


<p>Dr. Dejan Kuzmanovic Zoom Office Hours: by appointment (dkuzmano@uwsp.edu)</p>	<p>English 101: Freshman English Fall 2020 Sections 5C, 6C & 20C 100% Online (asynchronous)</p>	
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an intensive writing course aiming to prepare you for reading, writing, and exchanging ideas at a college level. Every week throughout the semester, you will read short texts, view PowerPoint presentations and videos, participate in small-group discussions, and engage in frequent writing exercises. All these activities will help you do well on the major assignments in this course, as well as many other courses you will take in the future.

Stay on top of things and be in touch. This course requires regular engagement week by week. If you fall behind, it may be difficult to catch up. A student who stops participating in activities for longer than one week may be advised to drop the course. If you are concerned about your participation, meeting deadlines, or completing assignments, please contact me. I can be flexible and allow make-up work, as long as you do not just disappear for an extended period of time.

Be smart: Do not approach this required course as a necessary evil that must be endured, but as an opportunity to expand your thinking and hone the skills you will need throughout college. Ultimately, the course will be what you make of it. I will support and facilitate your learning, but you are the agent of your own education. Instead of seeing assignments as chores done for the sake of grades, turn them into genuine exploration of your experiences, your opinions, yourself.

Whether in a classroom or online, a college course must be a safe space for all students. Showing respect for every individual – regardless of their age, sex, race, ethnicity, religious or political opinions, gender identity, sexual orientation, and other forms of difference – is essential for everyone’s success and wellbeing. The Golden Rule: treat others as you expect to be treated.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course satisfies the GEP Written Communication Requirement and Critical Thinking designation. Upon the completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Compose an articulate, thoughtful, grammatically correct, and logically organized piece of writing with ideas, evidence, and information suitable to the topic, purpose, and audience.
- Recognize and correct common grammatical errors and stylistic problems.
- Apply your understanding of elements that shape successful writing to critique and improve your own writing and the writing of others through effective and useful feedback.
- Describe the process of critical thinking and apply it in identifying key elements of argumentation.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK (available for **rental** in the campus bookstore)

Kirszner & Mandell, *Patterns for College Writing*, 14th Edition, Bedford/St. Martin's, 2018.

You will read only a small selection of pages from this textbook, but there will be other required readings and viewings that you will access in Canvas.

I recommend you buy *Rules for Writers* (any edition), a user-friendly grammar/style handbook, which can help you throughout college. There will be no assigned readings from it in this course; however, it contains useful information to assist you in developing your writing skills.

REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

- Narrative Essay (4-5 pages) 20%
- Definition Essay (4-5 pages) 20%
- Argumentative Essay (4-5 pages) 20%
- Writing Exercises 20%
- Weekly Work (quizzes, discussions) 10%
- Grammar & Style Test 10%

In order to pass the course, you must:

- Turn in all three major essays (Narrative, Definition, and Argumentative)
- Miss no more than 3 writing exercises
- Miss no more than 5 quizzes/discussions
- Avoid not participating in class activities for two or more consecutive weeks

If you find yourself in a situation that might make it difficult for you to meet these requirements, please talk to me right away. We can discuss potential extensions, make-up work, and the rest, but only if you do not disappear for weeks on end without letting me know what is going on.

WEEKLY WORK

There will be 18 quizzes and discussions throughout the semester, but only the 15 best will count toward the grade. That way, missing or doing poorly on a few will not impact your grade. These activities will be based on the content of any specific week. Since they are meant to gauge your engagement *that* week, **they may not be made up later.**

You can earn up to 4 points for each, for the maximum of 60 points. Your Weekly Work grade will be determined as follows:

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|------------|------------|------------|
| A (57-60) | A- (53-56) | |
| B+ (49-52) | B (45-48) | B- (41-44) |
| C+ (37-40) | C (33-36) | C- (29-32) |
| D+ (25-28) | D (20-24) | F (0-19) |

WRITING EXERCISES

There will be 11 one-page exercises; 10 of them will count for the grade. They will be due on Tuesdays and must be turned in on due date (I may make 1-2 exceptions, if necessary). They will help you practice various writing skills, which you will then apply in major essays.

You can earn up to 6 points on each, for a total of 60. The grade will be determined this way:

A (57-60) A- (53-56) B+ (49-52) B (45-48) B- (41-44)
C+ (37-40) C (33-36) C- (29-32) D+ (25-28) D (20-24) F (0-19)

This rubric, with minor modifications, will apply to all writing exercises:

Points	Content	Development	Mechanics
2	Engaging, insightful, clear, goes beyond platitudes	Fully developed ideas, with effective examples	No or few errors
1	Somewhat engaging, but a bit predictable or unclear	Limited in development of ideas or a bit repetitive	Quite a few errors
0	Very vague or confusing, fails to follow instructions	Insufficiently developed or excessively wordy	Way too many errors

EXTRA CREDIT

There are two ways to earn extra credit to raise your Writing Exercises and Weekly Work scores:

- If a student does exceptionally well on a writing exercise, a quiz, or a discussion, I might give them a point above the maximum for that assignment.
- At times, I will inform you of a virtual event (lecture, discussion, performance) relevant for the course. You may attend it and write a two-page summary (main ideas, positions, themes, etc.) and reaction to it (what you found insightful, interesting, moving, and why). **You may submit up to 5 reports and earn up to 2 points for each.**

GRAMMAR & STYLE TEST

This test will be based on the material covered in the first 12 weeks of the semester. It will focus on major grammatical errors (fragments, run-ons, missing or incorrectly used punctuation) and common stylistic problems (wordiness, choppiness, mixed constructions, faulty parallelism, misplaced or dangling modifiers). You will receive detailed instructions a few weeks in advance.

