

**Freshman English  
Fall 2019  
MWF 1:00-1:50 Room 125**

Professor Julie Tharp  
Office: Laird 445  
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Office Hours—10-11 MWF  
and by appointment  
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**Course Goals:**

My primary goal is for us to get lots of practice at writing for different purposes and situations. Throughout this practice we will use an approach that values the process as much as the product. We will have ample opportunity to read and respond to one another's work. I hope you will learn to value your writing for personal and professional reasons, if you don't already.

**Textbooks:**

*"They Say, I Say" With Readings*, edition 2, Gerald Graff, Cathy Birkenstein, and Russell Durst

**Requirements:**

- 1) Class Attendance and Participation—I encourage as much day-to-day class participation as you can muster. The best way to increase your participation is to prepare for the next class by reading assignments thoroughly and preparing your writing assignments.
- 2) Conference Group Participation—In order to pass this class you have to attend the conference group meetings and participate actively within them. Active participation includes submitting copies of your rough drafts to the other group members, reading the other members' drafts thoughtfully and providing detailed feedback.
- 3) Short writing assignments—I will frequently ask you to write short, casual, handwritten responses to something we've read, observed, etc. Some are done in class, some out.
- 4) 5 essays—The essays we will work on this semester will range from 2-4 pages in length. We will take most of our material from personal experience and informal research.

**Classroom Policies**

**Attendance:**

If you miss more than 10% of the classes during the term your final grade will be lowered. (In case your math skills are rusty, that's 4.5 classes.)

**Assignment:**

I will accept any final draft one class period late. There is no penalty for this, but after that class period I will not accept the paper at all unless you have a terribly good excuse (childbirth, natural disaster, alien abduction, . . .). This does not apply to work done for conference groups. That work must be ON TIME.

**Scholastic Dishonesty:**

I have no sense of humor about plagiarism or cheating in any form. I assume we all enter the course in good faith. Do nothing to break with it.

**Grading:**

A—Exceptional work

B—Very good work—clearly above average

C—Average work—satisfies all the requirements

D—Below average work—fails to satisfy some basic requirements

Rewrite—Unsatisfactory work—please revise and resubmit.

If you do not revise Rewrites, they become F's at the end of the term. I strongly advise that you seek out my help on Rewrites. They usually indicate that the students is lost or confused about the assignment.

**Revision:**

You may revise and resubmit any graded essay. Simply print out the revised copy, highlight the changes and paperclip it to the graded essay. Turn them both in! If by some quirk of fate your revision is worse, don't worry. The higher grade stands. My only request is that you make a real effort to improve the essay. Don't just "fix the commas." Make it worth my while to read it.

**Course Outline**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading Assignment/Topic</b>	<b>Work Due</b>
Sept. 4	Introduction	
6	Process Approach Introduction in TSIS	Exercises 1 and 2
9	"They Say" pp. 17-27	Exercises 1 and 2
11	"Her Point Is" pp. 28-38	Exercise 1
13	Peer Response	<b>Rough Draft +3 copies</b>
16	Group Members' drafts	Response to drafts
18	"As He Himself Puts It"	Ex. 1 and <b>Final Draft</b>
20	"Yes/No/Okay, But" "Don't Blame the Eater"	Exercise 1 Questions 1-4
23	"Kentucky Town of Manchester. . ."	Questions 1-5

25	“Fat is a Feminist Issue”	Questions. 1-5
27	Conference groups	<b>Rough Draft w/copies</b>
30	“And Yet”	<b>Final Draft</b>
Oct. 2	“Skeptics May Object”	Ex. 1
	“Watching TV Makes you Smarter”	Questions 1-4
4	“Thinking Outside the Idiot Box”	Questions 1-4
7	“Family Guy and Freud”	Questions 1-4
9	“The Good, the Bad, and the Daily Show”	Questions 1-5
11	“As a Result”	Intro. and outline
14	“Saying Why it Matters”	<b>Rough Draft w/copies</b>
16	“Ain’t So/Is Not”	<b>Final Draft</b>
18	“Income Inequality”	Questions 1-5
21	“Up Against Wal-Mart”	Questions 1-4
23	“Progressive Wal-Mart, Really.”	Questions 1-5
25	<i>Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price</i>	
28	Film Discussion	Outline
30	Conference Groups	<b>Rough Draft w/copies</b>
Nov. 1	Weird Things Brainstorming!	<b>Final Draft</b>
	“I Am Therefore I Think”	Handout
4	“Why DO People Believe Weird Things”	Handout
6	“Abducted”	
8	Group Work—Formulate Inquiry	
11	Group Work—Follow through on Inquiry	
13	Discuss Oral Presentations	
15	Research Workshop	
18	Group Presentation	<b>Outline of presentation</b>
20	Annotated Bibliography of Sources	
22	MLA Documentation	
25	Bibliography Workshop	<b>Bibliography Draft</b>
27	Organizational workshop	<b>Bibliography Due</b>
29	NO CLASS—Thanksgiving break	
Dec. 2	In class draft work	
4	Conference Groups	<b>Rough Draft</b>
6	Draft Polishing	<b>Rough Draft</b>
9	Essay Exams	<b>Final Draft</b>

11 Practice Essay Exam + Assigned Reading  
13 In-class Final