ENGLISH 1101-130: COMPOSITION I
FALL 2013

Meets: Tues./Thurs., 12:30-1:50 pm
Professor: Dr. Meg Pearson

Classroom: Pafford 302
Office: TLC 2240 Phone: 678-839-4892

Pearson Office Hours (held in TLC 2240):
T/TH: 11 am – 12:15 pm, 2-4 pm
W: 10 am – 2 pm (and by appt.)
Email (preferred): megp@westga.edu
URL: www.westga.edu/~megp

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a composition course focusing on skills required for both effective writing for various rhetorical situations and critical reading of texts. In writing, students must demonstrate competency in argumentation, and writing that is strengthened by the use of multiple textual sources.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

COURSE MATERIALS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Required Texts:
3. *Pearson Writer* website/mobile app (We are piloting this software!)

**Required Materials:**
1. Reliable internet for other texts and printouts available through my website;
2. Printing access (with plenty of ink/toner);
3. Your UWG e-mail account, which you must check often;
4. Your CourseDen/D2L account, which you must also check often;
5. Flash drive or some other portable electronic storage for independent computer use (all students are responsible for producing and retaining copies of their work);
6. Paper and pen/pencil as necessary to take notes in class (no laptops except on draft day!);
7. A two-pocket folder for your portfolio, which will contain all your written work.

**DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

Students, please carefully review the following information at this link. It contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

*How your grade is determined:* Follow [this link](#) for the English Department’s rubric for grading out-of-class writing. The rubric is also available on our CourseDen Page.

*Attendance Requirements:* I do take attendance because this class is a skills class that requires your presence and your practice. For classes that meet twice a week a student is allowed three absences. Upon the fourth absence, the student may be given a failing grade. At that point you will have missed two weeks! **Be aware that no distinction exists between excused and unexcused absences and plan accordingly.**

*Other Important Attendance Points:*
- A withdrawal that occurs after the “W” day will not only affect a student’s GPA, but it might have a negative impact on a student’s financial aid status.
- Tardies will also be counted as part of the attendance requirements. A student is considered tardy if he/she is five minutes or more late. **Three tardies will equal one absence.**
- Sleeping **at any time during the class period** will be treated as an absence.

*Disruptive Behavior:* Students may be dismissed from any class meeting at which they exhibit behavior that disrupts the learning environment of others. Such behavior includes – but is not limited to – arriving late for class, allowing cell phones to ring, speaking disrespectfully to the instructor and/or to other students, checking email or surfing the web, and using personal audio or visual devices. Each dismissal of this kind will count as an absence and will be applied toward the attendance policy above. *(Department Policy)*
**Department Paperless Policy:** Most materials (handouts, assignment sheets, notes, etc.) will be made available online—if possible. Students may print these necessary course documents, including the full syllabus, on their home computers or in the computer labs for individual use. These will be available on CourseDen or possibly my faculty webpage.

**Plagiarism and Excessive Collaboration Policy:** If a student violates this policy, he/she will receive an F for the assignment and an F for the course at my discretion. *Please note that I swear vengeance upon cheaters. It’s sort of my thing.*

*Plagiarism & Academic Honesty:* The Department of English and Philosophy defines plagiarism as taking personal credit for the words and ideas of others as they are presented in electronic, print, and verbal sources. The Department expects that students will accurately credit sources in all assignments. An equally dishonest practice is fabricating sources or facts; it is another form of misrepresenting the truth. Plagiarism is grounds for failing the course. (See also *Excessive Collaboration.*)

The University Policies for handling Academic Dishonesty are found in the following documents:
- The Faculty Handbook, sections 207 and 208.0401 ([http://www.westga.edu/~vpaa/handrev/](http://www.westga.edu/~vpaa/handrev/))
- Student Uncatalogue: "Rights and Responsibilities"; Appendix J. ([http://www.westga.edu/handbook/](http://www.westga.edu/handbook/))

*Excessive Collaboration:* By the end of the term in both ENGL 1101 and 1102, students should demonstrate the ability to produce independent writing (writing without collaborative assistance of peers, writing tutors, or professionals in the field) that shows an acceptable level of competence. Although classroom activities and out-of-class assignments may highlight collaborative learning and collaborative research, excessive collaboration (collaboration that results in the loss of a student’s voice/style and original claims to course related work) is considered another form of academic dishonesty and therefore will not be permitted.

