English 103: Composition
Assembling Admirable Arguments

Professor: Holly M. Wells, Ph.D.
E-mail: wellshollym@gmail.com
Course: CRN 91061: T/R 9:30 – 10:45 AM, Stroud 314
Office Location: Stroud 309M
Office Hours: T/R 2:00 – 3:30; W 10:00 – 12:00
Office Phone: n/a

Required Texts:
None. All readings for this course will be available electronically.

Course Description:
This course or its equivalent is required of all students. It entails the study and practice of expository writing and college-level research. The combination of writing and verbal SAT scores may require some students to pass English 090 before entering 103. Students may also demonstrate competency by taking the CLEP exam in English composition. Such examinations must be passed at the 50th percentile. AP test scores may also be considered, by arrangement of the Department chairperson. This course is offered each semester. Students must receive a minimum grade of "C" to fulfill the English Composition requirement.

English 103 Outcomes:
After completing English 103, every student should be able to demonstrate the following skills to compose a college-level essay:
1. Explore topics by summarizing, analyzing, and evaluating the ideas and works of others
2. Formulate a clear, arguable thesis
3. Develop and fully support thesis with specific evidence
4. Use a recursive writing process that includes planning, drafting, revising, and editing
5. Use effective organizational strategies that include introductions, paragraphs, transitions, and conclusions
6. Sustain focus and unity of thesis
7. Use a variety of rhetorical strategies for specific audiences
8. Edit to achieve Standard American English grammar and punctuation
9. Revise after reflection and/or feedback from others
10. Incorporate secondary sources through effective paraphrasing, summarizing, and quoting
11. Conduct library research including print and electronic resources to locate and evaluate appropriate source material
12. Use proper citation forms according to a major documentation system (MLA, APA, Chicago Manual of Style) to avoid plagiarism

Course Requirements:

Essays
You will compose three essays throughout the semester. Each essay will make an argument about a topic relevant to the learning community in which you are working. Additionally, each essay will include at least one draft, which will be peer-
reviewed and revised. Each LC will choose topics for essays by working with the instructor to cover a range of questions that focus on a specific issue in that field. By the third essay, you will be narrowing your focus to answer an important question with a well-supported argument and current, relevant research (including outside sources).

**Grading Structure:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Essays:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90–100</td>
<td>Essay 1 4–5 pages, basic persuasive paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80–89</td>
<td>Essay 2 6–7 pages, persuasive paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70–79</td>
<td>Essay 3 8–10 pages, argument with research/sources</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60–69</td>
<td>Essay 3 also requires an annotated bibliography</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>59 and below</td>
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</table>

*NOTE: Failure to turn in ALL THREE papers will result in failing the course, no matter what your grade average is. YOU MUST TURN IN ALL 3.*

**Deadlines**

- All assignments are due as specified on the course schedule and are to be turned in at the beginning of class on that day, or online, as specified.
- *No assignment will be accepted late without a documented excuse.* (Examples of a documented excuse: Doctor’s excuse, note on letterhead from boss, proof of death of immediate family member.) “The computer ate my homework” just means you weren’t bright enough to back it up—and that is not my problem.

**Conferences/Office Hours**

You are welcome (and encouraged) to take advantage of my office hours to discuss any issues related to the course. I advise you not to wait until a problem is a crisis; come see me as soon as you sense a problem arising. If you cannot meet during my regular office hours, e-mail me and we will find a mutually agreeable time.

I will schedule conferences as the semester goes on; these exist for the sole purpose of gauging your progress toward the eventual goal of producing your college-level research paper. I may meet with you in my office, at a mutually agreeable off-campus location, or online. You MUST attend any scheduled conference. Failure to attend counts against your attendance grade.

**Final grade**

Your final grade will be averaged from three individual essays, your class/LC participation, and your attendance. **Failure to submit any single assignment will result in an automatic “F” for the course.** In other words, even if you receive A’s on all your assignments except one, which you fail to turn in, you fail the course. Please note that successful completion of all class work does not guarantee passing the course. The final grade is calculated as follows:

- Essays 1 and 2: 20% each
- Class Attendance and Participation (includes in-class writing, quizzes, reading responses, etc.): 20%
- Final (paper plus annotated bibliography): 40%

**Other stuff you need to know:**

**College English is different.**

A college writing course is unlike most any other course you will take in academia, for several reasons: (1) Relatively few students means personalized attention; (2) Reading assignments can come from many subject areas; and (3) Your
style/grammar/punctuation/spelling/word choices are as important as your argument and evidence.

