

Missouri Western State University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English, Foreign Language, and Journalism
ENG104-01 College Writing and Rhetoric, 8:00-8:50 MWF, Murphy Hall 103
Dr. Stacia Bensyl, Eder Hall 222 I
Phone 271-5936 [email—bensyl@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:bensyl@missouriwestern.edu)
Office hours: 9:00-11:00 MWF, 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:

This course is the first of a two-part composition requirement at Missouri Western. In this course you will begin to look at your own, your peers' and professionals' writing as ways to communicate complex ideas effectively. For the purposes of this course, let's define *rhetoric* as the art of employing specific modes, or elements, in your writing, usually with the idea of influencing your reader in some way. The term also applies to speaking, and you may have heard it used in that context.

In English 104-1 you will meet the following objectives:

- Learn the elements of four specific rhetorical modes
- Be aware of the audience for each of these papers
- Practice pre-writing as a way to organize your ideas for your papers
- Edit your own and your peers' papers
- Read essays which use each of the four modes and be able to evaluate their effectiveness

To meet these objectives you will:

- Write four papers, each of which uses one of four modes
- Share ideas with others in the class to establish a sense of audience
- Complete pre-writing assignments
- Edit your own and your peers' papers both for content and form

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 25% of your final 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 collect 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 of in class writings, rough draft, and peer reviews (one grade) and your final paper (one grade). Those two grades will be averaged for your total portfolio grade. 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:

In order to improve student learning and retention, as well as to achieve compliance with federal Financial Aid policies, Western has implemented a mandatory attendance policy for students in all 100- and 200-level courses. Instructors are required to monitor and track student attendance. A student will be given an excused absence when acting as an official representative of the university, provided the student gives prior written verification from the faculty/staff supervisor of the event. Any additional excused absences are at the complete discretion of the instructor.

When a student exceeds five absences in this class, I will complete the Student Absence Reporting Form and submit it to the Registrar's Office, who will administratively withdraw the student from the course and notify the Financial Aid Office to reduce financial aid as appropriate.

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:

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 activity. Violations of academic honesty may result in a failing grade on the assignment, failure in the course, or expulsion from the University. When a student's grade has been affected, violations of academic honesty will be reported to the Provost or designated representative on the Academic Honesty Violation Report forms.

Please see the Student Handbook and Calendar for specific activities identified as violations of this policy and the student due process procedure. This handbook is also available online at

<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/handbook/index.pdf>

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 #1 and #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. 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 write in class every day.

Reading/Writing Assignments:

Aug.	25	Introduction and class standards
	27	"Process Analysis," pages 207-219
	28	"How to Mark a Book" page 220
Sep.	1	Labor Day—no class
	3	"How to Say Nothing in 500 Words" page 227
	5	"Why Leaves Turn Color in the Fall" page 244
	8	"Campus Racism 101," page 249
	10	invention—Process Analysis essay
	12	invention—Process Analysis essay
	15	invention—Process Analysis essay
	17	Rough draft of Essay #1 due for peer review
	19	Portfolio #1 due /Introduction to Comparison/Contrast essay
		"Comparison and Contrast," pages 258-271
	22	"Neat People vs. Sloppy People," page 276
	24	"Of Weirdos and Eccentrics," page 280
	26	TBA
	29	"Sex, Lies, and Conversation" page 293
Oct.	1	invention—Comparison/Contrast essay
	6	invention—Comparison/Contrast essay
	8	invention—Comparison/Contrast essay
	10	Fall break—no class
	13	Rough draft of Essay #2 due for peer review Post on Web CT
	15	peer review on Web CT
	17	peer review on Web CT
	20	Portfolio #2 due
	22	"Cause and Effect Analysis," page 408
	24	"How Boys Become Men," page 444
	27	"How Reading Changed My Life," page 426
	29	"iPod World: The End of Society?" page 432
	31	"The Real Computer Virus" page 437
Nov.	3	invention—Cause and Effect Analysis essay
	5	invention—Cause and Effect Analysis essay
	7	invention—Cause and Effect Analysis essay

- 10 Rough draft of essay #3 due for peer review
- 12 Paper #3 due/Introduction to Argumentative essay
- 14 “Argumentation,” page 454
- 16 “The Case for Short Words,” page 480
- 17 “I Have a Dream,” page 486
- 19 “What Does It Mean to Love One’s Country?” page 492
- 21 “My Father Was an Anonymous Sperm Donor,” page 500
- 24 invention—Argumentative essay
- 26 No class—Thanksgiving Break
- 28 No class—Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 1 invention—Argumentative essay
- 3 invention—Argumentative essay
- 5 Rough draft of essay #4 due for peer review

FINAL EXAM:

English 104-1—Wednesday, December 10, 8:30-10:20