

English 150
Online synchronous course
Spring 2022

Instructor: Rebecca Lorenz-Schumacher
Office on campus: 464 CCC
Email: rlorenzs@uwsp.edu or message me on Canvas
Office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30-2:00pm; Thursdays 5:00-6:00pm
and by appointment and/or Zoom

REQUIRED TEXTS
Available in text rental:

Kirszner, Laurie G., and Stephen R, Mandell. *Practical Argument*. Third ed., Bedford/St. Martin's, 2017.

Available for purchase in the University Bookstore:

Hacker, Diana. *Rules for Writers*. 9th ed., Bedford/St. Martin's, 2019.

** It doesn't matter if it's the custom one or not, but it must be the 9th edition. **

You probably saw multiple books available for purchase for this class. DO NOT BUY ANY YET! You will read ONE of them later on in the semester, and we will choose them in class. (We'll talk about this assignment later in the syllabus.)

CLASS OBJECTIVES

This class will focus on the basics of composition and move to the essentials of argument and research.

As with all English classes at UWSP, you will

- 📖 Compose an articulate, thoughtful, grammatically correct, and logically organized piece of writing with properly documented and supported ideas, evidence, and information suitable to the topic, purpose, genre, and audience.
- 📖 Apply your understanding of elements that shape successful writing to critique and improve your own and others' writing through effective and useful feedback.

Specifically in this English 150 class, you will

- 📖 solidify your understanding of the basics of composition
- 📖 learn how arguments are formed, what kinds of arguments exist, how to identify strong and weak arguments, how to form a refutation, and how these arguments affect your audience
- 📖 be able to take research and integrate it into your own writing
- 📖 be proficient with both MLA and APA styles of documentation
- 📖 perform appropriate college-level research by identifying various kinds of sources, evaluating their rhetoric, knowing how and when to use appropriate sources, learning how to analyze sources, and knowing how to incorporate sources into your writing
- 📖 improve your critical thinking skills by analyzing a book
- 📖 work with your peers to improve your writing and critical thinking skills

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

This is a synchronous online class. This means we will meet at a set time on Zoom. This course is not paced at your own speed. It's basically the same as if we were meeting in person, only we're separated by a screen.

We will not meet every single class period, but there will be several required meetings. You will NOT be able to pass the course if you do not attend the live Zooms.

I will record each Zoom if you miss the class, but it's your responsibility to watch it to catch up.

Also, after spring break, we will start literature circles, which are basically little book clubs. Attendance to the live Zoom with your mic and camera on and meeting with your group is required.

ZOOM CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Whenever we have a class Zoom meeting scheduled (which won't be every class period, but there will be MANY meetings), the following rules apply:

1. You must be logged into UWSP AND ZOOM to access the live Zoom meeting.
2. The link to the class is in Canvas on the left side under Zoom. Carefully look at the date to make sure we have class. Click **Join** when you are ready.
3. Log in at least 5 minutes early and be ready to start on time.
4. Microphones and cameras MUST BE MUTED for the duration of class. If you have a question, use the "raise hand" icon. If I ask to you speak, then you can unmute your microphone. Please mute it again when you are done talking.
Exceptions to this rule include meeting in breakout sessions, literature circle meetings, or when I give the OK. Therefore, be prepared to turn on your mic and camera at any moment.
5. You must be appropriately clothed, just like you would be in an in-person class. It's fine if you're in a t-shirt and sweatpants, but the t-shirt should not contain offensive matter. Please, for everyone's benefit, wear pants/shorts/a kilt/a sarong/etc. that is appropriate for class. Even if you don't think we can see, I would prefer to avoid an embarrassing scene. 😊
6. Have an appropriate background/surroundings as best you can. DO NOT LOG INTO CLASS WHILE DRIVING! (I'm sad I have to say this.)
7. I will take attendance at Zoom meetings. However, it's more than just logging in; you will need to participate in the live sessions at times, and if you don't answer, I will mark you absent.

So, after all that is said, I grade attendance and participation as follows:

- ✍ All students start off with 50 attendance and participation points
- ✍ You are allowed to miss/not log in/not participate for 3 classes without losing any points from your attendance grade. **At the fourth missed class, I will deduct 10 points from your attendance grade EACH time you miss class.**

** Please be aware that if you miss more than 6 classes, you will almost certainly fail the course.**

- ✍ You are allowed to be late to the Zoom twice. At the third time, **I will deduct 10 points from your attendance grade EACH time you are late.**
- ✍ If anything about your attendance in the live Zoom is distracting/disruptive/rude/inappropriate, I will kick you off the session immediately and you will lose 10 points. If you continue to be a hindrance to the class, I will not allow you back into a meeting and you will fail the course.