**E-mail is essential.**
I will adjust the readings, tasks, projects, and activities via e-mail throughout the semester. You are responsible for checking your e-mail and the e-Racer pages for updates. **Under no circumstances will “internet outages” (access issues, etc.) be an excuse for not knowing what was due or when.** Also, **please do not e-mail any assignments** unless you are specifically instructed to do so. All assignments need to be stored in the same place so that I can keep track of them.

**Attendance and participation are required.**
Three unexcused absences will be allowed. Each absence beyond the third may result in a lower final grade in the course (I reserve the right to determine by how much). **Please note: Even when you are absent, you are responsible for the work covered and are expected to complete the assignments on time.** If you miss any work due to absences or any other unforeseen or mitigating circumstances, follow these steps:

1. **Consult a classmate** to determine what was covered in class, as well as what was due.
2. **Check the syllabus and schedule**; also, check your e-mail to see if any changes have been made to the schedule.
3. **Check online.**
4. Consult with me **ONLY** after you have taken the first three steps and need further elaboration or explanation.

“**Why can’t I just turn in the three papers and still pass?”** Papers 1–3 constitute 80% of your final grade; attendance and in-class participation are the other 20%. Thus, poor attendance means you may be limited to a grade of 80% at the highest—assuming you are a brilliant writer.

**Having seven or more absences** (absences due to emergencies and unavoidable circumstances must have written, official documentation) **automatically earns you an “F” for the course: no exceptions.** Let us be honest: If you have missed 7 class meetings, either you are not serious about this course, or you have issues outside of class that are causing extreme duress. If you are not serious, I do not want you here. If you have serious issues getting to class, you need to address those before you sign up for a college course, not during the course. Obviously, if you have extenuating/unforeseen circumstances, come see me, and we’ll try to work something out.

**Student athletes:** You are responsible for turning in any assignments that may be due during your travels. These assignments must be turned in **before you leave.** You may be required to do additional homework to make up for missed in-class workshops.

**Students with full-time jobs or other major conflicts:** Come to me at the **beginning** of the semester; schedule a conference with me, and we’ll work something out. Whereas I cannot promise you’ll be able to miss multiple classes for work, I can perhaps help you find another section of English that better suits your schedule, if need be.

**A word of advice:** Treat college as though it were your job/career for the time you are here. Make a commitment to yourself and to your colleagues in the class to be a contributing member of the community. Don’t be that person who looks back in ten years and realizes he/she wasted time and money on an education.
Technology is for after class.
During our class meetings, cell phones, audio devices, etc. should be put away. (If you must wait for an emergency call, please let me know before class begins, and put your phone on vibrate.) I am sure you would not appreciate it if I spent half the class time listening to my mp3 player, texting my buddies, or updating my Facebook status; please give me the same respect. If you take notes on a laptop or netbook, that is fine; however, spending your time online or texting is a waste of my time and your money. And it’s just plain rude. Just because I don’t call you out, that doesn’t mean I haven’t noticed.

Students with disabilities:
The mission statement of East Stroudsburg University affirms the University’s long-standing commitment to serve a diversified community. Included in this commitment are ongoing efforts to make the learning resources and physical facilities of the University accessible to students with disabilities. In accordance with the terms of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), East Stroudsburg University provides reasonable accommodations for students with physical/medical, learning disabilities and or psychological disabilities. A request for reasonable accommodations should be initiated in the office of the Office of Disability Services.

Plagiarism is the fastest path to failure.
To “plagiarize” means to present as one’s own a material portion of the ideas or words of another, or to present as one’s own ideas or work derived from an existing source without full and proper credit to the source of the ideas, words, or works. This definition includes using another student’s work as your own, as well as inadequately referencing other sources in your work. Plagiarism carries a variety of sanctions, ranging from lowering of a grade to dismissal from the University. You are responsible for knowing and abiding by this policy. You may find details here: ESU Student Handbook

Examples of plagiarizing:
• Directly quoting an author without attributing that quote to him or her.
• Paraphrasing an author’s words or ideas without attributing them to him or her.
• Buying a paper online. (I have failed people for this. I will fail you, too.)
• Getting your girlfriend/boyfriend/buddy/mom/etc. to write your paper for you. (You may enlist help with proofing and editing—another pair of eyes is always useful. Just don’t cross the line.)

