

**English 101**  
Fall 2023

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Office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30pm-2:00pm,  
Thursdays 3:30-4:30 (dependent on my kids' schedule),  
and by appointment and/or Zoom

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**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Available from text rental:

📖 Kirszner, Laurie G, and Stephen R. Mandell. *Patterns for College Writing*. 15<sup>th</sup> ed.,  
Bedford/St. Martin's, 2021.

Available for purchase in the University Bookstore:

📖 Hacker, Diana. *Rules for Writers*. 10<sup>th</sup> ed., Bedford/St. Martin's, 2022.

\* You will be using *Rules for Writers* ALL SEMESTER (and for English 202 as well);  
therefore, **YOU ARE REQUIRED TO PURCHASE IT ASAP**. The 10<sup>th</sup> edition is required  
as it contains crucial updates. \*\*

📖 Shakespeare, William. *Macbeth*. Folger Shakespeare Library edition, 1992. \* **REQUIRED\***

**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 during a future class. (We'll talk about this assignment later in the syllabus.)

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**CLASS OBJECTIVES**

This class will focus on the essentials of effective composition. You will apply these skills to your other college studies and beyond. You will learn how to fit the pieces of English together to become a strong critical thinker, a well-read college student, and an effective writer.

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, at the conclusion of this course, you will be able to

- ✍ Identify and write for specific purposes, audiences, and styles
- ✍ Understand the basics of college-level research and documentation
- ✍ Develop strong critical thinking skills through analysis of literature
- ✍ Effectively critique your peers' papers
- ✍ Demonstrate academic integrity by working responsibly and professionally

**ATTENDANCE**

I expect you to attend every class. Consistent attendance is required for a passing grade.

You are also expected to be to class on time each day and stay the entire class period. In addition, arriving late to class, leaving early, or leaving class and returning a short while later are distracting and not acceptable. Occasional late arrivals or emergency departures are fine, but do not make it a habit. Don't leave class for 10 minutes just because you're bored.

However, there are obviously times when you may need to miss class. Check Canvas to see what you missed. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO CONTACT ME UNLESS YOU ARE MISSING MULTIPLE CLASS PERIODS or it's the day of an exam.**

I grade attendance as follows:

- ✍ All students start off with 50 attendance and participation points
- ✍ You are allowed to miss **3** classes without losing points from your attendance grade. **At the fourth missed class, I will deduct 10 points for EACH class missed.**

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

- ✍ You are allowed to be late to class twice. At the third time, **I will deduct 10 points from your attendance grade EACH time you are late to class.**
- ✍ You are allowed to leave early or leave class & return a short time later twice. At the third instance, **I will deduct 10 points for EACH occurrence.**

If you have a medical condition that may cause you to be absent or frequently leave class, let me know and submit a request to DRC so you will not lose points.

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 the classroom and in Canvas at all times. This means you will attend each class on time, stay for the entire class period (which means not ducking out because you're bored), not talk while I'm talking, nor will you badmouth me, other students, or other professors. You will also try to keep your language clean and be respectful of others' points of view.

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/assignments that are obviously incorrect, plagiarized, or AI generated (more about this later).

3. I assess your performance in class by grading your written work, mainly through your major 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. You must hand in ALL major papers (i.e. papers worth 100 points) in order to pass this class. This is the only way I can see if you are understanding and applying the concepts I have taught. Therefore, make the papers your #1 priority to complete.

4. Silence your phone and put it away once class starts. Neither you nor I need the distraction. Even if there is a quiet moment once class has started, please refrain from checking your phone.

5. You are allowed to take notes on laptops or tablets, but be aware that electronics cannot be used on an exam. Also, you can only use them for note-taking or e-books, not for online shopping (or other distracting activities) during class. If you fail to adhere to this rule, you lose the privilege of using a laptop for any reason in class.

6. No audio or video recording unless you have official documentation from the university.

7. Class materials, assignments, quizzes, grades, news, reminders, updates, etc. are all on Canvas. **CHECK CANVAS AT LEAST ONCE A DAY!**

8. All papers will be graded in Canvas; therefore, all assignments/papers posted to Canvas must be uploaded as files in pdf or doc format. Canvas cannot open Pages files nor links to external storage locations (e.g. One Drive).

