|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| English 250  TR 2-3:15  CCC 323 |  | Dr. Wade Mahon  Office: CCC 443  346-4327  [wmahon@uwsp.edu](mailto:wmahon@uwsp.edu)  Office hours: MTWR 10-11 and by appt. |

# Syllabus

Required Texts: • Rawlins, Jack and Stephen Metzger. *The Writer’s Way*. 8th Ed. Wadsworth.

Recommended • Hacker, Diana. *Rules for Writers*. Boston: Bedford.

English 250, Intermediate Composition, is designed to provide you with “practice in exploratory, expository, and persuasive discourse” (UWSP catalog) beyond the kind of work you did in introductory composition courses. To do this we are going to focus on how your choices as a writer are affected by *genre*. Genre has to do with the way any given text can be classified according to recognizable forms—newspaper article, poem, research paper, novel, editorial, personal essay, rejection letter, ship captain’s log, inauguration speech, etc. One goal of looking at genres is for you to gain a greater awareness of the agendas that different audiences bring to a text, so that you can address their expectations more effectively. Also, I hope this will also give us a constructive way to think about the “rules” governing different genres and the ways in which writers can work within and against these rules to create more effective and engaging texts.

**Papers** (70%) You will complete six writing projects, some shorter (2-3 pages) and some longer (3-5 pages). See Guidelines for Papers (below) for more specific instructions. *Plagiarism* of any kind will not be tolerated; see the University’s “Community Rights and Responsibilities” for more information.

**Participation** (10%) There are 3 components of this grade:

Attendance: Because of the importance of in-class writing, discussions, and workshops, it is very important that you come to class regularly and on time. Missing class will make it difficult for you and your classmates to benefit from the work we will be doing in class. If you have a legitimate excuse for missing class, contact me BEFORE that class meets and arrange ahead of time to turn in any assigned work. It is your responsibility to obtain materials and assignments handed out on days when you are absent. Near-perfect attendance will be required in order to earn an A for the Participation section, provided you show strong performance in the other areas below as well.

In-class participation: This includes asking relevant questions, responding to others’ questions in a constructive way without dominating class discussion, staying on task in group activities, etc.

Assignments turned in on time: All papers (in bold on calendar) will be due on the day assigned; however, *late papers* will be accepted if you work out a reasonable plan of completion with me. Turning in late papers, however, will affect your participation grade.

**Portfolio** (20%) This will include revised and expanded versions of at least two assignments from the semester. A visual design element will be required for at least one of the two revised papers.

Reflective Essay: A revised and expanded version of your Metaphor paper that discusses and reflects upon the work you’ve completed this semester and what you’ve learned.

Revised and Expanded Essay: One of the three Genre papers that has been significantly revised and expanded so that it is at least 5 pages long and at least 1 page longer than your original draft.

Your final grade average will be computed in the following manner:

Metaphor 10

Genre papers (4) 60

Participation 10

Portfolio 20

Total 100 %

# 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.

\* Failure to follow these guidelines may result in a reduction of your paper’s final grade.

# Semester Calendar

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sept. 5—Course Introduction  Sept. 7—**Metaphor**  Sept. 12—Reading  Sept. 14—Reading  Sept. 19—DWS 1  Sept. 21—DWS 2  Sept. 26—**Genre 1: Personal Writing**  Sept. 28—Reading  Oct. 3—Reading  Oct. 5—NO CLASS  Oct. 10—DWS 3  Oct. 12—DWS 4  Oct. 17—**Genre 2: Informative Writing**  Oct. 19—Reading  Oct. 24—Reading  Oct. 26—NO CLASS | Oct. 31—DWS 5  Nov. 2—DWS 6  Nov. 7—**Genre 3: Argumentative Writing**  Nov. 9—Reading  Nov. 14—Reading  Nov. 16—Genre Analysis  Nov. 21—Imitation strategies  Nov. 23—NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING  Nov. 28—DWS 7  Nov. 30—DWS 8  Dec. 5**—Genre 4: Imitation**  Dec. 7—Conferences  Dec. 12—Conferences  Dec. 14—Revision workshop; Portfolio planning  Dec. 20—**Portfolio due** (Wed.) 2:45-4:45 p.m. |