

English 150: Argument and Research
Syllabus
(Fall 2020)

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Sec 1H: TR 3:30-4:45
Sec 10H: MW 9:30-10:45
Sec 11H TR 2-3:15
Office Hours: MW 1:30-2:30

This class has many objectives. Though a close focus on specifically argumentative texts we will explore ways to start thinking systematically about writing, and also about the principles of argument and the methods of research.

Throughout the course you will develop skills that will enable you to identify the basic components and elements that shape successful writing, such as topic, purpose, genre, and audience. Using these skills you will work to compose articulate, grammatically correct, and organized pieces of writing with properly documented and supported ideas, evidence, and information suitable to the topic, purpose, and audience. Further, you will develop skills enabling you to critique your own and others' writing and to provide effective and useful feedback to improve your and your colleagues' communication.

Our class will be transpiring entirely online using the Canvas OLP (online learning platform). Using Zoom and other space-age technologies we'll get together both synchronously (all at the same time) and asynchronously (at no particular time; whenever works). The asynchronous material (mostly videos of me in my living room) will be available through links on our Canvas page, and I'll also provide a Zoom link for the times the whole class meets together (the synchronous segments). Full-class Zoom meetings will only be scheduled during times when the class is actually scheduled to meet, and will typically occur on the second class day of any given week.

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We will be using the following texts:

- *Novels and Stories* by Zora Neale Hurston (rental)

- *Complete Novels* by Dashiell Hammett (rental)
- *The Complete Pelican Shakespeare* (rental)
- *Rules for Writers* 9th edition by Diana Hacker (purchase)
- Also, I strongly recommend that you set yourself up with a current hardback college dictionary.

These are all available at the bookstore. If you're off campus the bookstore can mail them to you.

In addition, we will view the following films:

- *The Maltese Falcon* (John Huston, 1940)
- *Henry V* (Laurence Olivier, 1944)
- *Henry V* (Kenneth Branagh, 1989)

These films will be available to stream through the Library. I'll provide links on our Canvas page.

Your grade in this class will be based on your continued conscientious application to the things we're reading, discussing, and writing. Specifically, I will evaluate the following tasks:

- Participation in workshops and discussions
- A Writing / Viewing Journal
- Three "in-class" essays
- A final Portfolio containing revisions of your in-class essays

The breakdown of your grade will work roughly as follows:

- Journal: 300 points
- Three in-class Essays: 100 points apiece
- Portfolio: 300 points
- Preparation, Participation: 100 points

Reading: Plan to have the reading and viewing for a given week **done before the first class meeting that week.** The readings and films will provide the bases for our discussions and Journal assignments, and we will very frequently be doing exercises and other activities that will require intimate knowledge of what you've

read. Class will be miserable if you haven't read what we're working on, and great fun if you have. **Bottom line: Do the reading.**

Viewing: You'll be required to watch several films out of class. As with the readings, this must be done before the first class meeting that week as the films will be an integral part of class discussion. Specific versions of the films are indicated in the syllabus, and all of them are available for in-house viewing at the Library circulation desk, located on the first floor.

Journals: **A Journal entry is due before the beginning of the first class each week** (unless otherwise noted). That is, for sections 1 and 11, Journal entries are due each Tuesday; for section 10 they're due each Monday. We will be evaluating and workshopping them exhaustively during the synchronous class meetings. A list of Journal prompts resides in the Journal Prompts module on our Canvas page. Journal entries must be typed, double-spaced, and (unless otherwise noted) must amount to at least 300 precisely-chosen, interesting, moving words (about a full typed double-spaced page). **Late Journal entries will not be accepted.**

The Journal will be the site of a large percentage of your writing in this course. In it you will reflect on things we read and view, respond to specific questions, and begin marshaling the ideas that you will later develop in your papers. The journal will also give you an opportunity to reflect on your conceptions of yourself and the things you value, and develop your own ideas and voice. The Journal is not quite as structured as the papers, and is an arena where you can express yourself honestly and openly. Nonetheless successful journaling requires careful thought and effort. **Spelling, grammar, mechanics, and strong writing are all important parts of this exercise.**

Think of the Journal as prewriting or exploratory writing, writing that you work through in order to massage and refine your ideas and understanding of a subject. While you hope it will impress people, you don't necessarily expect it to wind up in a formal draft in its current form. We will (anonymously) read and evaluate Journal entries regularly in class, so put forth effort that you will feel comfortable having your classmates read. Journals are scored holistically and will typically receive a "check," "plus," or "minus." Point-wise, this translates to roughly 26.5 for a check, 28.5 for a plus, and 22.5 for a minus (basically a B+, an A, or a C).

