

ENG 108 – College Writing and Research

Section 9 – MWF 11:00-11:50 Potter 107

Section 12 – MWF 12:00-12:50 Murphy 104

Instructor

Dr. Michael Charlton, Asst. Professor, EFLJ

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Eder Hall 212F

Office Hours: MW 10:00-11:00 and 1:00-2:30 and by appointment

Course Description

This course is designed to increase your skills at college-level writing and research. Each of the four major papers will focus on some aspect of academic arguments, from visual arguments in graphic novels and film to the role of science and nature in our society. While writing these papers, we will work on your ability to read arguments, to conduct research, to evaluate and cite sources of information, to revise your work, to reconsider your writing processes, and to make a more persuasive case to your audience.

Required Materials

Wayne C. Booth et al., The Craft of Research, 3rd ed.

Jerome Groopman, Ed., The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2008

Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons, Watchmen

Course folder (This can be a simple manila folder with your name on the front. All assignments, including papers and rough drafts, will be turned in to the instructor in the folder. You will keep all graded materials in the folder and turn it in at the final exam.)

Assignments and Grades

There are four major papers in this class, each of which will have a rough draft and other associated assignments like an annotated bibliography, interviews, and observational notes. Each paper is worth 20% of the final course grade.

The remaining 20% of the course grade will come from homework, quizzes, group work, and class participation.

This class uses a standard grading scale: A (90-100%); B (80-89%); C (70-79%); D (60-69%); F (0-59%).

Attendance

You are allowed five unexcused absences. The sixth unexcused absence will result in automatic failure of this course. Students representing the university in officially sanctioned activities must give notice before their absence. All absences due to illness must be documented in order to be excused. Documentation must be presented immediately after the student returns to class.

Be to class on time. Being late or leaving early will result in absences.

Academic Misconduct

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 2008-09 Student Handbook 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>

Special Needs

Any student who has a special need or disability that might affect performance in this course should contact the appropriate MWSU coordinator for assistance. Also, let me know immediately so that arrangements can be made to make sure your needs are met as quickly and completely as possible.

Final Notes

Please visit me in my office. If you cannot come by during my posted office hours, please make an appointment.

I encourage lively discussion but please show appropriate respect for the learning environment, including your peers.

Please turn off all cell phones upon entering the classroom. Any student caught with a ringing cell phone or sending a text message will receive a very stern look. On the second occasion, the student will be marooned on a barren island without cell reception for the rest of his or her natural life to consider his or her actions. On the third occasion, the student's class participation grade will be lowered. The same penalties apply for inappropriate web-surfing or other behavior disruptive to the classroom.

Assignment Schedule

All assignments are tentative and subject to change.

January 12 – Who Are We? (Introductions)

Homework for January 14: Get the course materials; read Prologue and Chapter 1 in Booth

January 14 – What is Research? Why Do Sources Matter?

Homework for January 16: Read Chapter 2 in Booth

January 16 – Why Do Audiences Matter?

Homework for January 21: Finish in-class assignment

January 19 – No Class/Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Homework for January 21: Finish in-class assignment

January 21 – How Do We Think Like Our Readers?

Homework for January 23: Read Chapter 3 in Booth

January 23 – How Do We Find a Topic? (Reading an Assignment Sheet)

Homework for January 26: Read Chapter 4 in Booth; read Paper 1 Assignment Sheet; read Sacks and Quammen (optional: Colapinto and Conselice)

January 26 – What Questions Do We Ask About a Topic? (Working from an Assignment Sheet)

Homework for January 28: Read Chapter 5 in Booth; read Toobin and Featherstone (optional: Kirn and Mooallem)

January 28 – What Sources Are Useful? (Relevance and Credibility)

Homework for January 30: Read Chapter 6 in Booth; read Cohen and Finkel (optional: Cook and Williams)

January 30 – How Do We Find Sources?

Homework for February 2: Finish in-class assignment; read Chapter 7 in Booth; read Geary and Henig (optional: Parker and Hoagland)

February 2 – What is an Academic Argument?

Homework for February 4: Read Chapter 8 in Booth; read Pitcock and Lawler (optional: Rosenbaum and Specter)

February 4 – How Do We Make an Arguable Claim?

Homework for February 6: Read Chapter 9 in Booth; read Donlan and Dyson (optional: Judson and von Bubnoff)

February 6 – How Do We Use Reasons and Evidence?

