

Fall 2010/Spring 2011

Instructor: Allison H. Hitt

Course: English 102 Section 047

Class Times: MWF 9:30-10:20

Class Locations: Armstrong 415; Colson G06

Instructor e-mail: ahitt2@mix.wvu.edu

Dept Phone: 304-293-3107 (messages only)

Office Location: Colson Hall 332

Office Hours: MW 10:30-11:30AM

English 102: Composition and Rhetoric II

Overview. Effective writing skills are essential to success in *every* field of study and work. You have already completed English 101 and should already possess experience in generating ideas, stating opinions clearly, developing and organizing essays, thinking about your audience, and controlling your writing style and mechanics. English 102 builds on these abilities by emphasizing *research and argument* and giving more focus to *revision and organization strategies*.

Course Goals. *Joining Academic Conversations*, our primary textbook, is designed to meet five important goals. The assignments and activities completed in English 102 will help you:

- 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.

Course Policies & Procedures. Please read the inside front cover and preface to *Joining Academic Conversations*, which thoroughly addresses course policies, procedures, and additional resources.

Attendance. Everyone is allowed three absences. Fourth and fifth absences each lower your grade by one letter, and six or more absences result in a failing grade. Being 10 minutes late three times also equals an absence. If you are sick, have a severe injury, or critical personal problem, take care of yourself and please notify me *within 24 hours* of the missed class. To make up for an absence, work assigned must be received within one week of your return to class.

Late Work. If there is a problem with an assignment, talk to me *before* the deadline. Otherwise, late work is not accepted. If you know you will be absent, you can email me an assignment before class.

Cell Phones. If asked more than once to stop texting, you will be asked to leave class and counted absent. If you're expecting a call, let me know *before* class.

Computer Lab. In the lab, you are allowed five minutes at the beginning of class for web browsing. After that, if asked more than once to stop browsing, you will be asked to leave and counted absent. We will also follow the lab guidelines posted within the classroom (no food or drinks).

Accommodations. If you have a learning disability or any issue that may impact your performance in this class, please contact both Disability Services and me *at the start* of the semester.

West Virginia University Office of Disability Services

G-30 Mountainlair

Phone: (304) 293-6700 Voice/TDD: (304) 293-7740 Email: access2@mail.wvu.edu

Social Justice. I am committed to social justice and a positive learning environment based upon open communication and mutual respect. Discrimination of any kind is not tolerated.

Texts and Materials.

Dadisman, Jo Ann, ed. *Joining Academic Conversations: English 102* (4th ed.). Plymouth, MI: Hayden McNeil Publishing, 2011.

Lunsford, Andrea A. *Easy Writer*, 4th Ed. Bedford: Boston, 2010.

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Lunsford, Ruszkiewicz, and Walters. *Everything's an Argument with readings*. (5th ed.) Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2010.

In addition, you will need to access your MIX account and class eCampus page regularly.

*A soft-cover binder or portfolio folder is necessary when submitting major essays and portfolios.

English 102's Portfolio Approach. Writing is an ongoing process that we will track with two portfolios of writing—one submitted at midterm (week 8) and the other at the semester's end (week 16). The portfolio emphasizes writing and revision and encourages you to reflect on your work as a writer, reader, and thinker. Here is an assignment overview:

Midterm Portfolio

- News Analysis (3-4 pages). Write an essay debating the news value versus entertainment value of contemporary news journalism, commenting on the selection of news stories, potential biases, and quality of presentation. You will need to watch and take notes on a news program.
- Editorial Analysis (4-5 pages). Select an editorial or in-depth news column on a controversial issue that interests you. Identify the major parts of the argument—claim, support, warrant—as defined in the Toulmin-style arguments section in *JAC*. Evaluate whether the author makes a successful or unsuccessful argument. Find at least two other sources to support your claims.
- Reflective Writing (1-2 pages). Compose a 1–2 page memo about your work so far in the class.

Final Portfolio (70%)

- Revised and polished News Analysis and Editorial Analysis.
- Research proposal (2 pages). For the Research Proposal, you will introduce your topic, define a research-driven question, establish an organizational plan, and list the sources you have found.
- Annotated bibliography (3+ pages). An Annotated Bibliography is a list of citations to resources that are relevant to your final paper. Annotations follow citations and provide a brief summary and evaluation of the source that identifies the content, quality, and relevance of the source.
- Argumentative essay (5+ pages). Your research allows you to have authority on a topic so that you can present a cogent, well-supported argument. You will coordinate several sources with your own arguments to develop an original essay you will present to a diverse audience.
- Reflective Writing (3 pages). Your end-of-semester reflection will introduce your final portfolio. This is a chance to reflect on your work as a writer to provide context for a reading and evaluation of the portfolio. The reflective introduction is the argument for what you've achieved as a writer and reader in English 102, and the portfolio acts as the evidence.

Informal Writing (20%). This includes short writes, homework, and eCampus postings. ALL SWs WILL BE POSTED TO eCAMPUS and graded from 0-5; homework is graded by the check system.

Participation (10%). Participation is assessed by attendance, attitude, involvement in class activities and discussion, and your ability to respect and work well with your peers. It is *necessary* that you come to class prepared and actively participate.

English 102 Evaluation Criteria and Grade Descriptions. Success in this class depends on the quality of your written work, your willingness to try new perspectives, to revise and rethink, and to take risks. Your final grade will be based on the following percentages:

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| ▪ Portfolio Writing: revised, written work from 5 major assignments | 70% |
| ▪ Short Writing Assignments and Homework | 20% |
| ▪ Participation | 10% |