There are *some* exceptions to this, but they will be on a case-by-case basis. Set up a meeting with me if you have concerns.

CLASS POLICIES

1. You will be respectful of all people in Zoom and Canvas at all times. This means you will attend each class on time, stay for the entire class period, not talk while I'm talking, nor will you badmouth me, other students, or other professors. You also will not bash Paul McCartney of The Beatles when you're around me.

2. You will be respectful of my time, which means you will not beg me to redo an assignment nor distract me during class. You will also not waste my time by submitting papers that are obviously incorrect or taking really bad guesses on quizzes or online work.

3. I assess your performance in class by grading your written work, mainly through your major papers. Therefore, I cannot accurately nor fully assess you unless you hand in ALL of your papers. You can't pass the class on just small assignments, attending a class or two, or a miracle. I also have a late paper policy, so you can't turn in the paper whenever you feel like it. **Be aware that failure to turn in even ONE paper will result in decrease of an entire letter grade - and possibly more - from the final class grade.** This will also set the stage for an F.

4. Silence or turn off your cell phones. Neither you nor I need the distraction. Even if there is a quiet moment once class has started, please refrain from checking your phone.

6. Class materials, assignments, quizzes, grades, news, reminders, access to Zoom (including my meeting room for conferences), updates, etc., are all on Canvas.

7. Most assignments are due at midnight. Anything submitted after the due date/time will be considered late and possibly not accepted.

8. All work in this class must be original (i.e. your own creation) and new in execution. You are NOT allowed to turn in work done for a previous class (in whole or part, from high school or another college course), nor may you use work from this class in future classes. If you do, it constitutes academic misconduct, and you will receive a D or F on the paper depending on the severity of the infraction. To this end, EVERY MAJOR PAPER MUST BE SUBMITTED TO CANVAS for full credit.

9. LOOK OVER YOUR GRADED PAPERS! I mark up every paper and include a grading rubric to explain the grade (you can access this in Canvas under your submission and click **View Feedback**). Use these to help you improve your grade! You will also have an opportunity to revise a paper for additional points.

10. If you have a detailed question or concern about an assignment, grade, or the class, don't ask before or right after class (unless I OK it ahead of time) or via email. This causes the class to be delayed and brings everyone into your business. It is also impossible to have a meaningful discussion via email. Instead, meet with me during my office hours or on Zoom.

11. Everyone has the right to be addressed and referred to by the name & pronouns they want. Let me know what pronoun and/or name you prefer if it's something different than what's in Canvas.

12. Email/Canvas message info: I know it's surprising, but I do have a life outside teaching. I typically will not respond to emails or messages between 5:00pm-9:00am, nor will I reply on the weekends at all. Allow at least 24 hours for a response (Monday for a weekend email). I will NOT respond if what you're asking for is found on the syllabus or Canvas, if you're asking me to reteach the day via email, or if you're rude, demanding, disrespectful, or you cross personal boundaries.

14. Office hours: My office hours are listed at the top of the first page of this syllabus. I will be in my campus office (464 CCC) during these times. They are times when I am free to meet with

students both in person and/or on Zoom. If my office hours don't work for you, please contact me to set up another time.

LATE WORK POLICY

It is rude & unfair to assume I will grade your work whenever you feel like handing it in. I am flexible if you are ill or have something pop up, but you need to contact me PRIOR to the due date or ASAP after. And even so, an extension is not guaranteed.

Therefore, this is my late paper policy which applies ONLY to major papers (worth 100 points):

If your paper is one class period late = full credit (grace period)

Two class periods late = -20 points

Not handed in after one week = 0 on the assignment

I reserve the right to provide fewer comments on late papers. And remember, "class periods" refers to when we meet (i.e. if a paper was due Tuesday, you can turn it in Thursday with no points off). Did I mention cats are my favorite animal? If not, you'll only hear it about 100 times this semester.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and Participation (50 points)

Everyone starts with 50 points. Ten points per infraction will be deducted as follows:

- 🔔 Missing more than 3 Zoom classes
- 🔔 Arriving late to Zoom more than 2 times
- 🔔 Talking while I'm talking or another student is talking in Zoom
- 🔔 Being distracting or disruptive
- 🔔 Not being prepared for class

I reserve the right not to give a warning before deducting points. Check your grade frequently on Canvas as I will put a note in the grade when I deduct points.

