

English 202, sec.12
Spring 2021
MW 8-9:15
ALB 650

English 202, sec. 14
Spring 2021
MW 9:30-10:45
ALB 650

Dr. Wade Mahon
Office: CCC 443
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Office hrs. TR 2-3 and by appt.

Syllabus

Required Texts: • Kirszner & Mandell. *Practical Argument*. 3rd ed.
• Hacker, Diana. *Rules for Writers*.

This course is designed to prepare you to communicate effectively in an academic setting and to arm you with helpful strategies for successful writing outside of the university. Our focus will be on the methods of inquiry and argumentation most commonly practiced within academic communities. Because academic discourse relies so heavily on a thorough documentation of claims, a large component of the work you do this semester will involve library research. You will be working together with your classmates in a workshop environment, which means you will be writing almost every day and will be reading and commenting on your classmates' work.

Papers. You will complete 3 research papers (3-5 pages each), and 3 shorter papers (2-3 pages). See Guidelines for Papers (below) for more specific instructions on paper expectations. *Plagiarism* of any kind will not be tolerated; see the University's "Community Rights and Responsibilities" for more information on academic expectations.

Participation: (120 points)

Daily Homework assignments. (60 points total, 4 points per week) You will need to post responses to homework assignments once or twice a week.

Attendance. (60 points total, 4 points per week). This will apply to in-class as well as Zoom attendance. If you normally attend in person but are unable to come to class you may attend via Zoom, although I would prefer if you try to be consistent one way or another. If you are unable to attend in person or via Zoom, be sure to keep up with the daily homework readings and assignments.

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Research papers (3) | 300 |
| Short papers (3) | 180 |
| Participation | <u>120</u> |
| | 600 points |

Guidelines For Papers

All papers must adhere to the following guidelines*:

1. They must be typed and proofread with any errors neatly corrected.
2. Double-space and print on one side of the page only
3. Use 1" margins all around, use a 10- or 12-point regular (not **bold** or *italicized*) font, and number each page.
4. There is no need for a separate title page; however, you must use a creative title at the beginning of your paper.
5. Put your name and the date in the upper right-hand corner of the first page.

Late Papers: All papers must be turned in at the beginning of class on the day assigned; however, a *late paper* may be accepted if you work out a reasonable plan of completion with me. There is no guarantee that late papers will be returned to you before the end of the semester.

* Failure to follow these guidelines may affect your grade.

Semester Calendar

(**Bold**=Short papers; Bold=Research Papers; chapter #s refer to *Practical Argument*. Schedule subject to change.)

Part 1 – Question Authority: Developing a Healthy Skepticism of Conventional Wisdom

Week 1: Jan 25-27, Course introduction: Conventional Wisdom—chapter 12

Week 2: Feb 1-3, Using and citing reliable sources—chapters 9, 10

Week 3: Feb 8-10, Citing sources correctly—chapter 11; draft workshop; **Seven Sentence Essay** (60 pts)

Part 2 – Trust but Verify: Evaluating Sources Critically

Week 4: Feb 15-17, Evaluating sources—chapter 8

Week 5: Feb 22-24, Selecting appropriate sources—readings TBA

Week 6: Mar 1-3, draft workshop, **Paper #1: Reliable Sources** (100 pts)

Part 3 – Writing is Rewriting: Applying Critical Thinking to Improve Your Arguments

Week 7: Mar 8-10, Argumentation and Reasoning—chapter 5

Week 8: Mar 15-17, Revision, Organization

SPRING BREAK: Mar 22-24

Week 9: Mar 29-31, **Paper #2: Conventional Wisdom** (100 pts); begin Primary Research project planning

Part 4 – Design Your Own Primary Research Project

Week 10: Apr 5-7, Effective research methods

Week 11: Apr 12-14, Logistics, ethics

Week 12: Apr 19-21, Data analysis, strategic outlines

Week 13: Apr 26-28, **Primary Research Report** (60 pts)

Week 14: May 3-5, APA style, secondary sources

Week 15: May 10-12, **Paper #3: Primary Research** (100 pts)

Final: Reflective Essay (60 pts): (Section 12) May 20, 10:15-12:15
(Section 14) May 17, 12:30-2:30

Zoom meetings. To manage attendance during this unusual semester, we will all stick to our regularly scheduled time slots and meet “live” only during those times. We have room for 15 students to attend in person each day; the rest will attend via Zoom. We will divide into cohorts if there is enough demand for in-person attendance.

Covid-19 stuff. Masks are required in all classrooms. We are not allowed to hold class unless everyone is wearing a mask. If you are feeling any flu-like symptoms, please stay home. Wash your hands and follow the appropriate social distancing guidelines. Please be patient with everyone because we’re all trying to figure this thing out. For more information on this, please refer to the UWSP Covid-19 website: <https://www.uwsp.edu/coronavirus/Pages/default.aspx>.

Foundation Level Written Communication

Learning Outcomes:

1. 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.

Course elements: paper assignments, daily writing, readings and in-class activities

2. Apply your understanding of elements that shape successful writing to critique and improve your own and others’ writing through effective and useful feedback.

Course elements: draft workshops, paper #2 (revision), reflective essay