

English 150: Advanced Composition/Fall 2019

Dr. Patricia Gott (I go by Dr. Gott, Prof. Gott or Ms. Gott)

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**(EMAIL is the best way to reach me; expect that it may take a bit for me to get back to you, especially on the weekends.)*

Office Hours:

- Tuesdays: 3:30-4:15
- Wednesdays: Electronic Office Hour from 11-11:50 (I'm online then)
- Thursdays 12:50-1:50
- Other times by appointment

Course Description and Purpose: Welcome to English 150, a writing course that builds on the connections between reading, analysis, research, and writing. The assignments are designed to involve you in an imaginative, mindful, and reflective writing process which will enhance your critical thinking skills. These are important skills for success, not only in your college coursework, but also in the work world beyond the classroom—whatever your major.

Required Texts and Supplies: All texts EXCEPT FOR the FRANKL MEMOIR are available at the DUC bookstore.

- Frankl, Viktor. *Man's Search for Meaning*. Available Online (or obtain a cheap copy at Amazon).
- Hacker. *Rules for Writers*. Ninth ed. PURCHASE TEXT.
- Harjo, Joy. *Crazy Brave*. PURCHASE TEXT.
- Kirshner and Mandell. *Practical Argument*. Third Edition. TEXT RENTAL.

-BRING EVERYDAY:-Paper, either notebook or loose leaf, a pen with BLACK OR BLUE INK and a FOLDER to keep handouts and your drafts together.

Course Methods: During the semester, you will:

- Participate in discussion, small group activities, and peer reviews;
- Read and analyze the context, rhetoric, and reliability of research materials (both online and print sources);
- Develop research plans and keep informed on current issues as you explore issues pertaining to your general topic;
- Write a series of reflective and position-oriented essays that both articulate your own position and contribute to your understanding of the various topics we discuss.

Course Objectives: When you leave this course, you should have learned to:

- Engage with a variety of primary and secondary sources through personal response;
- Increase your knowledge of current global issues through research;
- Gain a greater understanding of forms of argumentation and employing them as writing strategies;
- Develop skills in locating, reading or observing, and synthesizing (integrating) source material into your own writing;
- Refine your techniques of revising and editing prose to help provide greater clarity and precision in your writing.

These mesh with the university Learning Outcomes for Written Communication:

You will a) 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 and b) apply your understanding of elements that shape successful writing to critique and improve your own and others' writing through effective and useful feedback.

Grading:

Paper #1	25%
Ann. Bib./Assmt. #2	25%
Paper #3	25%
In class written responses/ group participation	15%
<u>Research Presentation/</u>	
<u>Final Reflection</u>	5%
<u>Total</u>	<u>100%</u>

Because this is a course that focuses on the writing process in its many manifestations, you will have ample opportunity to revise and develop or edit your work. Such development requires effort and an understanding of and involvement with your own writing process; because of this, revision is NECESSARY for you to receive a passing grade on each assignment.

GRADE RANGE: Evaluation will be based primarily on your progress as a writer, and involves the criteria of focus, audience awareness, development, organization, style, grammar, mechanics and appropriate documentation. The grade of C represents average but satisfactory development of the above criteria, a B represents above average development, and an A representing superior development and effort towards the criteria above. Work that represents below average development will receive a D. Work that is not submitted will receive an F. **Note: Incompletes can be given only in the case of a medical emergency.**

SCALE: A = 94-100% A- = 90-93% B+ = 87-89%
 B = 83-86% B- = 80-82% C+ = 77-79% C = 73-76% C- = 70-72% D+ = 67-69%
 D = 63-66% D- = 60-62% F = 0-59%

Paper Descriptions: Over the course of the semester, you will write three developed and revised papers this semester, including a memoir/personal narrative OR critique of a non-fiction text, an annotated bibliography (a collection of sources that will likely feed into lead argument essay and research presentations), and an argument-based essay on a topic of your choice approved by me. You will also present your findings in argument-based discussion at the end of the semester and complete a reflection on your writing process at the end of the term.

