

# English 102-016: Composition and Rhetoric II

Fall 2008

MWF 11:30am-12:20pm @ 407 ARM

**Instructor:** Mrs. Stephanie King

**Office:** 319 Colson Hall

**Office Hours:** MWF 10:30am-11:30am

M 1:30pm-2:30pm or by appointment

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## **Course Description:**

English 102 will follow up on the basic writing abilities developed earlier in your writing career. Since you have completed English 101 or its equivalent, you should be able to generate ideas, state your opinion clearly, develop and organize convincing essays, understand your audience and control your writing style and mechanics. In this course, you can expect to use these aspects of writing and expand them with research and argumentation. This course will provide you opportunities to write:

- ♣ as a way to explore, understand and evaluate ideas;
- ♣ as a way to analyze and resolve questions or problems;
- ♣ as a way to argue effectively and persuasively in a variety of contexts.

At the end of this course, you should understand writing as a process; argue effectively and persuasively in a variety of contexts; explore and evaluate ideas; integrate research effectively; know the rules of genre conventions, editing and source documentation. You should also be able to:

- ♣ Find and assess information
- ♣ Think critically and creatively
- ♣ Choose and distinguish between reliable and unreliable sources
- ♣ Organize and develop an argument
- ♣ Revise, edit, and proofread your own and others' work
- ♣ Work collaboratively
- ♣ Understand the logic of documentation systems to give credit to the work and ideas of others

## **Prerequisites:**

Before taking English 102, you must have successfully completed English 101 and you normally should have sophomore standing or above.

## **Required Texts and Materials:**

- ♣ Undergraduate Writing Committee., ed. *Joining Academic Conversations: English 102* (1<sup>st</sup> ed.). Littleton, MA: Tapestry Press, 2006.
- ♣ Lundsford, Andrea A. *The Everyday Writer*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Bedford: Boston, 2005.
- ♣ Access to a computer and MIX e-mail program. All correspondence from me will come through your MIX e-mail account, so check it regularly!
- ♣ Two folders with pockets for your portfolios.
- ♣ A notebook to take notes and jot down ideas.
- ♣ a floppy disk/USB memory key/Etc. You are 100% responsible for backing up your work. Make sure that you save more than one copy – and on more than one device.
- ♣ Access to a working printer at all times! If your printer is running low on ink or paper, plan to arrive on campus ten or fifteen minutes early to print your work at a computer lab.

## **A Bit About this Course, What to Expect, and Portfolios:**

Writing is serious work, but that doesn't mean it can't be fun. Throughout this semester, you will compose a number of essays related to a pop-culture genre of your choosing. Whether you are comfortable admitting it or not, there is something today that has affected you (or that you are affecting), be it music, reality TV, movies, art, fashion, etc. You will choose one of these aspects of your life to explore, evaluate, investigate, and argue. You will do all of this in a series of assignments both in class and at home. Some of the writing will be compiled in two portfolios.

Portfolios allow you to track your own progress in the class and find connections between the assignments. As you have no doubt heard – writing is a process. Keeping a portfolio gives you the chance to see the process before you and understand how everything connects. This does not mean that you can slack. Every assignment included in the portfolio will have an “original” due date, or “draft” date. These are important deadlines and are not to be taken lightly. You will be responsible for including these “original” drafts (with my comments) in the portfolio along with the polished revisions.

In this course, you can receive a total of 1000 points. The following list shows how the points are divided so you can keep track of your earned points throughout the semester.

## **Grading:**

*Portfolio One: Analyzing and Investigating* (300 points total or 30%)

- ♣ Personal Critique or “Discovering Criteria” Essay (2+ pages): You will write a two page essay as part of an in-class assignment that will help you learn what criteria are and how to use them when developing an argument.
- ♣ Analyzing the Past Essay (4+ pages): In this essay, you will implement some basic research techniques to investigate a trend in your pop-culture genre's history as of ten years ago. You will be trying to discover the causes for that trend's popularity.

- ♣ Understanding the Present Essay (4+ pages): In this essay, you will utilize the research skills learned in the “Past Essay” in order to investigate a current problem that exists in your genre. You will discuss a problem in detail and argue a solution.
- ♣ Mid-Term Reflection (1-2 pages): Part of this course is to reflect on your own learning and discovery process. You should compose a memo about your work so far in the course.

