


<p>Dr. Dejan Kuzmanovic</p> <p>Zoom Office Hours:  M 3:15-3:45 p.m.  W 5:30-6:00 p.m.  F 12:15-12:45 p.m.  or by appointment:  <a href="mailto:dkuzmano@uwsp.edu">dkuzmano@uwsp.edu</a></p>	<p><b>English 101: Freshman English</b>  Spring 2021  Sections 8C, 9C &amp; 10C  100% Online (asynchronous)</p> <p>Zoom link for office hours:  <a href="https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/9393535943">https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/9393535943</a></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 you will read short texts, view PowerPoint presentations and videos, and complete various tasks (quizzes, discussion posts, writing exercises, peer reviews). These weekly activities will help you develop the reading, writing, and critical thinking skills you will need not only in this course, but also in many other courses you will take in the future.

**You must participate in class activities on a regular basis week after week. You will need to log in to the course at least every other day and keep up with the schedule of assignments.**

Every Monday I will publish in Canvas the materials and assignments for the next seven days. Two or three assignments will be due every week, typically on Wednesdays, Fridays, and some Mondays. Most of these will be quick and easy, a way for you to show that you are learning the content and staying engaged. All of them will help you prepare for a major assignment.

## REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

- Unit 1 (weeks 1-5) 300 points = 30% of course grade
- Unit 2 (weeks 6-10) 300 points = 30% of course grade
- Unit 3 (weeks 11-15) 300 points = 30% of course grade
- Final Exam 100 points = 10% of course grade

Each unit will end with a major essay worth 180-200 points. That will be preceded by a detailed plan/outline for the essay (50 points) and several quizzes and discussions (5-10 points each).

A = 940-1000 points	C = 740-769 points
A- = 900-939 points	C- = 700-739 points
B+ = 870-899 points	D+ = 670-699 points
B = 840-869 points	D = 640-669 points
B- = 800-839 points	D- = 610-639
C+ = 770-799 points	F = 0-609 points

**You will get 0 points for uncompleted assignments, so avoid missing too many of them, and make sure you turn in the major essay at the end of each unit in order to pass the course.**

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 show some flexibility and allow make-up work, as long as you are in touch and keep me informed rather than just disappear for an extended period of time.

## 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 identify key elements of argumentation.

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

Kirszner & Mandell, *Patterns for College Writing*, 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

## WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

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

- 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.
- 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.
- Any essay that does not meet the required minimum length will receive a failing grade.
- 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.

## FINAL EXAM

You will receive detailed guidelines several weeks in advance. Most likely, the exam will consist of two tasks: 1) Revise a passage containing grammatical and stylistic problems covered during the semester; 2) Write a short essay within a limited amount of time showing your ability to compose a clear, precise, logically organized, and grammatically correct piece of writing. The last week of the semester will be largely dedicated to preparations for the exam.

## WEEKLY TASKS & EXTRA CREDIT

You can earn many points by completing simple tasks (mostly quizzes and discussion posts) throughout the semester. This is an excellent way to raise your overall course grade above the grades received on major essays. Also, these tasks will help you do well on these major essays.

All assignments must be completed by the deadline specified in Canvas. I might allow make-up work once or twice, if justified, but missing multiple deadlines will mean losing points.

However, since missing an occasional quiz or discussion could happen to anyone, I will give all students 5 extra points in each unit (for a total of 15 points) to offset some of the missed points.

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> floor of Albertson Hall (library), and it can be reached at 715-346-3365 or [datc@uwsp.edu](mailto:datc@uwsp.edu). For more information, see <https://www.uwsp.edu/datc/Pages/default.aspx>.

**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, and all services are free
- You can send them your paper for feedback via an online form:  
<https://www.uwsp.edu/tlc/Pages/online-writing-lab-request.aspx>

## MAJOR DEADLINES

There will be a separate page in Canvas listing all required readings, viewings, and assignments for individual weeks. Here I am including only the tentative deadlines for the major assignments.

Deadline	Assignments
Feb. 1	Diagnostic Exercise: Anecdote (10 points)
Feb. 15	Narrative Plan (50 points)
Feb. 19	Narrative Plan Peer Review (10 points)
Feb. 22	Narrative Draft (ungraded; must be submitted for peer review)
Feb. 26	Narrative Draft Peer Review (10 points)
Mar. 1	Narrative Essay (180 points)
Mar. 29	Exploration Plan (50 points)
Apr. 2	Exploration Plan Peer Review (10 points)
Apr. 5	Exploration Draft (ungraded; must be submitted for peer review)
Apr. 7	Stylistic Revisions Exercise (10 points)
Apr. 9	Exploration Draft Peer Review (10 points)
Apr. 12	Exploration Essay (180 points)
May 3	Argumentation Plan/Outline (50 points)
May 7	Argumentation Plan/Outline Peer Review (20 points)
May 12	Argumentation Essay (200 points)
May 21	Final Exam

## FINAL THOUGHTS

**Be smart:** Do not approach this course as a chore, but as an opportunity to expand your thinking and hone the skills you will need throughout college. 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. Make the writing assignments a 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.