinking Rhetorically NonFiction Book sign-up sheet Discuss Paper #3
March		
F	2	Chapter 5 Thinking Rhetorically
M	5	Chapter 5 Thinking Rhetorically
W	7	Chapter 19 Evaluating and Using Sources; Using MWSU Library resources
F	9	Chapter 19 Evaluating and Using Sources; Using MWSU Library resources
M	12	SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS MEETING
W	14	SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS MEETING
F	16	SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS MEETING
M	19	LIBRARY DAY—MEET IN MWSU LIBRARY Chapter 19 Evaluating and Using Sources; Chapter 20 Documenting Sources
W	21	Chapter 20 Documenting Sources
F	23	Paper #3 Due Chapter 11 Proposals Discuss Paper #4 & Paper #5
M	26	Chapter 11 Proposals Continue Discussion, Part 1 Research Proposal—Discovery/Informative Research
W	28	Chapter 11 Proposals
F	30	Chapter 11 Proposals
April		
M	2	Chapter 9 Evaluations; Chapter 11 Proposals
W	4	Chapter 9 Evaluations
F	6	Chapter 9 Evaluations
M	9	Chapter 9 Evaluations; Chapter 7 Arguments of Fact Workshop Paper #4
W	11	Chapter 7 Arguments of Fact; Continue Workshop Paper #4 (Review as needed: Chapter 19 Evaluating and Using Sources; Chapter 20 Documenting Sources)
F	13	Chapter 7 Arguments of Fact

(Review as needed: Chapter 19 Evaluating and Using Sources; Chapter 20 Documenting Sources)

M	16	Paper #4 Due: Research Proposal Part I: Discovery Chapter 7 Arguments of Fact Discuss Paper #5 Research Proposal Part II: Argument/Persuasion
W	18	Chapter 8 Arguments of Definition;
F	20	Chapter 8 Arguments of Definition
M	23	Chapter 8 Arguments of Definition
W	25	Review Chapter 5 Thinking Rhetorically
F	27	Review Chapter 5 Thinking Rhetorically
M	30	OPEN
May		
M	7	FINAL EXAM 8:30 - 10:20 a.m.