*Portfolio Two: Argument and Research (400 points total or 40%)*

- ♣ Research Proposal (3+ pages): You will write a formal proposal that will clearly outline your topic, methodology and goals. The proposal will help you schedule and prepare for the research paper.
- ♣ Annotated Bibliography (4+ pages): An annotated bibliography is very similar to a works cited page. The difference is that you will provide a short note after each entry to explain why the source is or may be relevant to your paper.
- ♣ Counterargument Exercise (2+ pages): In this short activity, you will play devil’s advocate and create a short argument that goes against the argument of your research paper. This is to give you some experience in creating a counterargument. A small portion of this paper may be adapted for the counterargument portion of your research assignment.
- ♣ Argumentative Researched Essay (6-10 pages): This is the big one! Everything you have done this semester has been geared toward this assignment. You will use all of the things you have learned to explain what trend you think will be popular in your genre in the future. Make a clear and precise argument and back everything up.
- ♣ End of Term Reflection (2-3 pages): Just as in the first portfolio, I would like to see you describe your process and how far you feel you’ve come since the beginning of the semester. This piece should be the preface for your portfolio and really set the mood.

*Homework, Informal Writing, Presentations and Quizzes (200 points or 20% total)*

- ♣ Throughout the course of the semester you will complete a number of informal writing assignments, homework assignments and quizzes. The quizzes will be unannounced and will gauge your understanding of the reading assignments and/or handouts.

*Participation (100 points or 10% total)*

- ♣ As writers, we must learn to receive feedback from our colleagues. This gives the work other eyes and ears, and helps us learn to self-diagnose problems. As a member of this class it is imperative that you give constructive comments to your peers. The group-work in this class is not optional. You are also required to participate in class discussion. I want to talk with you, not lecture at you. All of this said; please don’t impose your wishes and style onto another person’s work. Instead, propose ideas and suggestions freely. As writers, be open to these suggestions, but write what you want.
- ♣ There is a debate element to this course. In order to understand arguments and uncover fresh ways to counter other’s arguments, we will be debating once a week starting at the end of August. There are a total of ten debates. Participation in these debates is just as important as participating in regular classroom discussion.

- ♣ Conference attendance will count toward your participation grade. If you sign up for a conference and fail to attend, you will receive a deduction of 20 points from your participation grade.

### **Attendance:**

You are permitted to miss three days in this course. The fourth and fifth absences will each reduce your course grade by one letter. A sixth absence will result in a grade of “F” for the course. This is not negotiable.

If you are more than 10 minutes late to class, you will be marked “Tardy.” A total of three tardies will result in one absence.

### **Some Important Rules:**

The following rules are very important and are not negotiable.

- ♣ All assignments must be handed in on time! For each day (not class) an assignment is late, the grade of that assignment will be reduced by ten points. Late portfolios will be reduced by twenty points for each day they are late.
- ♣ I will not accept late rough drafts. They may be attached to the final paper for partial credit, but I will not provide comments. Rough Drafts must be turned in at the beginning of class the day that they are due. Do not ask to leave class to retrieve your draft, do not leave it in your printer, and do not ask to turn it in to my mailbox or via email.
- ♣ As you will learn, very early in this course, writing is a process. Part of that process is pre-writing, rough drafts, peer reviews, etc. It is vital that all of these steps are followed as listed on the syllabus and announced in class. All pre-writing and rough drafts must be attached to the final copy. Points will be subtracted from the portfolio grade for missing pieces, inappropriate length, inappropriate format and failure to participate in peer-reviews.
- ♣ Always TURN YOUR CELL PHONE OFF before class starts.
- ♣ Plagiarism is completely unacceptable. You will receive handouts on plagiarism during the first week of classes. Plagiarism has serious consequences and will be reported to the dean immediately.

### **A Note:**

Considering I am, first and foremost, a writer, I take writing very seriously. It is as serious an academic endeavor as any other studied in higher education. It is also one of the most intensely enjoyable aspects of being alive. I hope this course will help give you a broader understanding and appreciation of the art of writing and will give you creative directions to grow in. Please feel free to visit me during my office hours, or by appointment. I am always willing to help however I am able. Don't forget that the writing center is also a valuable resource when you are working on your assignments.