Short writing assignments/quizzes/peer review workshops (200 points)

Throughout the semester, we will have several short assignments. Some may be due only during class time; some may be due entirely on Canvas before midnight on a certain day. There will be 230 total points available for this grade. **These assignments are unable to be made up if they are late or incomplete**; however, I will drop the grades of the THREE LOWEST-SCORED assignments throughout the semester. Therefore, 230 points will be available, but only a maximum of 200 points will count towards your grade.

Papers (400 points)

You will write four papers of varying styles and topics. Each paper is worth 100 points.

1. A descriptive essay (no research, approx. 3 pages long)
2. An I-search paper on your career or major (approx. 3-5 pages in length, in MLA format)
3. A literature review of a current event topic (approx. 6 pages, in APA format)
4. An annotated bibliography of your lit circle book (approx. 3 pages long, in APA or MLA format).

For the researched papers, you will be required to watch library instruction videos to find the correct sources. You are also required to peer review drafts of some of the papers on Canvas. There will be points attached to the peer review workshops (part of the Short Writing Assignments grade).

Nonfiction literature circles project (350 points)

In small groups, you will read a nonfiction book that you have chosen from a list (these are the books in the bookstore). You will meet with your group each week during class & discuss the book, have assignments to complete on the readings, and fill out an evaluation of the project (this will be part of the **Short Writing Assignments**). There will be in-class writings as well.

Attendance during the live Zoom lit circle meetings is required to get a passing grade for these assignments.

REQUIREMENT AND POINT BREAKDOWN:

Attendance and participation	50 points
Short writing assignments/quizzes	200 total points
Descriptive essay	100 points
I-search paper	100 points
Literature review	100 points
Literature circle assignments	350 points
Annotated bibliography	100 points

Total	1000 points

Approximate point/letter grade correspondence:

940+ = A	900-919 = B+	820-839 = C+	740-759 = D+
920-939 = A-	860-899 = B	780-819 = C	680-739 = D
	840-859 = B-	760-779 = C-	below 680 = F

**** PLEASE NOTE: YOUR GRADE IS POINT BASED, NOT PERCENTAGE BASED. ****

A QUICK GUIDE TO PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is taking credit for someone else’s work. It includes turning in a paper written by someone other than you (with or without permission), downloading a paper off the internet, or copying and pasting source info with inaccurate or no documentation.

It is up to you to pay attention in class, follow *Rules for Writers*, and ask questions in regards to citing and plagiarism. **Ignorance is not an excuse.**

If I discover plagiarism, most times your grade will be reduced to an F or a 0 depending on the severity. If the infraction is severe enough, you will get a 0 and I will contact the office of Student Rights & Responsibilities. They will put letter in your student file stating that you plagiarized. If you plagiarize again, I will again contact Student Rights & Responsibilities and you will receive an F for the course. **If a student has two incidents of plagiarism in one or more courses, you may be expelled from the university.**

If you have any questions, please either talk to me or contact the office of Student Rights & Responsibilities.

EMAIL ETTIQUETTE

I tend to get inundated with unnecessary emails. This wastes time for both of us. Instead, follow these simple guidelines to see if you should email me:

1. Before you email, check the assignment, Canvas, syllabus, or prior communication/class notes to see if you can find the answer.
2. Don’t email me to tell me you won’t be attending class UNLESS you will miss multiple class periods.
3. Don’t email me to ask for things that are already posted to Canvas. If the document/assignment is not on Canvas (and you’ve genuinely looked all over), then let me know.
4. Don’t email me asking me trivial matters (E.g. “Do I have to bring my textbook to class?”).

5. Do not ask me, "Did I miss anything important when I was absent?" EVERYTHING IS IMPORTANT! That's just rude to ask. So don't do it
6. Be respectful and professional in email correspondence (i.e. Don't address me as "Hey You" or "Yo").
7. Don't send me drafts for review.
8. I care about you as a person; however, I'm not the person to contact if you're having a crisis. Please contact the Dean of Students (715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos) and they will get you the help you need. PLEASE reach out to them if you need it; they are a great resource.
9. One of the worst emails I've ever gotten: "I'm going to be absent today. Can you not give a quiz?" (Of course, we had a quiz.)
10. I am not a tech person. If you're having difficulty with a technical aspect of Canvas or Zoom or any other online platform, contact Help in Canvas (it's on the bottom far left of all pages) or contact UWSP IT.
11. Use email sparingly, and **only** for urgent concerns. I got email overload last semester and I don't want a repeat.