

# English 102

Mary Angel Blount, English 102, Spring 2008

## English 102 Syllabus: Spring 2008 (MW Schedule) Argument and Research Writing

**Instructor: Mary Angel Blount**

### **Class times:**

Section (10) 5:30-6:45 TR 310 Hodges

Section (61) 5:30-6:45 MW 309 Hodges

Section (62) 4:00-5:15 MW 201 Hodges

Section (68) 4:00-5:15 TR 222 Hodges

**Office hours:** Mondays through Thursdays: 3:00-3:50 p.m. and by appointment

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**Course Description:** English 102 is an introductory course designed to prepare you for responding to a number of demands within the academic curriculum. All of you have already completed English 101 (or the equivalent) and should already possess some experience in generating ideas, stating your opinion clearly, developing and organizing cogent essays, considering audience, and controlling your writing style and mechanics. English 102 builds on these writing abilities and then expands them by emphasizing *research* and *argument* and giving even greater attention to revision and organization strategies to meet the specific needs of an audience and purpose.

### **Course Goals**

Please see *Joining Academic Conversations (JAC)* especially pages viii-xv—for an overview of the aims and practices that shape English 102 at West Virginia University.

### **Policies and Procedures**

Please see your guide (*JAC*) especially pages xv-xvii—for course policies and procedures. This section includes important information about why your regular attendance and participation are important; why late work (or lateness in general) disrupts our working environment; how a commitment to social justice promotes a positive learning environment; and why academic integrity is essential to our community.

### **Texts and Materials. Please purchase the two required texts:**

- Lunsford, Andrea. *Easy Writer*, 3rd edition. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2006.
- Undergraduate Writing Committee, ed. *Joining Academic Conversations: English 102* (2nd ed). Littleton, MA: Tapestry Press 2008.

In addition to these three required texts, you will also need to access your MIX account regularly.

### **English 102 Portfolio Approach**

Writing is an ongoing process. To keep track of your process and progress over the course of the semester, you will collect all of your written work to create two portfolios of your writing—one submitted at midterm and the other submitted at the end of the semester. The portfolio emphasizes the ongoing process of writing and revision and encourages you to reflect on your work as a writer, reader and thinker in first year composition. Choice is important to the portfolio, so you will be allowed to choose which assignments to revise for your portfolios.

On the schedule of work due, you will see several “draft” deadlines. You will get feedback from peers and your instructor on each draft to encourage you to continue to revise and polish your writing. You will also see Portfolio deadlines at Week 7 and on the date of your final exam. You will submit a portfolio of your work twice for evaluation: once at mid-semester and one at the end of the course.

At mid-semester, you will be asked to write a reflective memo about your reading and writing processes. In response to that portfolio and reflection at week 7, your instructor will provide a grade on the first two assignments in English 102 (30% of your grade). At the end of the semester, you will be asked to write a reflective preface for the research and writing completed in the second half of the class. This second portfolio, because it builds off the skills from the first half of the term and requires more extended writing, is worth 40% of your grade. It includes your Research Proposal, Annotated Bibliography, and Researched Argument.

### **Assignment Overview**

The purpose of English 102 is to help you develop your abilities as a researcher and writer of persuasive texts in academic and non-academic contexts. You’ll learn about the research process, argument, and critical inquiry.

You will write (and rewrite) four major projects: **Editorial Analysis**, **Research Proposal**, **Annotated Bibliography**, and **Final Research Project** (6+ pages). Expect to write and revise about 20+ pages over the course of the semester, in addition to other informal writing both in and out of class. Please see *JAC* especially pages xv-xvi—for more information. I will also give you detailed assignment sheets as we begin each of the formal assignments.

#### Portfolio 1: Critical Analysis (30%)

- Editorial Analysis (4-5+ pages). Select an editorial on a controversial issue that interests you. Identify the major parts of the argument—claim, support, warrant—as they have been defined in the pages that discuss Toulmin-style arguments. Evaluate whether the author makes a successful or unsuccessful argument. Find at least one other source to support your claims. Methods of evidence: periodical sources.
- Informal Writing (4+ pages): Informal writing includes reading responses, short analyses or other brief assignments that let you try out genres and style, think through responses to

readings, and prepare for discussions or longer assignments. The writing is typically no more than 2 pages in length and maybe assigned either as class work or as a brief entry to be done at home. Choose 2 of your most well-written and interesting homework or classwork assignments and revise for the portfolio.