Homework for February 9: Read Chapter 10 in Booth; continue work on Paper 1

February 9 – How Do We Respond to Criticism?

Homework for February 11: Read Chapter 11 in Booth; continue work on Paper 1

February 11 – What is a Warrant?

Homework for February 13: Complete Paper 1; read Paper 2 Assignment Sheet

February 13 – Who Watches the Watchmen? (Paper 1 Final Draft Due)

Homework for February 18: Read Chapters 1 and 2 of Watchmen

February 16 – No Class/President's Day

Homework for February 18: Read Chapters 1 and 2 of Watchmen

February 18 – What is a Visual Argument?

Homework for February 20: Read Chapters 3 and 4 of Watchmen

February 20 – How Do We Read a Visual Argument?

Homework for February 23: Read Chapters 5 and 6 of Watchmen and Chapter 12 in Booth

February 23 – How Do We Plan Our Paper?

Homework for February 25: Read Chapters 7 and 8 of Watchmen and Chapter 13 in Booth

February 25 – What Should We Avoid in Drafting Our Paper?

Homework for February 27: Read Chapters 9 and 10 of Watchmen and Chapter 14 in Booth

February 27 – What Do Readers Look for in Our Paper?

Homework for March 2: Read Chapters 11 and 12 of Watchmen and Chapter 15 in Booth

March 2 – How Do We Use Visuals in our Paper?

Homework for March 4: Read Chapter 17 in Booth

March 4 – How Do We Revise?

Homework for March 6: Complete rough draft for Peer Review

March 6 – How Does This Work? (Paper 2 Peer Review)

Homework for March 16: Complete final draft

March 9 – No Class/Spring Break

Homework for March 16: Complete final draft

March 11 – No Class/Spring Break

Homework for March 16: Complete final draft

March 13 – No Class/Spring Break

Homework for March 16: Complete final draft

March 16 – What Makes a Good Introduction/Conclusion? (Paper 2 Final Draft Due)

Homework for March 18: Read Chapter 16 in Booth; read Paper 3 Assignment Sheet

March 18 – What Needs to Change?

Homework for March 20: Finish in-class writing assignment

March 20 – How Do We Suggest a Change?

Homework for March 23: Finish in-class writing assignment

March 23 – What Does It Look Like? (Writing Observations)

Homework for March 25: Finish in-class writing assignment

March 25 – What Questions Do We Ask? (Interviews)

Homework for March 27: Write interview questions

March 27 – Do These Questions Work? (Practice Interview)

Homework for March 30: Conduct interview; keep notes for turn-in with final draft

March 30 – How Do We Put It Together?

Homework for April 1: Bring notes to class for workshop day

April 1 – How Am I Doing So Far? (Workshop)

Homework for April 3: Complete rough draft for Peer Review

April 3 – So What Do You Think? (Paper 3 Peer Review)

Homework for April 6: Complete Paper 3 final draft

April 6 – What Do You Call That? (Basic Film Terms) (Paper 3 Final Draft Due)

Homework for April 8: Read Paper 4 Assignment Sheet

April 8 – Is That What I Think It Is? (Applying Film Terms)

Homework for April 10: Finish in-class writing assignment

April 10 – Do We Get Popcorn? (In-Class Film Example, Day 1)

Homework for April 13: Look over notes from class screening

April 13 – How About Candy? (In-Class Film Example, Day 2)

Homework for April 15: Look over notes from class screening

April 15 – Is That the End? (In-Class Film Example, Day 3)

Homework for April 17: Write the introduction/thesis for Paper 4

April 17 – What Did You See? (Class Discussion of Film)

Homework for April 20: Continue drafting Paper 4

April 20 – What Did the Pictures Say? (Making a Film Argument)

Homework for April 22: Complete Paper 4 rough draft

April 22 – Is Everything Okay? (Paper 4 Peer Review)

Homework for April 24: Work on revisions

April 24 – What's Revision Really Mean?

Homework for April 27: Continue work on Paper 4 revisions; bring work to class for workshop day

April 27 – What Do You Have? (Workshop Day)

Assignment for Final Exam: Complete Paper 4 final draft

Final Exam (Paper 4 Final Draft Due):

Section 9 - Friday, May 1 11:30-1:20

Section 12 - Wednesday, April 29 11:30-1:20