9. 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. You also cannot use AI for any papers. 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.

10. If you have a detailed question or concern about an assignment, grade, or the class, don't ask me before or right after class 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. Contact me to set up a time.

11. I am not a tech person. If you're having difficulty with a technical aspect of Canvas or computers in general, contact Help in Canvas (it's on the bottom far left of all pages) or UWSP IT.

12. 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](http://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.

13. Email/Canvas message info – **IMPORTANT!**

a. 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).

b. 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 missing one class, if you want to make up an assignment that you can't make up, or if you're rude, demanding, disrespectful, or you cross personal boundaries.

c. Think about what you are asking before you email me. My inbox gets clogged with unnecessary emails. Look at Canvas BEFORE you email me.

d. Emails **must** contain your class title and section (e.g. English 101 sec. #) in the subject line. I teach four similar classes, and this helps me narrow down which class/section you are in.

14. 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. HOWEVER, there are times I may need to cancel or cut short office hours with little to no notice. Therefore, if you want to meet with me, contact me to set up a time so I will definitely be there. If my office hours don't work for you, please contact me to set up another time.

### **LATE WORK POLICY**

All papers need to be submitted to Canvas in the appropriate format to be considered on time. However, I do have a late work policy that is as follows. This policy 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). You do not need to tell me if you are turning in the paper late.

### **ABSENT FOR EXAM POLICY**

We only have one exam in this class. If you will be absent for it, I need notification via email **PRIOR** to the class period. We will discuss if you are able to make up the exam, and if it is allowed, it must be made up within one week.

### **COURSE GRADE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Attendance and Participation (50 points)**

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

- 🔔 Missing more than 3 classes
- 🔔 Arriving late more than 2 times
- 🔔 Leaving class early more than 2 times
- 🔔 Talking while I'm talking
- 🔔 Being distracting or disruptive
- 🔔 Not being prepared for class
- 🔔 Using your phone/laptop during class for non-class things or at inappropriate times

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 (150 points)**

We will have various short writing assignments, quizzes, and peer reviews throughout the semester. Most will be online, but some will be in-class only. They will each be worth 10 points with 150 points total for the semester. These assignments **are unable to be made up (so don't ask)**. However, I will drop your THREE lowest grades (so there will be 180 points available, but only 150 points will count).

#### **Papers (300 points)**

You will write three papers of various styles and topics:

- ✍ A descriptive essay (approx. 3 pages long)
- ✍ A paper on *Macbeth* (approx. 2 pages long)
- ✍ A profile paper on your lit circle book (group project; uses research and is in MLA format; page length varies due to group size but your content will be about 2-3 pages)

They are each worth 100 points. You will also be required to submit rough drafts and complete peer reviews in Canvas. These points will be part of the Short Writing Assignments listed above.

#### ***Macbeth***

We will read the book/play as a class. You will have a paper (one of the papers mentioned above) and an exam on the book worth 100 points each. **YOU MUST PURCHASE** (they're under \$10) or **BORROW A PRINT COPY OF THE PLAY!** You won't be able to pass the assignments without it. Heads-up: You cannot use electronics for the exam.

#### **Literature circles project (300 points total)**

From a list presented to you, you will pick a book to read in small groups for several weeks of class. You will have weekly submissions, quizzes, and in-class writing assignments and reflections. Attendance and participation at the in-class lit circle meetings is required for a passing grade.

#### **Short papers (50 points each)**

You will write two short, slightly informal papers in which you will compare and contrast your book to its movie/TV show counterpart (or a similar movie/show), and final "exam" in which you reflect on your first semester of college.

**REQUIREMENT AND POINT BREAKDOWN:**

Attendance and participation	50 points
Short writing assignments	150 points total
<i>Macbeth</i> exam	100 points
Major papers (3 X 100 points each)	300 points total
Short papers	100 points total
Literature circle assignments	300 points
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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), turning in a paper you found on the internet (it won't be correct anyway), or not citing a source correctly.

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, I will point it out on the assignment and your grade will be decreased based on the severity of the infraction. If it is severe enough, I will contact the office of the Dean of Students and report you. **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 Dean of Students for more information.