# English 102 – Class Schedule

Note: The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as deemed necessary and will communicate such amendment to the students in the course.

## Week 1

### Monday, 08/18

- ♣ Introductions
- ♣ Syllabus
- ♣ What is Pop-Culture
- ♣ Quick-Write – Class Expectations

**Assignment:** Purchase Books!

### Wednesday, 08/20

- ♣ Getting into a comfort zone
- ♣ Quick-Write – Writing Profile
- ♣ Genres Discussion

**Assignment:** Read *Joining Academic Conversations* (JAC) introduction to the course (ix—xviii) and complete the Activity about Plagiarism on page 152.

### Friday, 08/22

- ♣ Plagiarism discussion

**Assignment:** Choose your genre for the semester! Take some time to really think about your decision as you will be using this topic throughout the entire semester. Remember: If you write about something that interests you, your writing will be interesting to others.

Read first half of JAC goal one (1-13)

## Week 2

### Monday, 08/25

- ♣ What Genre did you choose? Why?
- ♣ Criteria -- How are criteria relevant to argument? Research?
- ♣ Video
- ♣ Begin Discovering Criteria paper

**Assignment:** Put some finishing touches on your short “Discovering Criteria” paper and bring a typed copy to class on Wednesday. Be prepared to discuss your writing with the class.

**Wednesday, 08/27**                      **Discovering Criteria Essay Due**

- ♣ Discuss Assignment
- ♣ What are thesis statements?
- ♣ Introduce “Analyzing the Past” Essay
- ♣ Informative vs. Comparative

**Assignment:** Read second half of JAC goal one (14-28); Read *Easy Writer* (EW) 38e (173-174)

**Friday, 08/29**                              **DEBATE 1**

- ♣ Schedule Conferences
- ♣ Discuss Reading Assignment
- ♣ Basic Internet Searching
- ♣ Keep it simple!
- ♣ Quick-Write – Informing

**Assignment:** Find an example of your genre from ten years ago. Be prepared to discuss and answer questions about it during our next class meeting. (ie. if your topic is “Clothing Fashions,” you might bring in a picture of a popular clothing trend from ten years ago or come dressed in that trend and discuss it. How did it become popular?)

Read EW (12-20) and JAC (46-47)

Week 3
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**Monday, 09/01**                              **NO CLASS – Labor Day**

**Wednesday, 09/03**                        **Scheduled Conferences**

We will not meet for class today. Instead, I will meet with you at the time you requested last week, in the location listed on the sign-up sheet. Please be prepared to discuss your sources. Also, be able to provide a quick description of your genre as of ten years ago. Keep in mind, your task right now is not to compare and contrast the past with the present, but to search for reasons that the trend you are researching was popular in 1998.

**Friday, 09/05**                              **DEBATE 2**

- ♣ Making Observations
- ♣ Observation Activity
- ♣ Introduce Quick presentations

**Assignment:** Read JAC Goal 2 Part 1 (29-39) and EW (22-34; skim MLA section/orange pages and come prepared to ask questions about aspects of MLA documentation that you don’t understand.)

## Week 4

**Monday, 09/08**

### **Scheduled Conferences**

We will not meet for class today. Instead, I will meet with you at the time you requested last week, in the location listed on the sign-up sheet. Please be prepared to discuss your sources. Also, be able to provide a quick description of your genre as of ten years ago. Keep in mind, your task right now is not to compare and contrast the past with the present, but to search for reasons that the trend you are researching was popular in 1998.

**Wednesday, 09/10**

- ♣ MLA Rules
- ♣ What is an argument?
- ♣ Toulmin Elements
- ♣ Quick-Write – Making a Claim

**Assignment:** Read JAC (44-45)

Don't forget to bring two copies of your rough draft to class on Friday!

**Friday, 09/12**

### ***Analyzing the Past Rough Draft Due!!! (2 copies)***

- ♣ Peer Review
- ♣ Introduce "Understanding the Present" Essay
- ♣ What are Logical Fallacies?
- ♣ Class Activity – Fallacies

**Assignment:** Read JAC (155-158; 161)

## Week 5

**Monday, 09/15**

- ♣ MLA Olympics
- ♣ Quick Presentations

**Assignment:** Complete the MLA documentation handout and create a works cited page for the included sources. Bring it to class on Wednesday!