"In-Class" Writing: You will draft three papers during synchronous class meetings, closely-focused arguments in response to specific prompts stemming from our reading and viewing. Topics will be announced and discussed well in advance of due dates. You will be required to consult and cite secondary sources for each of the papers, drawing from a library of critical essays found on our Canvas page in the modules for each author. I'll evaluate and score each of these drafts, and you'll also get the chance to peer-review them. Missed in-class drafts must be made up as soon as possible under timed conditions. As indicated above, specific topics, requirements, parameters, suggestions, and encouragement will be offered well in advance. You should prepare for these drafts by engaging in invention and prewriting exercises and hashing out thesis statements and outlines in advance. We will discuss this in class at length. **NO PRE-DRAFTED ESSAYS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Do what you need to do to ensure that you can crank out a complete draft in the allotted time (roughly seventy minutes).

Portfolios: During or before the Final Exam period you will submit a Final Portfolio containing the following:

- Revised versions of your three drafts, **including the addition of an additional secondary source for each;** and
- All feedback (the peer-review sheets).

Submit the Final Portfolio as a single Word document or PDF.

- Start with a Title page indicating the assignment ("Final Portfolio"), your name and class and section, and the date.
- Follow this with the three revisions in order, each containing its own list of Works Cited. You'll end up with a big long document containing:
 - Your Hurston revision and its Works Cited list,
 - Your Hammett revision and its Works Cited list, and
 - Your Henry V revision and its Works Cited list.

Observe the conventions of the MLA style for all documentation, and remember always to title your papers.

When you revise your papers you will attend to specific reading and evaluating skills that will help you locate the strengths and weaknesses in your writing and make sound decisions about improving it. You will also have the benefit of feedback on your drafts from your colleagues and from me.

A revision is an opportunity to take a paper farther than you originally had the time or insight to. As such, it represents a significant departure from the original.

and must involve substantially more than merely correcting mechanical errors. Each revision is worth 100 points, separate from the original draft. If I see no or little evidence of substantive changes it is perfectly possible for a revision to receive fewer points than the original. We will discuss strategies for revision exhaustively in class.

Remember too, as mentioned above, that you will be required to consult, quote, and cite an additional secondary source for each revision.

Email: All of you, as you know, are assigned an email account when you arrive. Get to know it and **get into the habit of checking your email every evening**. I will frequently send reminders, copies of assignments, and other important stuff via email, and it's your responsibility to make sure you get it.

A note on attendance: Attendance at the synchronous class meetings is mandatory. I allow you three absences for the semester with no questions asked. Beyond this, **excuses notwithstanding**, I will begin reducing your grade by 25 points for each absence. If you know you'll need to be absent at some point during the semester—whether for extracurricular activities like sports or personal obligations like weddings—plan to spend your three absences on these. In-class essays missed due to absence must be made up under timed conditions as soon as possible. Quizzes and workshops cannot be made up. Also please note that I cannot re-teach the class by email: if you miss class, contact another student to find out what you missed. Of course, I'll be happy to send any handouts you miss, and you're always welcome to show up at my office hours to go over anything.

Plagiarism: Do not shortchange yourself and mislead your colleagues by presenting the work of another as your own. Plagiarism is **THE** cardinal academic sin, and I take it very seriously. Proof of this offense will result at the very least in failure for that assignment, and the penalties can get much more serious very quickly. Think your own thoughts, do your own work, and broadcast it proudly. Know too that plagiarism is always easy to detect and prove, and that, frankly, it's less work to do your own work than to craft a convincing piece of plagiarism. For more information on university standards of academic conduct, follow this link: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>

CALENDAR

Wk 1 (9/2-9/4)

- Introduction (VIDEO/SYNCHRONOUS)

- Introduction to Library Research (VIDEO and Canvas text links)
- Read RW 78-98 on argument (VIDEO/LINK TO CANVAS TEXT ARGUMENT BASIC TERMS)
- Read Hurston's "How it Feels to be Colored Me" (on our Canvas page in the Hurston Secondary Sources module)

Wk 2 (9/8-9/11)

