

**English 150**  
Fall semester 2020

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Instructor: Rebecca Lorenz-Schumacher  
Office on campus: 208B CCC  
Email: [rlorenzs@uwsp.edu](mailto:rlorenzs@uwsp.edu) or message me on Canvas  
Virtual office hours (when I will be on Zoom for meetings): Mondays and Wednesdays noon-1:00 pm; Tuesdays noon-2:00pm, and by appointment

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**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*. 9<sup>th</sup> ed., Bedford/St. Martin's, 2019.

\*\* Make sure it's the 9<sup>th</sup> edition. \*\*

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.)

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**CLASS OBJECTIVES**

This class will focus on the basics of composition and move to the essentials of argument and research.

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 150 class, you will

- 📖 solidify your understanding of the basics of composition
- 📖 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
- 📖 improve your critical thinking skills by analyzing a book
- 📖 work with your peers to improve your writing and critical thinking skills

**A NOTE ON BEING A COLLEGE STUDENT IN 2020**

Let me say that being online is NOT my preferred method of delivering this course. I would MUCH rather be in person. However, this way keeps us all safe and is the best we can do given the circumstances.

That being said, this class is about what you put into it for success. If you attend all the Zoom sessions, 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.

ALSO – the format and assignments in this class are subject to change. We may find that we don't have enough time or need more time for certain items. Please be flexible (be like water, as Bruce Lee once said).

### **ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION**

While I expect you to log in and attend Zoom class meetings whenever possible, I do realize that some of you may not be able to access the class live. Therefore, if you are unable to attend class live, I will upload a video of the lecture to Canvas shortly after class time. You are REQUIRED to watch the lecture if you do not attend it live as it will contain vital information for success in this class. I don't assign many textbook readings, so most of the information you need will come in the form of lectures and PowerPoints.

In addition, you will be required to participate in various class activities for passing grade. This means attending at least some breakout class sessions, working with your peers in literature circles, and completing peer review assignments.

Obviously, there are times when you will be unable to log into a live class or have difficulty turning something in on time. Please contact me if you are having difficulties and I will be willing to work with you. If you don't participate for more than 6 consecutive class periods without contacting me, I'll assume you've chosen to fail the course.

### **ZOOM CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

Whenever we have a class Zoom meeting scheduled (which won't be every class period, but there will be MANY meetings), the following rules apply:

1. Log in at least 5 minutes early and be ready to start on time.
2. Microphones MUST BE MUTED for the duration of class. If you have a question, use the "raise hand" icon OR submit it in the chat for EVERYONE. If I ask to you speak, then you can unmute your microphone. Please mute it again when you are done talking. Exceptions to this rule include meeting in breakout sessions, literature circle meetings, or when I give the OK.
3. If you're going to attend a Zoom meeting, I would prefer that you have your video/camera on. This way I can see you, get to know you, and make sure you're not just logging in and not listening. If you need to leave for a bit, you may mute your camera for a few minutes, but come back on once you are ready. I also understand that there may be circumstances where you cannot have your video on due to internet/bandwidth restrictions or other factors. If you feel that it's a hindrance to have your camera on, please let me know.
4. You must be appropriately clothed, just like you would be in an in-person class. It's fine if you're in a t-shirt and sweatpants, but the t-shirt should not contain offensive matter. Please, for everyone's benefit, wear a pair of pants/shorts/a kilt/a sarong/etc. that is appropriate for class. Even if you don't think we can see, I would prefer to avoid an embarrassing scene. 😊
5. Save the chat function for talking to the entire class. If you chat with your friends, it could accidentally get sent to everyone. Also, it's distracting for yourself and others to message them while I'm talking.
6. Have an appropriate background (i.e. remove the beer cans, girly/beefcake posters, etc.) as best you can. That being said, we really don't care if your room is a mess, you're outdoors, or wherever you need to be for internet. You can also use a virtual background

(I sometimes use SpongeBob's pineapple) as long as it's appropriate for all of us to see. However, virtual backgrounds won't work on all devices.

**Violation of any of the above policies will result in removal from the Zoom session and a loss of participation for the day. If I have to remove you more than once, I will deduct 10 points from your overall grade EACH time. If I have to remove you 3 times, you will not be allowed to attend another Zoom meeting.**