- Reflective Writing (1-2 pages). English 102 will encourage you to reflect periodically on your learning and discovery processes as a reader and writer. Your mid-semester assignment will be to compose a 1-2 page memo about your work so far in the class.

### Portfolio 2: Critical Analysis(40%)

Choose either your Research Proposal or your Annotated Bib.

- Research Proposal (3+ pages). Create a research-driven question, immerse yourself in resources that explore that question, and develop a plan of action for your work. The proposal helps you to articulate the direction and purpose for your research. Methods of evidence: major databases, visits to the term paper clinic or reference library, interviews.

OR

Annotated Bibliography (5+ pages): The Annotated Bib is an important step in creating your final paper, the culmination of your work in English 102. It is an alphabetical list of citations to books, articles, interviews and other texts. The annotation which follows each citation, is a brief summary & evaluation of a source that helps identify the content, quality and relevance of the source cited. Methods of evidence: major databases such as MountainLynx, EBSCOhost, Lexis-Nexis.

- Researched Argument (6+ pages): This is the culmination of the work begun with your research proposal and extended in the Annotated Bib. Your research allows you to have authority on a topic so that you can present a clear, well-supported argument. The challenge in this paper is to coordinate several sources with your own arguments to develop in an original essay you will present to a diverse audience. Methods of evidence: major databases such as MountainLynx, EBSCOhost, Lexis-Nexis.
- Reflective Writing (2 pages). Your end-of-semester reflection will introduce your final portfolio. It is a chance for you to reflect on your work as a writer to provide context for an evaluation of the portfolio. In other words, the reflective introduction is the argument for what you've learned and achieved as a writer and reader in English 102 while the portfolio is the evidence of that argument.

Oral Presentation (10%). You are required to make an oral presentation to the class. You will present an overview of the findings of your Researched Argument. In this you should NOT read to the class, but present your ideas clearly and thoughtfully. The Oral Presentation will come during week 12. It is worth 10% of your grade.

Participation & Informal Writing (20%) Participation is assessed not only on attendance and quality of your classwork and homework, but also on your good citizenship, your investment in class activities and discussion, and your ability to respect and work well with others. You are

welcome to talk to me if you have questions about your progress in class. Final Grade Distribution

**Type of essay/ assignment Value Due Date (MW) Due Date (TR)** Editorial Analysis Monday, 2/11 Thursday, 2/7

Portfolio #1 due at Midterm 30% Monday, 2/25 Thursday, 2/21

Research Proposal Monday, 3/10 Thursday, 3/6

Annotated Bibliography Monday, 3/31 Thursday, 3/20

Researched Argument Wednesday, 4/16 Thursday, 4/17

Portfolio #2 due at end of class 40% Wednesday, 4/30 Thursday, 5/1

Short writing assignments, homework & class participation:

20% Various

Oral Presentation 10% Week 12 Week 12

### **Evaluation Criteria and Grade Descriptions**

Please see pages xvii-xix of *JAC* for the criteria for participation, informal writing, and polished and revised writing grades.

Success in this course depends on completing all formal assignments, the quality of your written and verbal work, and your willingness to try new perspectives. Your participation grade is dependent upon attentive and constructive commentary during class, the quality and consistency of various informal assignments, active participation in group work, and being prepared for class and conferences. All of the course components are designed to contribute to your final grade in the class.

The WVU Writing Center has a new location this semester. It is located at G02 Colson, and you can make an appointment at the Writing Center via phone (293-5788) or website: [http://english.wvu.edu/centers\\_and\\_projects/wcenter](http://english.wvu.edu/centers_and_projects/wcenter). Its hours are Monday –Thursday 10:00-5:00 and Friday 10:00-3:00. There are also other resources available to you throughout the semester (see inside cover of *JAC*). I encourage every English 102 student to use these resources to support various aspects of the writing process.

### **SCHEDULE OF WORK DUE** (subject to slight changes announced in class) Topics for Class, Work Due Wk. 1

M 1/14 Intro to course + Syllabus. What is rhetoric? What is research? Assign letter of expectations. Purchase books.

W 1/16 Types of statements argued in English 102. OREO, Fact, Opinion Belief; Show & Tell *JAC* intro + 1-6; Activate your MIX account Due today: letter of expectations

Wk. 2

M 1/21 MLK Day, No Class.

