

English 101-21
University of Wisconsin, SP, Spring 2021

Professor: G. Christopher Williams

Office: CCC 423

Office Hours: Via Zoom appointment (email me to schedule a time)

Office Phone: 346-2769

E-mail: cwilliam@uwsp.edu

Class Time: 5:00-6:15PM TR

Classroom: Debot 053-055

Catalogue Description: Critical reading, logical thinking, and effective writing. Write frequently in and out of class, using specific rhetorical strategies for a variety of purposes and audiences.

Course Goals and Objectives:

The *primary goal* of this course is to learn how to write college-level essays. This goal will be met through readings and writings that allow us to critique examples of argumentative writing and to practice and master argumentation skills.

A *secondary goal* of the course is to develop critical reading skills. This goal will be accomplished through the reading and discussion of essays from the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.

Textbooks:

The primary textbook for this course will be Robert K. Miller, *The Informed Argument: A Multidisciplinary Reader and Guide*, 5th ed. Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace, 1998.

Additionally, you should be familiar with these two URLs for additional readings:

<http://www.salon.com>

<http://www.popmatters.com>



Grading Formula:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-------------|
| Evaluative Paper | | 100 pts. |
| Analysis of an advertisement | | 100 pts. |
| Argument paper | | 100 pts. |
| An Argumentative Research essay | | 400 pts. |
| Thesis proposal | 25 | |
| Bibliography (MLA format required) | 100 | |
| Rough Draft | 50 | |
| Final draft with Works Cited page | 200 | |
| Oral report | 25 | |
| In class writing | | 50-100 pts. |
| Attendance points | | 50 pts. |

Grading Scale:

93-100% = A

90-92%=A-

87-89% = B+

83-86% = B
80-82% = B-
77-79% = C+
73-76% = C
70-72% = C-
67-69% = D+
63-66% = D
60-62% = D-
59% and below = F

Description of Assignments:

(NOTE: All papers will have an element of revision necessary to complete the assignment. These portions of the assignment will be announced. Final papers should be turned in with all earlier drafts of the paper. Final drafts alone will not be accepted, nor will two identical papers turned in as a “rough” and “final” draft.)

1. *Evaluation.* Keeping in mind our discussions of logic, authority, and persuasiveness, write a **two to three** page paper evaluating the effectiveness of an essay. Your argument should not focus dominantly on the subject matter of the essay but on the rhetoric utilized by the author.
2. *Analysis of an Advertisement.* Cut out or print out an advertisement in a current magazine, newspaper or from a website. Write a **two to three** page analysis of this advertisement, looking at some of the rhetorical techniques used to appeal to the audience in order to assess the effectiveness of the ad.
3. *Argument.* Choose two videos. Watch both and write a **three to five** page paper in which you compare or contrast a particular rhetorical approach used by each one. Quote the speaker in the video, discuss body language, tone, or whatever else provides evidence for your claims about how they affect their audience. You should come to your own informed conclusion about what the relevance of comparing and/or contrasting these arguments is, and you should support that conclusion with your own arguments.
4. *Cultural Studies essay.* This is the most important assignment in the course, and must be written in the assigned sequence. You cannot receive a grade on a later stage until you have submitted all of the work previously assigned.

To write this paper you need to do the following:

- A. **Review** and **take notes** on your primary source(s). That source(s) will be some piece of media (a television show, a movie, a song, a video game, a group of advertisements, etc.).
- B. Formulate a **working thesis** to guide your writing. **The thesis must have an argumentative edge.**
- C. Develop a **thesis proposal** that introduces your argument and how you intend to approach it. This should be about **one page** in length.
- D. Develop a **bibliography** of at least **five secondary sources (including only books and journal articles)** that you are considering using for your research paper.
- E. Write and submit a **five page rough draft** of the paper **focusing on the interpretation of your primary source** (that means that quotation of the primary source is essential to making your case in this essay)
- F. **Revise** the rough draft. Develop this based on feedback from your rough draft and feedback and questions you receive at the time of your oral report.
- G. Present an **oral report** (about 5 minutes in length) to the class on your observations and argument. You should not read from the paper, but summarize your thesis and argument and any additional thoughts you have on your experience completing the paper. Be prepared to answer questions concerning your paper as well.
- H. **Turn in a final draft (five pages) as a hard copy and electronically.**

Classroom Regulations:

1. **Attendance.** Attendance is taken at each class. It is preferred that you should plan on attending and contributing to discussion regularly in class. It should be noted that all of my courses are very much discussion oriented. There may be some lecture, but most of the course is more interactive than that. However, I do realize that some members of the class may need to participate online. If that is the case, it is highly encouraged to attend class during class time via Zoom whenever possible. Doing so will allow you to participate more directly in class discussions, allowing you to try out your ideas and to ask questions. In either case, plan on coming **prepared** to discuss and debate the readings. Additionally, also plan on leaving your electronic devices off during class time. Texting throughout a class, for example, is not being present and participating in a class.

