

English 202

Synchronous online class

11:00-11:50 am MWF

Spring semester 2021

Instructor: Rebecca Lorenz-Schumacher

Office on campus: 208B CCC

Email: Rebecca.Lorenz.Schumacher@uwsp.edu

Virtual office hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 12:30-1:30
and by appointment

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. **

NOTE: 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.)

A NOTE ON BEING A COLLEGE STUDENT IN 2020-2021

Let me say that being online is not my preferred method of delivering this course, but this is what we're locked into for this semester. Therefore, you are expected to log into Zoom during class time and treat it like you were attending a class in person.

Also, this class is about what you put into it for success. If you attend and pay attention during the Zoom meetings, participate in the breakout sessions, complete the work on time, and read and implement my feedback in a timely manner, you will get darn near an in-person class experience. You will still get to meet and interact with other students in this class. You will still get to know me, and I am here to support you. If you put in the effort, I guarantee you will have a good experience. In fact, I had only synchronous classes in the fall, and 99% of students surveyed said being synchronous gave them a sense of belonging and structure they were longing for. Many students got to know their lit circle groups as well and they made friends within the class. Therefore, if you put in the effort, you will get a lot out of the course.

CLASS OBJECTIVES

This class will focus on the essentials of argument, research, and documentation.

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 202 class, you will

- 👂 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
- 📖 critically analyze a nonfiction book
- 📖 work with your peers to improve your writing and critical thinking skills

HOW THIS CLASS WILL RUN

1. We will meet synchronously, which means we will meet live on Zoom during scheduled class times (11:00-11:50am on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays). However, there will be many classes in which we do not meet on Zoom or will have an alternate activity assigned; I will inform you at least one class period in advance of days we won't meet.
2. The link to this class is in Canvas under Zoom. You will need to be logged into Zoom AND Canvas with your UWSP credentials and student name to be let into the Zoom meeting. If you log in with a different name, I will not let you into the meeting.
3. Treat class like you would if you were in person. This means you are ready and prepared to take notes, you are appropriately dressed, and you are in a location that allows you to focus on the class (i.e. NO DRIVING OR FISHING or other random activity during Zoom. Seriously.).
4. No logging in and muting everything and sleeping during class time. While I will record the lectures, you will get the most out of the material and instruction only if and when you attend class. Attendance will not be counted if you just log in. You need to actually participate in the course (handing things in, working with your peers during small group discussions, etc.) for attendance credit. Your writing will reflect if you have been participating in the course.
5. If you are unable to attend the live Zoom for any reason, you do NOT need to inform me. Therefore, if you miss the Zoom, you need to check Canvas for the lecture/materials/due dates/assignments. I will not reteach the class via email.
6. When you log in to Zoom, you will be put into a waiting room until I let you in. This may take a few minutes depending on the connection. **I highly recommend logging in at least 5 minutes before class starts.** I usually have a welcome message and some cool '70s rock playing so you can test your audio and video connection.
7. Once I start the class, you MUST MUTE YOUR VIDEO AND AUDIO. I primarily share my screen, so if you toggle Zoom to Speaker View (it's in the upper right corner on a laptop, or you can swipe your screen if you're using a tablet), you will only see me and not be distracted by anything else. I discourage using your phone to watch the Zoom as it's almost impossible to see what's on my screen.
8. You are allowed to send me messages in the Chat to clarify content and ask questions, but be aware the whole class will see the message. Keep it appropriate. You will be unable to chat with anyone else during class. You can also briefly unmute your microphone to ask a question or clarify something.
9. Anyone who creates a distraction in Zoom will be removed and possibly banned from future sessions.

10. There will be times when I want you to turn your cameras and microphones on, especially when we work in small groups. In particular, you should have both on when we start Literature Circles (more on this later in the syllabus). Make sure your surroundings are appropriate. If they are not, do not turn your video on. However, I want this to be the exception, not the norm (see #3).
11. If you don't participate/log in/submit assignments for more than 6 consecutive class periods without contacting me, I'll assume you've chosen to fail the course and I will report you to the university as not attending.

CLASS POLICIES

1. You will be respectful of all people in the virtual class and in Canvas at all times. This means muting your video and mic when required, not distracting other students during the Zoom, nor will you badmouth me, other students, or other professors while in Zoom or in Canvas.
2. You will be respectful of my time, which means you will not beg me to redo an assignment nor distract me or others during the Zoom sessions.
3. I assess your performance 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, logging into a Zoom meeting 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 almost certain failure in this class.
4. Since I want you to treat this class like you would if we were in person, please silence (or better yet, turn off) your cell phones. You don't need the distraction. Even if there is a "down" moment in class, please refrain from checking your phone.
5. Class materials, assignments, quizzes, grades, news, updates, etc., are all on Canvas.
6. Most assignments will be due by **midnight** on the date due; however, check each assignment to be sure.
7. 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.
8. If you have a detailed question or concern about an assignment, grade, or the class, don't ask before or during the whole class Zoom meeting. Instead, email me and, if needed, we can set up a time to meet on Zoom.
9. Everyone has the right to be addressed and referred to by the name & pronouns they want. Talk to me if you have any concerns.
10. Email/Canvas message info: I know it's surprising, but I do have a life outside of Zoom and 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, if you're asking me to look over your draft, or if you're rude or disrespectful.

11. Office hours: My office hours are listed at the top of the first page of this syllabus. They are times when I am free to meet with students on Zoom. I will not be logged into Zoom, so if you want to meet with me, send me an email. 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 if you are unable to contact me before. 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 off (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 Monday, you can turn it in Wednesday with no points off).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

Throughout the semester, we will have several short assignments. There will be 200 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. An I-search paper on your career or major (approx. 3-5 pages in length, in MLA format)
2. An evaluative biography paper (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).

All will utilize UWSP library's many resources. You will be required to watch videos on library instruction and how to find the correct sources for these papers. 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 (300 points)

In small groups, you will read a nonfiction book that you have chosen from a list. You will meet with your group each week on Zoom & discuss the book, have assignments (50 points/week total) 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 bonus points available when you attend and participate in the live Zoom lit circle meetings.

Final Exam (100 points)

This will be a rather fun way to end the semester. Stay tuned for details.

REQUIREMENT AND POINT BREAKDOWN:

Short writing assignments/quizzes	200 total points
I-search paper	100 points
Evaluative biography paper	100 points
Literature review	100 points
Literature circle assignments	300 points
Annotated bibliography	100 points
Final exam	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, essentially, 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 incorrectly using/citing a source.

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

If I discover plagiarism, I will contact you and we will discuss the issue. If the infraction is severe enough, I will contact the office of Student Rights & Responsibilities. You will receive a 0 on the assignment, and you will be unable to make up that assignment. If you plagiarize again, I will again contact SRR. You will then automatically 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 ETIQUETTE

Since we won't meet in person, I tend to get inundated with emails. Most are not necessary as they are tackled in the info above. But to clarify:

1. Don't email me to tell me you won't be logging in to a live Zoom.
2. Don't email me to ask for things that are already posted to Canvas. If the document/assignment is not on Canvas, then let me know.
3. Don't email me asking me trivial matters (E.g. "Is this Beatles poster OK for my background?").
4. Be respectful and professional in email correspondence (i.e. Don't address me as "Hey You" or "Yo").
5. Don't send me drafts for review.
6. Use email sparingly, and only for urgent concerns. This will save time for everyone.