

Missouri Western State University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English, Foreign Language, and Journalism
ENG104-06 College Writing and Rhetoric, 10:00-10:50 MWF, Eder Hall 210
ENG104-08 College Writing and Rhetoric, 11:00-11:50 MWF, Eder Hall 210
Dr. Stacia Bensyl, Eder Hall 222 I
Phone 271-5936 [email—bensyl@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:bensyl@missouriwestern.edu)
Office hours: 9:00-10:00 MWF, 2:00-3:00 MW, 10:00-12:00 T, and by appointment

Required Text:

One World, Many Cultures. 7th edition. Eds. Stuart and Terry Hirschberg.

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
- Practice active reading strategies which will aid in your ability to analyze others' writing

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
- Take quizzes to assess your ability to read and retain information

Paper Topics:

Paper #1: Process Analysis essay Feb. 4

Paper #2: Comparison/contrast essay Mar. 4

Paper #3: Cause and Effect Analysis essay April 3

Paper #4: Argumentative essay April 27

In this class all of your assignments related to each paper (with the exception of quizzes) will be turned in at once on the paper due date, as noted above. I will give you a folder in which to place all your portfolio

materials. You will receive a grade for all your preparatory work, as well as a grade for your final paper. The grade for your total preparatory assignments will be averaged with the grade for your final paper to arrive at a grade for the portfolio as a whole. Your four portfolios are each worth 20% of your final grade. Your total quiz scores will be worth 20% of your final grade as well.

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 at that time. If you do not attend the final exam meeting, you will fail the class. You may not simply place the fourth portfolio in my mailbox and skip the final exam period.

Final Exam for:

English 104-06 which meets MWF at 10:00---Monday, May 4, 8:30-10:20

English 104-08 which meets MWF at 11:00---Friday, May 1, 11:30-1:20

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.

Classroom policy:

Please arrive on time. It is disruptive to the entire class if you come late. Please turn off all cell phones. Do not text message in class. I will make an example of you to your peers, and some people find that embarrassing. If that fails to work, I will ask you to leave and you will be counted absent for the day. Cell phones inhibit everyone's ability to concentrate, not just the folks texting or waiting for a call.

Because of the nature of the readings for this class, I expect lively discussion. This means I also expect civility. We will be talking about ideas that may be new to us or which challenge our current thinking. This is an important part of the college experience. Take advantage of it. It will prepare you for other classes, as well as getting along in the "real

world."

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:

Jan.	12	Introduction and class standards
	14	Process analysis introduction
	16	"Initiated into an Iban Tribe of Headhunters" 142
	19	Dr. King's birthday, no class
	21	"Body Ritual Among the Nacirema" 475
	23	"The Initiation of a Maasai Warrior" 131
	26	invention
	28	invention
	30	invention
Feb.	2	Rough draft due for peer review
	4	Portfolio #1 due
		Comparison/contrast introduction
	6	"What We Think of America" 284
	9	"The Prisoner's Dilemma" 364
	11	"Learning from Ladakh" 275
	13	"On Becoming a Chicano" 318
	16	No class President's Day
	18	invention
	20	invention
	23	invention
	25	invention
	27	invention
Mar.	2	Rough draft due for peer review
	4	Portfolio #2 due
		Cause and effect introduction
	6	"The Little Emperors" 64
	9	Spring Break
	11	Spring Break
	13	Spring Break
	16	"Journey by Inner Light" 153
	18	"Generation Debt" 260
	20	"Live Free and Starve" 290
	23	invention
	25	invention
	27	invention
	30	Rough draft due for peer review
Apr.	1	
	3	Portfolio #3 due
	6	Argumentative essay introduction
		"Civilize Them with a Stick"

8 "A Look Behind the Veil" 185
10 "Big, Bad Beef" 360
13 "The Threat of National ID" 405
15 "Why Fear National ID Cards?" 408
17 invention
20 invention
22 invention
24 **Rough draft due for peer review**
27 **Portfolio #4 due**