Classes will be recorded and either made available on Canvas or by e-mail for those that need them. However, due to the nature of the class, I would highly, highly recommend joining the class at the scheduled class meeting times via Zoom. Again, alternatives are possible, but trying to attend as synchronously as possible will likely improve your overall experience. Information on how to access the class via Zoom will be made available prior to those class times.

Finally, if you do intend to take the course online or need to switch to an online experience due to the present circumstances of the pandemic, good communication is crucial to success. Asking questions via Zoom or by e-mail is always welcome and important to making sure that you remain on the same page as the rest of the class. Additionally, you do need to let me know if you are having trouble accessing online resources or not receiving all necessary instructions. While it is my intention to send out the syllabus, handouts, and the like to online students as they become relevant, nevertheless, if you don't receive those materials in a timely manner, you do need to let me know as soon as possible. I can't read minds, so letting me know what you need help with or what you are missing is necessary to improve your chances of success, and if I overlooked something, the only way that I can know that is if you let me know as soon as possible.

2. **Daily writing.** Daily writings are common in class. These writings are relevant to the discussion that we will be having during that period. Those attending in person and via Zoom will be expected to write them and to turn them in during class time. If you are attending fully online, please contact me for further instructions on writing prompts. Your writings will be due before each class period, so you will need to let me know that you need to be placed on the list to receive these prompts within an appropriate time frame. E-mail me after this first class period if this issue applies to you. As I said, these writings are intended to get conversation started during many class periods, so missing one or two of these writings will probably have no significant effect on your final grade. However, missing many of them can. Therefore, regular attendance is encouraged.

3. **Paper specifications.** All papers must be word processed and double-spaced in a 12-point readable font with standard one-inch margins. Identifying information (your name, instructor, class and--most importantly--section number, and date) should be typed in the upper left hand of the first page. Papers will be turned in electronically via Turnitin.com. Instructions will be given regarding how to register at Turnitin.com prior to the due date for the first assignment.

Students meeting face to face during class time and synchronously via Zoom will be asked to have their papers available the night the paper is due either in hard copy form or electronically on your phone. We will discuss details regarding this requirement in more detail as appropriate.

4. **Plagiarism.** Students in this course are responsible for reading and understanding the University's policies on plagiarism. It is available on the UWSP web site. While inadvertent plagiarism can be easily corrected, intentional plagiarism is a serious academic offense with potentially grave consequences. With the rise of internet usage, incidents of plagiarism have risen. At the same time, internet tools have made plagiarism easier to identify. Don't take chances. Do your own work.

Many people do not understand what plagiarism is. The simple definition is this: **plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas without properly documenting that the words or ideas belong to that**

original author. If you are uncertain whether you may be plagiarizing, please **ask me** what is appropriate. We are here to learn and asking questions ahead of time is always welcome and helpful.

5. **Schedule.** The following schedule **is subject to change at my discretion.** If you have been absent, please make sure to check with your fellow students regarding possible schedule changes for the next day that you will be attending. While you may have been absent, you are still responsible for being prepared for class when you return.

6. **Students With Special Needs.** If there is anything I can do to help you to make the best of your opportunities in higher education, please let me know. If you have any or need any special equipment, interpreters, or books on tape that would aid you in pursuing your interests in the course, I will do my best to help. Additionally, should any concerns come up regarding your ability to participate in or complete the course due to the circumstances of the pandemic, please let me know as soon as possible. We can discuss alternative arrangements at that time. I just need a heads up, though, in order to make adjustments in a timely manner.

| | TUESDAY | THURSDAY |
|----------------------|--|---|
| 1 - Week of Jan. 24 | In class writing | Introduction to the syllabus |
| 2 - Week of Jan. 31 | Plagiarism (68-70) Introduction to argument (1-12) & Definitions (12-16) Paul (165-170) | Marvell (handout) |
| 3 - Week of Feb. 7 | Inductive and Deductive Reasoning (16-35) | Jefferson (303-307) Logical Fallacies (40-46) |
| 4 - Week of Feb. 14 | Discuss Evaluative Paper | King (333-346) |
| 5 - Week of Feb. 21 | Evaluative Paper due | Analyzing advertisements (47-52) |
| 6 - Week of Feb. 28 | More Advertisement Analysis | Discuss Analysis Paper Hitler (320-326) |
| 7 - Week of Mar. 7 | Analysis Paper Due | Discuss Argument Paper |
| 8 - Week of Mar. 14 | Cultural Studies assignment discussion | Documentation |
| 9 - Week of Mar. 21 | Spring Break | Spring Break |
| 10 - Week of Mar. 28 | Argument Paper Due | Library Orientation Sign up for conferences/reports |
| 11 - Week of Apr. 4 | Sanger (314-19) | Video game TBA |
| 12 - Week of Apr. 11 | Film TBA | Film TBA |
| 13 - Week of Apr. 18 | Video game TBA | Painting TBA |
| 14 - Week of Apr. 25 | Painting TBA | Music TBA |
| 15 - Week of May 2 | Music TBA | Research workshop and conferences Thesis Proposal due/ Bibliography due |
| 16 - Week of May 9 | Oral Reports | Rough Draft with Works Cited page due |