Written Responses: Written responses are an opportunity to express your reactions to the assigned materials and make connections between the readings and other information you come across in our class as well as your own experiences. They also help in the beginning stages of the argument process. Most responses will be completed in class in response to a prompt related to a specific question from that day's reading, although occasionally the prompt will be open-ended. **MAKE SURE YOU READ THE ASSIGNED MATERIAL BEFORE YOU COME TO CLASS.** They allow me and your classmates to see that you have read the assigned material and have thought about it in some depth. You should aim to write at least about a page in length. Include a title in your response. As most responses will be in-class activities, **I do not accept late responses in most cases.**

Email Policy/Format: You will be using email regularly this semester as it is the best way to reach me and it's a good way to reach classmates. You will be expected to use proper grammar, sentence structure, spelling, and punctuation in your emails, in addition to respectful and appropriate language. **Please use your UWSP account for all correspondence related to this class.**

Technology: Use of cell phones, unless for a specific class purpose, IS PROHIBITED and cell phones and other electronic devices must be put away AND turned off during class. Computers should only be used for course assignments. If you do bring a laptop, refrain from using it during the discussion portion of the class. **Recording Policy:** Students may not make audio, video, or photographic recordings of lectures or other class activities without written permission from the instructor. Anyone violating this policy will be asked to turn off the device being used. Refusal to comply with the policy will result in a report to the Dean of Students.

Attendance: Because part of your grade in this course is dependent on your regular performance and preparation, regular class attendance is required. You have TWO absences free of charge; in other words, these TWO absences are not counted against your final grade. After your SECOND absence, final course grades *MAY* be lowered by a third of a letter grade for each absence. (i.e., A to an A-). I make NO distinction between excused and unexcused absences except for religious holidays or official organized and documented UWSP events. **I DO NOT NEED TO KNOW WHY YOU ARE OR WILL BE ABSENT—UNLESS YOU ARE DEALING WITH AN ISSUE THAT NECESSITATES YOU MISSING MORE THAN A CLASS OR TWO** in which case you should email me about this. You are also responsible for acquiring any handouts or assignments you miss. Finally, if you miss scheduled peer review days, you will need to get a student from our class to review your paper.

Lateness policy: Please attempt to arrive to class on time and stay through the entire hour so you don't miss participation points as well as information about assignments including due dates, etc. Students who leave early for other commitments may lose participation points.

Paper Due Dates: Papers, reading responses and free writes are due the day indicated on the syllabus. For final drafts, late papers may be penalized one letter grade per class period that they are late. **Final drafts handed in more than a week late will not be accepted.** Exceptions to the late paper policy will be granted on a case-by-case basis. ****DO NOT EMAIL ME YOUR PAPERS unless you have received approval from me. (Both the late paper and email policy are option reserved for situations like family emergencies or severe DOCUMENTED ILLNESS. In these exceptional cases, you do need to contact me ahead of time to see if I will accept your emailed or late paper.** (Occasionally, I will contact individual students to email me papers to use as a strong sample for class discussion).

Participation AND professionalism: Participation means more than regular attendance, it means that you have read and engaged with the material, and you first participate fully in small groups and second as much in the full class discussion mindfully. When we talk as a class, the time is meant to be a daily discussion of issues related to language and culture, a discussion which will come from your personal experience as well as the assigned readings from the text. It's important to respect both your peers and your instructor by staying on task. Remember that we're here to learn something AND help one another; mindful, active participation helps us achieve these goals. Also, we will not avoid controversial topics in this class, and as such, we may be talking about some topics that may be occasionally uncomfortable or challenging. Instead, we will ask ourselves and each other why certain topics offend us or make us uncomfortable. And we will always be respectful and mindful of other people's opinions and feelings.

Conferences: You are required to sign up for at least one conferences to meet with me in my office, 318 CCC, during the scheduled conference time slots. This gives you the opportunity to meet with me individually to improve your writing and allows you to ask questions about the revising and research process. Missing a scheduled conference without rescheduling it counts as one absence.

Plagiarism: Essentially, plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas as your own without giving proper acknowledgment. Intentional plagiarism is a serious ethical lapse. The consequences of plagiarism are serious. In the work world, cheating in the workplace, stealing or appropriating another's work as one's own can result in legal action, and for student writers, it can result in a failing grade for the assignment or for the course. To avoid any suspicion of plagiarism, make sure that you always cite your sources properly, using the appropriate system of documentation (MLA for our purposes). We will work together to understand what plagiarism is and how it can be avoided. Please ask questions and refer to your Rules for Writer section on MLA frequently to learn how to avoid it.

Resources: The Tutoring and Learning Center (TLC) provides **FREE TUTORING—yes, free!!!**—to any student interested in improving her or his writing abilities. TLC tutors will not correct or proofread your drafts but will instead teach you strategies that good writers use during the writing process to revise and enhance their work. These include strategies for brainstorming, drafting, and revising. **Located in the basement of the library,** the TLC is available for assistance with writing projects for any of your classes, including this one. **Students with learning differences** may want to visit UWSP's Office of Disability Services (609 ALB Hall) to work with that office.