There will be plenty of time to review these issues and prepare for the test, which is not meant to be difficult, but to encourage you to be attentive to these important elements of good writing. Make sure you understand them as we cover them one by one, and then review the information before the test, and there is no reason why you would not get a good grade.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR MAJOR ESSAYS

You will receive specific guidelines and the grading rubric for individual essays, but these instructions apply to all essays, unless otherwise specified.

Format:

- Essays should have one-inch margins and use the 12-point Times New Roman font. Do not use **bold**, *italicized*, or any excessively large font.
- Double-space all essays and insert page numbers. Staple the pages together.
- Each essay (4-5 pages) should contain 1,000-1,500 words.
- Page one should contain your name, course number, and the date in the left upper corner. (This information should be only on the first page, not in the header of each page.)
- All essays should have creative and informative titles, centered just above the beginning of the text. There is no need to create a separate title page.
- Proofread each essay with care to remove any obvious errors and typos.

Deadlines:

- For each day an essay is late, the grade will be lowered to the grade below (ex: B+ to B).
- One weeklong penalty-free extension in the semester is allowed if you ask in advance.

ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS

Being a Pointer entails some rights and responsibilities of which you should be aware.

Familiarize yourself with the UWSP policies regarding student conduct:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>.

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct are serious violations. Read about academic integrity: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/AcademicIntegrityBrochure.pdf>
If unsure whether certain actions are appropriate or not, please feel free to talk to me about it.

You have the right to be free from physical or verbal harassment: Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at UWSP. It is your right and duty to report it. Be aware of UWSP policies for such incidents (<https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/sexualassault/Pages/victims-bill-of-rights.aspx>) and of our Bias/Hate Incident Reporting (<https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Bias-Hate-Incident.aspx>). You can report (anonymously, if preferred) any incidents of interpersonal violence, such as sexual assault, as well as bias/hate incidents, such as blatantly racist or homophobic behavior.

Students with documented disabilities or temporary impairments have a right to appropriate accommodations. If you are in that situation, please let me know and contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center as soon as possible. DATC is on the 6th floor of Albertson Hall (library), and it can be reached at 715-346-3365 or DATC@uwsp.edu. For more information, see <https://www.uwsp.edu/datc/Pages/default.asp>.

Copyright Note: All lecture materials and recordings for this course are protected intellectual property. Students may use the materials and recordings only for their personal use related to participation in this class. Copying or sharing lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting them on internet sites or selling them to commercial entities would constitute illegal copyright infringement and a violation of the university's policies.

THE WRITING LAB

The Writing Lab consultants are successful UWSP students trained to discuss any type of writing at any stage of the process: brainstorming, outlining, drafting, or revising. They work with experienced as well as struggling writers since everyone benefits from feedback on their writing.

- Writing Lab sessions are currently being held virtually via Zoom by appointment
- Short notice appointments are often available
- You can send them your paper for feedback via an online form:
<https://www.uwsp.edu/tlc/Pages/online-writing-lab-request.aspx>
- All services in the Writing Lab are free

WEEKLY PROCESS

Wednesdays: New content (readings, PowerPoints, videos, etc.) and assignments (quizzes and/or discussions) become available in Canvas. You should go over that content at your own pace on Wednesday and Thursday.

Fridays: Complete your weekly assignments (quizzes/discussions) based on the content for the week. The deadline will always be Friday at midnight, but at times I will ask you to do multiple rounds of discussion, so you may not always be able to wait until Friday to start working on it.

Tuesdays: Turn in a one-page writing exercise related to the activities of the previous week (except when longer essays are due). The instructions for each exercise will be given in Canvas.

UNIT 1 SCHEDULE

This schedule includes only assigned readings and deadlines for writing assignments. Weekly schedules in Canvas contain info about other materials and minor assignments.

Sept. 2-4	Read “Being Double” (in Canvas) & complete quiz and/or discussion
Sept. 8	Turn in Writing Exercise 1
Sept. 9-11	Read “Right Place, Wrong Face” (in Canvas) & complete quiz and/or discussion
Sept. 15	Turn in Writing Exercise 2
Sept. 16-18	Read “Becoming a Writer” & “My Field of Dreams” (textbook, pp. 101-06) & complete quiz and/or discussion
Sept. 22	Turn in Writing Exercise 3
Sept. 23-25	Read “Eating Chilling Peppers” (in Canvas) & complete quiz and/or discussion
Sept. 29	Turn in Writing Exercise 4
Sept. 30	Narrative Essay draft due
Oct. 2	Narrative Essay peer reviews due
Oct. 6	Narrative Essay revision due

On Wednesday, Oct. 7 we will start Unit 2 (based on a similar schedule you will receive later).

There is no final exam. Your third major essay will be due at the end of the exam week.