Read JAC (62-68; 79-87)

**Wednesday, 09/17**

- ♣ Quick Presentations

- ♣ Activity – Taking Notes
- ♣ Outline Creation
- ♣ Schedule Conferences

**Assignment:** Create an outline for your “present” paper. We will discuss the outline in our conference. Please also bring two of your sources and some of your notes.

**Friday, 09/19**                      **DEBATE 3**

- ♣ What’s the problem?
- ♣ Argument Handout

**Assignment:** Read handout on Argument and be prepared to discuss it in class. Don’t forget about your conference next week. Also, don’t forget to bring your outline and notes!

Work on your rough draft for Friday. Make sure that you have all of your sources properly documented. Bring two copies of your paper to class.

Week 6

**Monday, 09/22**                      **Scheduled Conferences**

- ♣ We will not meet as a class today. Instead, we will meet at the time you requested last week. Please bring your outline with you!

**Wednesday, 09/24**                      **Scheduled Conferences**

- ♣ We will not meet as a class today. Instead, we will meet at the time you requested last week. Please bring your outline with you!

**Friday, 09/26**                      *Understanding the Present Rough Draft Due (2 copies)/*  
**DEBATE 4 (quick-debate)**

- ♣ Introduce Midterm Reflection
- ♣ Discuss Memo Writing
- ♣ Peer Review

**Assignment:** Over the weekend, think about your problem and solutions. Be prepared to discuss them in class on Monday. This will count as a presentation.

Week 7

**Monday, 09/29**

- ♣ Present-Day Pop Culture presentation activities



**Assignment:** Work on your portfolio.

**Wednesday, 10/01**                      **Portfolio Work Day**

- ♣ We will not meet in the classroom today. Please use this time to put the finishing touches on your revisions and to compile your Midterm Portfolio. Remember – you will not get to revise this portfolio any further once it's turned in. So, please make sure that you take your time and carefully read over the advice that your peers and instructor has offered to you.

**Assignment:** Finish your portfolio

**Friday, 10/03**                      **Midterm – Analyzing and Investigating Portfolio Due!!!**  
(portfolios will be returned Monday, 10/13)  
**DEBATE 5**

- ♣ Turn in Portfolio!
- ♣ Midterm discussion and suggestion session

**Assignment:** Relax tonight! You've worked hard up to this point and deserve a little break! But be prepared to start working on the second portfolio on Monday!

Week 8

**Monday, 10/06**

- ♣ Introduce Argumentative Researched Essay
- ♣ Preparing for Research Topics
- ♣ Introduce Research Proposal

**Assignment:** Read JAC (89-96; complete the activities on pages 97 and 98)

**Wednesday, 10/08**

- ♣ Discuss Reading and Activity
- ♣ Quick-Write – Narrowing it Down

**Assignment:** Read JAC (99-114)

**Friday, 10/10**                      **DEBATE 6**

- ♣ Discuss Reading and Activity
- ♣ Finding Sources
- ♣ What's the argument? Where is your genre headed in ten years?

**Assignment:** Read JAC (107-136). Work on your proposals. Bring one copy to class on Monday.

Week 9

**Monday, 10/13**                      *Research Proposal Due!*

- ♣ Pass back Midterm Portfolios
- ♣ Discuss Reading
- ♣ Introduce Annotated Bibliography
- ♣ Discuss Annotations
- ♣ Library Handout

**Assignment:** Complete the activity on the handout given to you in class. Bring it to class on Wednesday and be prepared to discuss it.

**Wednesday, 10/15**                      **DEBATE 7**

- ♣ Discuss Handout
- ♣ Library Research vs. Online Research

**Assignment:** Read JAC 137 and complete the activity on pages 138-139. Also, read JAC 140-141 and complete the activity on page 142.

**Friday, 10/17**                      **Library Day**

- ♣ We will meet in the classroom to take attendance today and to complete a short activity then we will head to the library in order to complete some extra research for the annotated bibliography. This is not a day off.

**Assignment:** Work on your annotated bibliographies, bring one copy to class on Monday and be prepared to discuss your sources and why some of them were relevant and important to your topic.