W 1/23 Review political cartoons; Editorial Analysis prompt p. 215 JAC. Bring in a political cartoon from the Daily Athenaeum, Dominion Post, or elsewhere & a 1-¶ description of context & cartoonist's main point\*

Wk. 3

M 1/28 Review editorials. Parts of the Argument. Make an outline of your editorial per classical rhetoric; Toulmin Warrants & Claims, JAC p. 49 Bring in an editorial from the Daily Athenaeum, Dominion Post, or elsewhere. Toulmin arguments: JAC pp. 37-50.

W 1/30 Make an outline of your editorial per Toulmin model.

Wk. 4

M 2/4 Workshop your Intro + outline. Organizing material. Use your prompt to outline your essay. Citing your source. Using footnotes. Intro + outline. "Rogerian arguments" JAC pp. 51-56

W 2/6 Peer Crit for Editorial Analysis. Peer Crit Sheet. Bring in draft of Editorial Analysis + 2 copies; "Responding" JAC pp. 29-34

Wk. 5

M 2/11 Postwrite.. Possible topics for your Researched Argument. Editorial Analysis due

HW: Discovery Draft.

W 2/13 Go around room & hear reports from Discovery Drafts. Guided Proposal Workshop, JAC p. 16. Revision. "Lincoln's Revision" Worksheet JAC p. 27. Write a revision plan for your PF. Discovery Draft, a 5- page handwritten or 3-page typed discovery draft exploring possible topics for your RA.

Wk. 6

M 2/18 [Get a lab for JAC p. 123 "CQ Researcher Worksheet]. Writing precisely. Apple exercise. Discuss Rogerian argument. Activity for Writers: Choosing & Narrowing your Topic, JAC p. 11 Rogerian argument JAC pp. 51-56.

W 2/20 Introduce Research Proposal. Activity for Reseachers: Generating a Research Topic/Focus, JAC p.109 "Revising" JAC pp. 25-26; EZ pp. 2-10 "Find It. Fix It."; JAC pp. 107-127 "Integrating Research Effectively"

Wk. 7

M 2/25 Library Day— Portfolio #1 due.

W 2/27 Formulating your TS for your Research Proposal; Subjective & Objective Research Questions, JAC p. 111. How to Outline your Researched Argument. EZ pp. v-vi “How to use this book”

Wk. 8

M 3/3 Conferences

W 3/5 Peer Crit. Bring in a draft of your RP + 2 copies of it.

Wk. 9

M 3/10 Postwrite.. Introduce Annotated Bibliography. AB prompt in JAC p. 223-224. Walter Annenberg Research Proposal due.

W 3/12 Considering Multiple Perspectives, JAC p. 75; MLA Worksheet JAC pp. 67-93 “Reading Critically & Taking Research Notes”; EZ ch. 39 “Evaluating Sources”

Wk. 10

M 3/17 Evaluating Sources. Partnered Ways of Seeing, JAC p. 77 JAC pp. 129-153 “Learn Info Cycle (etc.)”

W 3/19 Peer Crit. Draft of your AB + 2 copies of it.

Spring Break Friday, March 21-Sunday, March 30

Wk. 11

M 3/31 Postwrite.. Logical Fallacies Worksheet JAC pp. 57-58. I assign one per group. Annotated Bibliography due.

W 4/2 Logical Fallacies presentations; Summary, Quotation & Paraphrase JAC pp. 99-104; Evaluating Sources, JAC p. 165; Oral presentation signup sheet JAC pp. 154-179 “Finding Books & Evaluating Sources”

Wk. 12

M 4/7 Oral Presentations “Incorporating Sources into Your Writing,” JAC pp. 97-104

W 4/9 Oral Presentations EZ ch. 6 “Making OPs”

Wk. 13

M 4/14 Peer Crit. Bring in a draft of your RA + 2 copies.

W 4/16 Postwrite.. Turn in RA + drafts + highlighted, annotated copies of your research articles; Conference Signup Sheet Researched Argument due.

Wk. 14

M 4/21 Optional Conferences

W 4/23 Optional Conferences

Wk. 15

M 4/28 Peer crit for Reflective Essay Draft of your reflective essay + 2 copies.

W 4/30 Read around: 3 minutes from each writer; Course Evaluations Final Portfolio due. Final Exam Week (May 5-9): I will be in my office from 12:00-2:00 on May 6-8 in order to return your final portfolios to you.

- indicates you can use this home/classwork assignment for your Midterm Portfolio.