### **OVERALL CLASS POLICIES**

1. You will be respectful of all people in the class at all times. This means not bothering them during a Zoom session, respecting everyone in the session as well as within online spaces (the Canvas discussion boards, emails, etc.), listening thoughtfully and carefully in breakout/small group sessions, and muting your video if necessary.
2. You will be respectful of my time, which means you will not beg me to redo an assignment, ask if something is "OK" if it doesn't match the assignment, nor will you distract the class during a Zoom session.
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 submit ALL of your papers. You can't pass the class on just small assignments, showing up to a Zoom meeting or two, or a miracle. **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. **Cell phones must be TURNED OFF (or on Do Not Disturb) AND COMPLETELY OUT OF SIGHT during class meetings or group work time.** Neither you nor I need the distraction.
5. Canvas is your friend. YOU NEED TO USE IT. Class materials, assignments, quizzes, grades, news, updates, etc., are all on Canvas.
6. 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 so, it constitutes academic misconduct. You will receive a D or F on the paper depending on the severity of the infraction.
7. If you have a detailed question or concern about an assignment, grade, or the class, you need to email/message me on Canvas and set up an appointment to talk to me on Zoom. That way I can focus on you and your question. If it's a short general question, it's OK to post it in the chat or in an email/Canvas message.
8. Everyone has the right to be addressed and referred to by the name & pronouns they want. Talk to me if you have any concerns.
9. Email/Canvas message info: Allow 24 hours (Monday morning for a weekend email) for me to respond. 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.
10. Office hours: My Zoom office hours are listed at the top of the syllabus. They are a time I purposefully set aside to meet with students. Most of that time I am just working on my laptop and have Zoom open. However, I may need to step away from my computer for a bit. Therefore,

I would appreciate it if you let me know that you would be “seeing” me so I can be prepared to meet with you. If the times I have on the syllabus do not work for you, contact me and we will see what we can work out. You can always visit the Tutoring-Learning Center (TLC) virtually if you need help with an assignment.

### **LATE WORK POLICY**

These are extraordinary times to be certain. I understand that some of you will be attending class from home, working full time, perhaps getting ill, helping out parents, etc. It’s not the same as getting to just be a college student. However, we still live on a schedule and we have to complete assignments before moving on. Therefore, I have a late paper policy which applies ONLY to major papers (worth 100 points):

**If your paper is one class period late = no points off**

**Two class periods late = -10 points PER CLASS LATE**

**Not submitted by the last day of class = 0 on the assignment and cannot be made up**

I reserve the right to provide fewer comments on late papers. And remember, “class periods” refers to when we meet.

HOWEVER, if you are struggling with the assignment or are ill, please contact me ASAP so we can work out a solution. Don’t email me 3 weeks later and ask me to make an exception (I won’t). All papers are due by MIDNIGHT on the date due.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Participation/Attendance**

You all start off with 50 points for participation & attendance. This means you log into Zoom class meetings as often as you can, you actively participate in breakout/group sessions, complete the coursework on time, are prepared for class, etc. Any time you violate the Zoom rules from above, I will deduct 10 points from this grade for EACH infraction. See the section above about additional info on participation and attendance. Please check this grade often as I will update it as needed. You will always have time to make things right, too, so please look over my feedback.

#### **Short writing assignments/quizzes/peer review workshops (150 points)**

Throughout the semester, we will have several short assignments. There will be 150 total points available for this grade. **These assignments are unable to be made up if you are not logged in or turn it in late**; however, I will drop the grades of the THREE LOWEST-SCORED assignments throughout the semester. Therefore, 180 points will be available, but only a maximum of 150 points will count towards your grade.

#### **Current Events discussion (50 points)**

Each Monday, we will spend a bit of class time discussing current world events. Each article you post to Canvas AND discuss in Zoom will be worth 10 points, with a maximum of 50 points.

#### **Papers (500 points)**

You will write five papers of varying styles and topics. Each paper is worth 100 points.

1. A descriptive essay (approx. 3 pages long, no citing)
2. An I-search paper on your career or major (approx. 3-5 pages in length, in MLA format)
3. An evaluative biography paper (approx. 3-5 pages in length, in MLA format)
4. An annotated bibliography of your lit circle book (approx. 3 pages long, in MLA format).
5. A literature review of the articles from your annotated bibliography (approx. 5 pages, in APA format)

All will utilize UWSP library’s many resources. You will also have library instruction. You are also required to peer review drafts of other students. There will be points attached to the peer review workshops (part of the Short Writing Assignments grade).

**Nonfiction literature circles project (150 points)**

In small groups, you will read a book that you have chosen from a list. You will meet with your group in Zoom each week & discuss the book, have short assignments (150 points total) to complete on the readings, and fill out an evaluation of the project (this will be part of the **Short Writing Assignments**). Your last two papers will also be based on your book (the annotated bibliography and the literature review).

**Final Exam (100 points)**

It will be a cumulative exam of the course worth 100 points.

**REQUIREMENT AND POINT BREAKDOWN:**

Attendance & participation	50 points
Short writing assignments/quizzes	150 total points
Current events	50 total points
Descriptive essay	100 points
I-search paper	100 points
Evaluative biography paper	100 points
Literature circle assignments	150 points
Annotated bibliography	100 points
Literature review	100 points
Final exam	100 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), 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 ETTIQUETTE.**

1. Don’t email me to tell me you won’t be logging in UNLESS it is a day in which there is an exam OR you will miss multiple class periods.

2. Don't email me to ask for things that are already posted to Canvas. If the document 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. Please allow at least 24 hours for a response via email. (Monday morning at the earliest for a weekend email.)
5. Be respectful and professional in email correspondence (i.e. Don't address me as "Hey You" or "Yo").
6. Don't send me drafts for review.
7. Use email sparingly, and only for urgent concerns. This will save time for everyone.