English 150 Readings and Due Dates Fall 2019

IMPORTANT: Make sure you complete the assigned reading for each class period BEFORE you come to class.

**Page numbers are taken CB (Crazy Brave), MS (Man's Search for Meaning), PA(Practical Argument), RW (Rules for Writers), or Canvas. Bring the texts to class that relate to that day's reading(s).*

NOTE: CHANGES MAY BE MADE to the syllabus. If so, I'll email a revised copy to you.

Week 1 (Sep. 3-5)

T Introduction to 150/Discuss Syllabus and Course Guidelines

Th Introductions to one another /In-class writing / Fiji article(s) assigned for Tuesday

<http://www.nytimes.com/1999/05/20/world/study-finds-tv-alters-fiji-girls-view-of-body.html>

Week 2 (Sep. 10-12)

T Discuss Fiji articles in groups/Brainstorming

****As with all your reading, make sure to READ the material BEFORE CLASS)**

Th Read Jarvis, "Sanctuary" and Southgate, "My Girlish Boy" (Available CANVAS)/Read RW. Ch. 4 "Reading and Writing Critically"

--Essay 1 Assigned*/(See RW guidelines for papers)/In class writing

Week 3 (Sep. 17-19)

T *Crazy Brave*, pages 1-60 Discussed/**Bring Rules for Writers for overview

Th *Crazy Brave* continued, pages 61-108 /Group Brainstorming/In class response due

Week 4 (Sep. 24-26)

T Finish CB/ WRITE Discovery Draft in class/ Read RW. Ch. 1 and 2a-j.

Th Essay 1 Draft 1 Due/Peer Review/ Clips from Reel Injun

Week 5 (Oct. 1-3)

T Finish Reel Injun

Look over PA Ch. 10-11: Citing Sources and Using Sources Responsibly

Th MLA Discussed with possible exercises/Bring Rules for Writers/Look over Ch. 56

Week 6 (Oct. 8-10)

T **Meet in Computer Lab CPS 107**/Print up or email to yourself a 2-3 page article (your choice, but it should discuss some aspect of a current social, cultural or political issue that interests you and is arguable) from national newspaper (*NY TIMES, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, The Guardian*, etc.) RW Ch. 54-55/399-415 "Summarizing and Paraphrasing without Plagiarizing"

Th Introduction to Library Sources and Databases—***LIBRARY DAY Meet in Library 107**

Week 7 (Oct. 15-17)

T Watch clip from *Three Identical Strangers?* (Finish out of class—link on Canvas)

Final Draft Essay 1 Due/ Begin Man's Search for Meaning, 7-22/??

Available in Canvas

Th Continue *Man's Search for Meaning*, 23-73 /In class response due
Annotated Bibliography Assignment Handout

Week 8 (Mar. Oct. 22-24)

T Finish up *Man's Search for Meaning*/
Th **Peer Review: First Draft—Brainstorm of Prior Knowledge**
Critique sample papers/Bad, fallacious arguments

Week 9 (Oct. 29-31)

T **No class/Ann. Bibs conferences/Sign up** (Bring summaries/evals to conferences)
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Week 10 (Nov. 5-7)

T Meet in Comp. Lab CPS 107/Ann. Bib Work day
Th Read *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* excerpts Ch. 2-8 (available in Canvas)

Week 11 (Nov. 12-14)

T Finish *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* excerpts Ch. 12-18 (available in Canvas)
In class Response Due

Week 12 (Nov. 19-22)

T **Final Draft Annotated Bibliographies due**/ Logical Fallacies Discussed: Read PA Ch. 5
(147-163) /Discussion and Freewrite
Th Analyzing Multiple Perspectives handout /Groupwork

Week 13 (Nov. 26-28)

T **Meet in computer lab CPS 107**/ Presentation Outline (write in class)
Th **HAPPY THANKSGIVING! NO CLASS!**

Week 14 (Dec. 3-5)

T **No Class—OPTIONAL Conferences in my office—318 CCC**/Bring drafts of research papers!
Th **Presentations of Research Findings in alphabetical order/Check schedule**

Week 15 (Dec. 10-12)

T-TH **Presentations of Research Findings in alphabetical order/Check schedule**
THURSDAY, Dec. 12: Last Day of class. Research Papers Due!!!

****Final Drafts of Research Paper #3 can be picked up finals week during assigned final time,
Wednesday, 2:45-4:45 in 318 CCC (my office)**