Week 10
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**Monday, 10/20**                      *Annotated Bibliography Due!*

- ♣ Turn in Annotated Bibliography
- ♣ Counterargument
- ♣ Devil's Advocate Activity/ Discussion/ Counterargument Paper Group

**Assignment:** Read handout on Counterargument.

**Wednesday, 10/22**

- ♣ Discuss handout.
- ♣ Sewage Treatment Example

**Assignment:** Write about a paragraph that responds to the demonstration given in class today. How do you feel about the method? Is it a valid means of purifying water? Have we as a society finally crossed a boundary? or not?

**Friday, 10/24**

- ♠ Concessions
- ♠ Developing a counterargument
- ♠ Devil's Advocate Activity/ Discussion/ Counterargument Paper Group

**Assignment:** Read the handout on Rebuttals.

Week 11

**Monday, 10/27**

- ♠ Discuss Rebuttals
- ♠ Quick-Write – Reversed!

**Assignment:** Work on your Research Paper – the first draft is due soon!

**Wednesday, 10/29**

**DEBATE 8**

- ♣ Debate
- ♣ Group Activity

**Assignment:** Work on your Research Essay Rough Draft. Bring four copies to class on Friday.

**Friday, 10/31**

***First Research Essay Rough Draft Due!!! (Four Copies)***

- ♠ Peer Review

**Assignment:** Work on your Counterargument Exercise Paper. Bring two copies to class on Monday.

Week 12

**Monday, 11/03** ***Counterargument Exercise Paper Rough Draft Due!!! (Two Copies)***

- ♠ Peer Review – Looking for Fallacies
- ♠ Introduce Final Presentation

**Assignment:** Begin creating your presentation. Remember, creativity is very important in this presentation – so start early and think up a great idea for your visual aid!

**Wednesday, 11/05**

**DEBATE 9**

- ♠ Discuss Revising Structure
- ♠ Discuss Revising and Editing
- ♠ Schedule Conferences

**Assignment:** Work on your Research Essay and bring two copies to class on Wednesday.

**Friday, 11/07**                      **Scheduled Conferences**

We will not meet in the classroom today. Instead, we will meet individually at the time you requested.

Week 13

**Monday, 11/10**                      **Scheduled Conferences**

We will not meet in the classroom today. Instead, we will meet individually at the time you requested last week.

**Wednesday, 11/12**                      ***Second Research Essay Rough Draft Due!!! (Two Copies)***  
**DEBATE 10 (Quick Debate)**

- ♠ Peer Review
- ♠ Introduce End of Term Reflection
- ♠ Quick-Write – End of Term Evaluations
- ♠ Schedule Conferences

**Assignment:** Work on your final presentation!

**Friday, 11/14**

- ♠ Final Presentations

**Assignment:** Work on your final portfolio!

Week 14

**Monday, 11/17**

- ♠ Final Presentations

**Assignment:** Work on your final portfolio!

**Wednesday, 11/19**

- ♠ Final Presentations

**Assignment:** Work on your final portfolio!

**Friday, 11/21**

- ♠ Final Presentations

**Assignment:** Work on your final portfolio!

Week 15

**Monday, 11/24**                      **NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Recess**

**Wednesday, 11/26**                      **NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Recess**

**Friday, 11/28**                      **NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Recess**

Week 16

**Monday, 12/01**

- ♣ Party Day! --- This is not a day off. We will meet in class and complete a short activity, but there will be food and soda.
- ♣ Finish Final Presentations

**Assignment:** Work on your final portfolio!

**Wednesday, 12/03**                      **Portfolio Work Day**

- ♣ We will not meet in the classroom today. Please use this time to put the finishing touches on your revisions and to compile your Final Portfolio. Remember – you will not get to revise this portfolio any further once it's turned in. So, please make sure that you take your time and carefully read over the advice that your peers and instructor has offered to you.

**Assignment:** Finish your portfolio

**Friday, 12/05**                      ***End of Term – Argument and Research Portfolio Due!!!***

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Final Portfolios will be returned on Wednesday, 12/10. You may come to my office between 2pm and 3pm to retrieve your folder. If you cannot make it at that time, we can make other arrangements