- Begin *Their Eyes were Watching God* (get through chapter II)
- (HURSTON VIDEO)
- Read RW 358-390 on research and 403-417 on working with sources; also, note the existence of RW sections 53-57 on documenting sources (VIDEO AND TEXT LINKS)
- Introduction to Documentation; Documentation exercise (ASYNCHRONOUS INTRO VIDEO/SYNCHRONOUS BREAKOUT ROOMS ON DAY 2)
- Journal #1 due on Day 1 (LINK TO CANVAS ASSIGNMENT)

Wk 3 (9/14-9/18)

- (HURSTON VIDEO)
- *Their Eyes were Watching God* continued
- Read Boyd on Hurston in Haiti (on our Canvas page in the Hurston Secondary Sources module)
- Journal #2 due on Day 1 (Monday/Tuesday)

Wk 4 (9/21-9/25)

- *Their Eyes were Watching God* continued
- (HURSTON VIDEO)
- Read Integrating Sources Hurston
- Read RW section 55 on integrating sources
- Day 2: Quoting exercise (SYNCHRONOUS BREAKOUT ROOMS)
- Journal #3 due on Day 1 (LINK TO CANVAS ASSIGNMENT)

Wk 5 (9/28-10/2)

- *Their Eyes were Watching God* continued
- (HURSTON VIDEO)
- Read Effective Intro paragraphs (LINK TO CANVAS PAGE/VIDEO)
- Journal #4 due on Day 1 (LINK TO CANVAS ASSIGNMENT)

Wk 6 (10/5-10/9)

- Day 2 (Synchronous on Wednesday/Thursday): **Draft Paper #1**

Wk 7 (10/12-10/16)

- (HAMMETT INTRO VIDEO)
- Begin *The Maltese Falcon* (get through chapter V)
- Day 2: (Synchronous) Peer Review Draft #1

Wk 8 (10/19-10/23)

- Journal #5 **due on Day 1** (LINK TO CANVAS ASSIGNMENT)
- (HAMMETT VIDEO)
- *The Maltese Falcon* continued (get through chapter XIII)
- Journal #6 due on Day 1 (LINK TO CANVAS ASSIGNMENT)

Wk 9 (10/26-10/30)

- (VIDEO)
- *The Maltese Falcon* continued
- Read Integrating Sources Hammett (LINK TO CANVAS TEXT)
- Day 2: Quoting exercise (SYNCHRONOUS BREAKOUT ROOMS)
- Journal #7 due on Day 1 (LINK TO CANVAS ASSIGNMENT)

Wk 10 (11/2-11/6)

- (VIDEO)
- *The Maltese Falcon* continued
- **Journal # 8 due on Day 1** (LINK TO CANVAS ASSIGNMENT)
- Day 2 (Synchronous): **Draft Paper #2**

Wk 11 (11/9-11/13)

- (HAL INTRO VIDEO)
- Begin *Henry V* (get through act 1)
- Watch Branagh's *Henry V*
- Day 2 (Synchronous): Peer Review Draft #2

Wk 12 (11/16-11/20)

- *Henry V* continued (get through act 2)
- Journal #9 due on Day 1 (LINK TO CANVAS ASSIGNMENT)

Wk 13 (11/23-11/25)

- (VIDEO)

- *Henry V* continued (punch out act 3 and stop whining)
- Watch Olivier's *Henry V*
- Journal #10 due on Day 1 (LINK TO CANVAS ASSIGNMENT)

Thanksgiving!

Wk 14 (11/30-12/4)

- (VIDEO)
- *Henry V* continued (acts 4 and 5)
- **Journal #11 due on Day 1** (LINK TO CANVAS ASSIGNMENT)
- Day 2 (Synchronous): **Draft Paper #3**

Wk 15 (12/7-12/11)

- Day 1 (Synchronous): Peer Review Draft #3
- Day 2 (Synchronous): : Conclusions; discuss Portfolios

Final Exams (12/14-12/18)

Our exams:

ENGL 150-01H (80569)	Advanced Freshman English (Lecture)	12/15/2020, Tuesday	12:30PM - 2:30PM
ENGL 150-10H (80578)	Advanced Freshman English (Lecture)	12/17/2020, Thursday	10:15AM - 12:15PM
ENGL 150-11H (80579)	Advanced Freshman English (Lecture)	12/14/2020, Monday	10:15AM - 12:15PM

