

English 202, sec. 5  
Fall 2021  
MW 8-9:15  
CCC 240

English 202, sec. 6  
Fall 2021  
MW 9:30-10:45  
CCC 240

Dr. Wade Mahon  
Office: CCC 443  
[wmahon@uwsp.edu](mailto:wmahon@uwsp.edu)  
Office hrs. MW 11-12, TR 2-3, and by appt.

## Syllabus

Required Texts: • Kirszner & Mandell. *Practical Argument*. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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* will not be tolerated; see the University's "Community Rights and Responsibilities" for more information on academic expectations.

**Participation:** (120 points)

Daily Homework assignments. (60 points total, 4 points per week) You will need to post responses to homework assignments once or twice a week. Most homework assignments will be turned in through Canvas, but some might be completed in class.

Attendance. (60 points total, 4 points per week). Regular attendance is required and is important for completing the course successfully. If you are unable to come to class, please let me know ahead of time if possible. You are responsible for making up any work missed due to an absence. There is no Zoom option for attendance.

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 8, Course introduction—Conventional Wisdom

Week 2: Sept 13-15, Using and citing reliable sources—chapters 9, 10, 12

Week 3: Sept 20-22, Citing sources correctly—chapter 11

**Seven Sentence Essay** (60 pts)

### *Part 2 – Writing is Rewriting: Applying Critical Thinking to Improve Your Arguments*

Week 4: Sept 27-29, Argumentation and Reasoning—chapter 5

Week 5: Oct. 4-6, Revision, Organization—chapter 1

**Paper #1: Conventional Wisdom** (100 pts)

### *Part 3 – Trust but Verify: Evaluating Sources Critically*

Week 6: Oct. 11-13, Evaluating sources—chapter 8

Week 7: Oct. 18-20, Popular sources

Week 8: Oct. 25-27, Scholarly sources

**Paper #2: Unconventional Opinion Analysis** (100 pts)

### *Part 4 – Design Your Own Primary Research Project*

Week 9: Nov 1-3, Preliminary Research Question

Week 10: Nov 8-10, Effective research methods

Week 11: Nov 15-17, Logistics, ethics, strategic outlines

Week 12: Nov 22-24, APA style

**Primary Research Preliminary Report** (60 pts)

Week 13: Nov 19-Dec 1, Secondary sources; Individual conferences

Week 14: Dec 6-8, Ind. conferences; Final prep.

**Paper #3: Primary Research Final Report** (100 pts)

**Final:** (Section 5) Mon., Dec 13, 12:30-2:30  
(Section 6) Tues., Dec 14, 2:45-4:45

**Reflective Essay** (60 pts)

**Covid-19 stuff.** Masks are required in all classrooms for now. We are not allowed to hold class unless everyone is wearing a mask. If you are feeling any flu-like symptoms, please stay home. Please be patient with everyone because we're all trying to make the best of a bad situation. For more information on this, please refer to the UWSP Covid-19 website:

[Guidance-FaceCoverings.pdf \(uwsp.edu\)](#)

### **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