This is by no means an exhaustive listing. Still not sure what constitutes plagiarism? Try www.plagiarism.org.

In this course, plagiarism will result in the following:
• a zero on the assignment on the first offense
• a zero for the course on the second offense, as well as a notation in your permanent record

One reason for lengthy course syllabi is that so many students have abused liberal policies over the years that professors have been forced to try to put in writing penalties for every potential situation. It is a shame that we have to spend so much time discussing what not to do. Of course, every semester, one comes along who proves we’ve missed something. Please, don’t be that student.
## Fall 2013 Schedule (Subject to Change at Professor’s Discretion)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATES/READING AREA</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT BREAKDOWN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>8/27 – 8/29</td>
<td>Day 1: <strong>The Rhetorical Triangle</strong>: Subject, Audience, Speaker’s Persona</td>
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<td>Day 2: The Differences between Logical Syllogism and Rhetorical Enthymeme</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>9/3 – 9/5</td>
<td>Logic: Inductive Reasoning, Deductive Reasoning, Abductive Reasoning, Narrative</td>
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<td>Day 1: Induction v. Deduction: The Case of Sherlock Holmes</td>
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<td>Day 2: Abduction: Your Best Guess; and Narrative: Arguing by &quot;Not Arguing&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>9/10 – 9/12</td>
<td>Rhetoric: Ethos, Pathos, &amp; Logos</td>
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<td>Day 1: Ethos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>9/17 – 9/19</td>
<td>Rhetoric: Ethos, Pathos, &amp; Logos</td>
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<td>Day 3: Logos</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>9/24 – 9/26</td>
<td><strong>Draft of Paper 1 Due</strong> <em>Penalty for not bringing a draft both days: 10 points off final paper grade for each day you can’t workshop your paper</em></td>
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<td>Day 1: Workshop</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>10/1 – 10/3</td>
<td><strong>Paper 1 Revision Due 10/1</strong></td>
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<td>Day 1: Rhetorical Situation</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>10/8 – 10/10</td>
<td>The Five Canons and What to Do With Them</td>
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<td>Day 1: Invention</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>10/15 – 10/17</td>
<td>The Five Canons and What to Do With Them</td>
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<td>MIDTERM GRADES</td>
<td>Day 3: Style (and a brief bit on Memory)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>10/22 – 10/24</td>
<td><strong>Draft of Paper 2 Due</strong> <em>Penalty for not bringing a draft both days: 10 points off final paper grade for each day you can’t workshop your paper</em></td>
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<td>Day 1: Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>10/29 – 10/31</td>
<td><strong>Paper 2 Revision Due 10/29</strong></td>
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<td>NOV 1 LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW</td>
<td>Day 1: Logical Fallacies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>11/5 – 11/7</td>
<td>Resources</td>
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<td>Day 1: <strong>How to Find Good Resources</strong></td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>11/12 – 11/14</td>
<td>Visual Rhetoric: Can a Picture Persuade?</td>
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<td>Day 1: Seminar</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>11/19 – 11/21</td>
<td>Research Week</td>
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<td>Day 1: In-class Research</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>11/26</td>
<td><strong>Annotated Bibliography Due 11/26</strong></td>
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<td>THANKSGIVING BREAK 11/27</td>
<td>Day 1: Review Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>12/3 – 12/5</td>
<td>Workshop Days for Final Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fin. Grades Posted</td>
<td>12/19 4:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>Final Paper Due</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Happy Holidays!**

Other readings will be assigned as the semester goes on. They will be available electronically. Changes to this syllabus/schedule will normally be announced in class, and an updated file will be available online as soon as practical. Not checking your e-mail, or missing class when an announcement is made, will not protect you from consequences.

Humor is the only test of gravity, and gravity of humor; for a subject which will not bear raillery is suspicious, and a jest which will not bear serious examination is false wit.”

—Aristotle