

Missouri Western State University
Department of English, Foreign Languages, & Journalism
Division of Liberal Arts and Sciences
English 285-01 - Mochila Review
Course Syllabus- Spring 2010

Instructor: Bill Church

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Office Hours: 12:30-2:00 MW, 11:30 – 12:30 TR, and by appointment.

Class Meeting Time and Room: 11:00 - 11:50 MWF, Eder Hall 214

Required texts and materials: No text required. As part of your research project, however, you will need to invest in a minimum of three other literary journals that range from \$5 to \$10 each. Some postage expense (usually around \$5 total) may be incurred.

Students with Disabilities: Anyone who has a disability that prevents the fullest expression of her or his potential to succeed in this course must notify me in writing as soon as possible so we may discuss course requirements, options, and accommodations.

Course Description: This course is designed to engage students in applied learning toward the production of contemporary literature. One major collaborative project this semester is to finalize decisions on manuscripts for the 2010 *Mochila Review* which we will typeset, edit, and publish this spring. Before reading submissions, however, we will norm our selection criteria by analyzing strong published works from other journals and prior editions of our own.

Our second major project will be to begin the process of producing the 2010 *Canvas*, which will demand teamwork. Furthermore, we will all need to engage constantly in the necessary "housekeeping" that accompanies the tracking of submissions from and correspondences with writers. Their submissions also serve as texts for our course.

A third element will be an individual research project. Each of you is to read and analyze three undergraduate literary magazines published by other colleges and universities. You will research those publications and offer both an oral report and a formal research paper

to share your findings. Your oral presentation will serve as an early draft of your major paper.

Goals:

- * To appreciate the purpose, operation, and value of contemporary literary journals
- * To gain hands-on experience with all aspects of publishing a literary journal
- * To sharpen our aesthetic judgment of other writers' work
- * To build team skills
- * To read for craft and technique
- * To become conversant with key terms
- * To gain expertise as aspiring writers who wish to publish

Methods: Students will . . .

- * study published works to establish standards
- * read and rank submissions
- * compare *Canvas & Mochila* to their contemporaries
- * consider and prepare sample marketing and promotions strategies
- * prepare sample calls for submissions
- * prepare a sample budget

Grading: Seventy-five percent of your semester grade will be based on your fulfillment of your responsibilities as assigned in the production of the journals. This means that when I assign reading/editing selections, everyone will come prepared to discuss the works. It also means you must record all the submissions you read and rank. You need to keep records in our log book and on the evaluation sheets so I can determine how many works you read and how thoughtfully you evaluated them. If we grow lax, I may employ quizzes over assigned readings. Course success also means performing the individual editorial responsibilities you accept and working well with one another. Your regular, prompt attendance and adherence to assigned deadlines are essential components of your grade.

The remaining twenty-five percent of your grade will be awarded to your oral presentation and research paper, ten and fifteen percent each, respectively. I will provide

specific guidelines for these projects within the first two weeks of classes. Oral presentations will be scheduled for the week following spring break. Major papers will be due two weeks after the oral presentations.

Attendance: MWSU now requires the following attendance campus-wide attendance policy. In order to improve student learning and to achieve compliance with federal financial aid policies, Western has a mandatory attendance policy for all 100-level courses. 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. Furthermore, the maximum number of absences allowed before the midterm report, March 24, for this class is five (5). Thus, when you have six 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. Prompt attendance at every class meeting is expected. I will take roll at the beginning of each class. Students not present then are absent. Except in cases of documented extenuating circumstances, I will not change an "Absent" to a "Present" for late students. (Extenuating circumstances include medical emergencies, fires, auto accidents, etc. not work schedules, day care, advisement, or studying for other classes.) I grant three absences, no questions asked, before lowering a student's grade. The fourth through sixth absences, unless caused by extenuating circumstances) will result in one-half letter grade deduction from the student's final course grade. The seventh absence, *regardless of when it occurs*, will result in automatic failure of the course. **If for any reason you foresee problems attending regularly and promptly, please withdraw at once.**

Classroom behavior: Let's establish a cordial and respectful atmosphere in which we can have fun while learning together.

Academic Honesty Policy and Due Process: 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 current 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>

Final Exam: Friday, May 7, 11:30 a.m. – 1:20 p.m., Eder 214