

English 202, sec.8
Fall 2020
TRF 8-8:50
CCC 226

English 202, sec.9
Fall 2020
TRF 9-9:50
CCC 226

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Office hrs. TR 10-12 and by appt.

Syllabus

Required Texts: • Kirszner & Mandell. *Practical Argument*. 3rd ed.
• Hacker, Diana. *Rules for Writers*.

This course is designed to prepare you to communicate effectively in an academic setting and to arm you with helpful strategies for successful writing outside of the university. Our focus will be on the methods of inquiry and argumentation most commonly practiced within academic communities. Because academic discourse relies so heavily on a thorough documentation of claims, a large component of the work you do this semester will involve library research. You will be working together with your classmates in a workshop environment, which means you will be writing almost every day and will be reading and commenting on your classmates' work.

Papers. You will complete 3 research papers (3-5 pages each), and 3 shorter papers (2-3 pages). See Guidelines for Papers (below) for more specific instructions on paper expectations. *Plagiarism* of any kind will not be tolerated; see the University's "Community Rights and Responsibilities" for more information on academic expectations.

Participation: (120 points)

Individual contributions to weekly online discussion forum. (60 points total, 5 points per week, weeks 1-12) You will need to post at least 2 responses (usually 100-200 words) to questions posted in each weekly discussion forum. The first response is worth 2 points, the second is worth 3 points; one point may be deducted from any response that doesn't meet minimum requirements (too short, off topic, inappropriate, etc.)

Attendance. (60 points total, 5 per week though week 12) You will receive 5 points per week for attendance (1 point for 1st day, 2 points for the 2nd day and 2 for the 3rd). *If you are in an online cohort and you are unable to meet live via Zoom, you may complete an additional 100+ word discussion response for each day you are unable to attend.* If you are in a face-to-face cohort, you can make up 2 points per day by completing an additional discussion response. These can be in response to the questions I post as well as to classmates' contributions.

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Research papers (3)	300
Short papers (3)	180
Participation	<u>120</u>
	600 points

Guidelines For Papers

All papers must adhere to the following guidelines*:

1. They must be typed and proofread with any errors neatly corrected.
2. Double-space and print on one side of the page only
3. Use 1" margins all around, use a 10- or 12-point regular (not **bold** or *italicized*) font, and number each page.
4. There is no need for a separate title page; however, you must use a creative title at the beginning of your paper.
5. Put your name and the date in the upper right-hand corner of the first page.

Late Papers: All papers must be turned in at the beginning of class on the day assigned; however, a *late paper* may be accepted if you work out a reasonable plan of completion with me. There is no guarantee that late papers will be returned to you before the end of the semester.

* Failure to follow these guidelines may affect your grade.

Semester Calendar

(**Bold**=Short papers; **Bold**=Research Papers; chapter #s refer to *Practical Argument*. Schedule subject to change.)

Part 1 – Question Authority: Developing a Healthy Skepticism of Conventional Wisdom

Week 1: Sept 3-4, Course introduction—Conventional Wisdom

Week 2: Sept 8-12, Using and citing reliable sources—chapters 9, 10, 12

Week 3: Sept 15-18, Citing sources correctly—chapter 11; draft workshop; **Seven Sentence Essay** (60 pts)

Part 2 – Trust but Verify: Evaluating Sources Critically

Week 4: Sept 22-25, Evaluating sources—chapter 8

Week 5: Sept 29-Oct 2, Selecting appropriate sources—readings TBA

Week 6: Oct 6-9, draft workshop, **Paper #1: Article Review** (100 pts)

Part 3 – Writing is Rewriting: Applying Critical Thinking to Improve Your Arguments

Week 7: Oct 13-16, Argumentation and Reasoning—chapter 5

Week 8: Oct 20-23, Revision, Organization

Week 9: Oct 27-30, **Paper #2: Conventional Wisdom** (100 pts); begin Primary Research project planning

Part 4 – Design Your Own Primary Research Project

Week 10: Nov 3-6, Effective research methods

Week 11: Nov 10-13, Logistics, ethics

Week 12: Nov 17-20, Data analysis, strategic outlines

Week 13: Nov 24, **Primary Research Report** (60 pts)

Week 14: Dec 1-4, APA style, secondary sources

Week 15: Dec 8-11, **Paper #3: Primary Research** (100 pts)

Final: Reflective Essay (60 pts): (Section 8) Dec 16, 12:30-2:30
(Section 9) Dec 17, 2:45-4:45

Zoom meetings. To manage attendance during this unusual semester, we will all stick to our regularly scheduled time slots and meet “live” only during those times. This means that only one cohort at a time (4 students max) will be able to meet in person in the classroom (CCC 226) and the rest will join us in a Zoom meeting. This way everyone will be able to meet together at the same time, as in a regular semester. But since I think Zoom meetings that last longer than 30 minutes or so are not ideal, I plan to keep these in-person experiences to around 30 minutes and focused on interactive discussion and Q&A. I will be available to work with people one-on-one and in small groups during the remainder of each live class period. The online portion of the course will involve recorded video lectures (again, I’ll try to keep these to no more than 30 min), quizzes, and online discussions.

Covid-19 stuff. Masks are required in all classrooms. We are not allowed to hold class unless everyone is wearing a mask. If you are feeling any flu-like symptoms, please stay home. Wash your hands and follow the appropriate social distancing guidelines. Please be patient with everyone because we’re all trying to figure this thing out. For more information on this, please refer to the UWSP Covid-19 website: <https://www.uwsp.edu/coronavirus/Pages/default.aspx>.

Foundation Level Written Communication

Learning Outcomes:

1. 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.

Course elements: paper assignments, daily writing, readings and in-class activities

2. Apply your understanding of elements that shape successful writing to critique and improve your own and others’ writing through effective and useful feedback.

Course elements: draft workshops, paper #2 (revision), reflective essay

