

Missouri Western State University
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
English 104 Sections 9 and 11
Class meets in Eder Hall 210
Section 7 [CRN 20074] meets at 11 MWF.
Section 11 [CRN 20078] meets at 12 MWF.

Instructor: Dr. Karen U. Fulton
Office: Eder Hall 222H
Office phone: 816-271-4317
Office hours: 2-3 MW, 10-12 and 2-3:30 T; other times by appointment

Required Texts:

Anderson, Chris and Lex Runciman. *Open Questions*. Boston: Bedford, 2005.

A one-inch or larger three ring notebook with a supply of notebook paper.

(It is important that you have this notebook by the second class. I will check to make sure both books are in your hands by this class).

The Course in Brief:

This course asks you to become part of a community engaged in reading, discussing and writing about how we make decisions that define us and that influence many groups and communities to which we belong. This sounds abstract, but the various readings and scenarios in *Open Questions* will offer many particulars. You shall use these readings as material for frequent in-class conversations and as the basis for a variety of writing assignments. And you shall use these assignments as opportunities to more thoroughly understand many of the writing aims and practices that you will adapt for use in courses later.

Grades:

Grades for this course will be determined on three factors:

1. Course participation (20%) Three times this semester you'll be asked to rate your own participation according to specific criteria, the form is posted on the P-drive (which we will go over today). If I agree with your rating, I'll record it as you've indicated. If I disagree, I'll ask you for more information. If you do not turn in an evaluation within one week of the due date, I'll make my own estimate of your participation.

2. Informal writes (30%) (which I will sometimes refer to as a process journal; it means the same thing). You are required to complete 25 informal writes this semester in order to receive a grade of C on this portion of the course. You are encouraged to do more on your own. These are to be one word-processed page (definition and example of a page are also on O/P-drive) paragraphs that capture some point of your thinking about some aspect of this course. They won't be read for grammar, punctuation, or spelling. They will be read according to what they are saying or trying to say. On those I collect during the course of the semester, I'll make some return comment and put a check mark next to your name in the grade book.

At the end of the semester, you will turn in all your informal writes to me for grading. Most of the Informal Writes ask you to react to the reading assignment of the day; therefore it is important that you have *Open Questions* by the second day of class. You cannot "save up" your informal writes for the end of the term and expect to pass. You need to keep up with them and be prepared to have them collected at any time. You will keep them in your 3-ring notebook which you bring to class.

If you miss a class when an informal write has been collected, it is your responsibility to email or hand me a word-processed copy no more than two class sessions later than when it was due in order for it to receive credit. All informal writes will be posted on the P drive in advance of when they are due (except for in-class informal writes).

3. Formal writing assignments (50%) You'll be asked to complete several papers this term.

Each will have its own process which might have preliminary assignments. Each will count as roughly equal though I reserve the right to reward significant improvement over time.

In general, I award grades so that I can sleep at night. If at any time you have concerns about your progress or your grade, you owe it to yourself to come and discuss this with me.

The calendar of specific assignment will be distributed at the second class period. As we begin each assignment, I will distribute a list of specific readings with the dates they are to be completed.

Grading Criteria:

For Class Participation, Journals, and for Formal Assignments, the grading rubrics or standards are available in the Fulton ENG 104 folder on the O/P-drive.

Students “earn” grades in my class; I do not “give” them. One of our first essay assignments will be Adrienne Rich’s essay on “Claiming an Education.” I expect to teach students who want to claim their own education, who want to be engaged, challenged and responsible for their own learning.

Disability Policy:

It is the student’s responsibility to make the instructor aware of any disability which may interfere with maximum learning. The instructor will work to accommodate the student.

Attendance Policy:

More than 3 absences will result in the lowering of a student’s grade; more than 6 will result in failure for the course. All missed work must be made up by the student. Under University Policy, if you have 6 unexcused absences (an unexcused absence is one that does not involve a University function), I must report you as FA. This will result in you being dropped from the class and your financial aid being refigured.

Although this policy is enforced at mid-term, that is not the terminal date of the policy. In other words, if at the end of the semester you have accumulated more than 6 unexcused absences, I must grade you as an FA.