*Finally, please know that UWG now tracks and records academic dishonesty.*

*Disability Accommodations:* I pledge to do my best to work with the University to provide all students with equal access to my classes and materials, regardless of special needs, temporary or permanent disability, special needs related to pregnancy, etc. If you have any special learning needs, particularly (but not limited to) needs defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and require specific accommodations, please make these known to Accessibility Services in 123 Row Hall at 678-839-6428. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from
Accessibility Services (their [website](http://www.westga.edu/writing/)). Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given.

**Role of the Writing Center:** The role of the Writing Center is to offer consultation in which tutors question, respond to, offer choices, and encourage revision in student essays. Tutors do not evaluate or prescribe solutions to problematic areas to student essays, and tutors are specifically trained to avoid appropriating the student's work.

1. For more information, visit the Writing Center online: [http://www.westga.edu/writing/](http://www.westga.edu/writing/).
2. To schedule an appointment, call 678-839-6513 or email writing@westga.edu.
3. The UWC is located in TLC1201.

**Writer's Resource Pages:** [Writer's Archive](http://www.westga.edu/writing/) and [Writer’s Toolbox](http://www.westga.edu/writing/).

**Library Instruction Sessions:** Students enrolled in 1000-/2000-level courses, inexperienced researchers, and students needing refresher classes in basic research are strongly encouraged to sign-up for the basic library instruction sessions and online research sessions. Please visit the links below for further information and scheduling:

- Library Workshops: [http://libguides.westga.edu/libraryworkshops](http://libguides.westga.edu/libraryworkshops)
- Online Research: [http://www.usg.edu/galileo/skills/](http://www.usg.edu/galileo/skills/)
- Basic Library Instruction: [http://www.westga.edu/~library/nav/stuinstruct.shtml](http://www.westga.edu/~library/nav/stuinstruct.shtml)

**Severe Weather Guidelines for Department of English and Philosophy:** The University of West Georgia is committed to the personal safety of its students, faculty, and staff in the event of severe weather. Information on cancelled or rescheduled classes or examination sessions may be obtained by calling the Department of Public Safety, 678-839-6000 (day and night); the Department of Public Relations, 678-839-6464 (daytime only); or visiting the University website: [www.westga.edu](http://www.westga.edu).

**COURSE POLICIES AND STATEMENTS**

**Paper Format:** All out-of-class essays must be submitted according to current MLA format standards. The basics: papers must be typed, double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman font with 1 inch top/bottom margins and 1 inch side margins. Papers must be stapled: no paper clips, folded corners or report covers. Please see A Writer's Resource and the UWC website for additional information.

**Revision Policy:** Because revision is an imperative part of the composition process, we will practice it regularly. If you wish to (or are asked to) revise a paper, you must: (1) meet with me in person to discuss the paper and my comments; (2) turn in the revision within a week's time of receiving your graded paper; (3) undertake substantial work to revise (for example); and (4) turn in the original paper with your rewrite. If the revision meets all of these requirements, I will replace the original grade with the revision grade.
**Penalties for Late Work:** Students are responsible for finding out material due date(s) with regard to missed work; if a student is absent on the day an assignment is due or if a student is present but does not turn in the work on the assigned due date, a letter grade will be deducted from the overall grade of the assignment for each calendar day (not class period) that the work is late. If a student finds it necessary to miss class on a day work is due, the material should be emailed to me the day work is due in order to avoid any penalty.

**GRADING CHART**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>No credit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**F = No credit**

**NOTE:** At times, I will assign "split" grades to indicate work that falls between two standard grading categories. For example, a student might receive a B/A grade, which translates mathematically to a 90.

**Important Points about Work for this Class:**

- Papers are late when they are not submitted **at the beginning of the class session of the due date.**
- All late papers will be penalized **one letter grade per day late.**
- Papers will not be accepted for grading beyond two weeks of the deadline (unless you make arrangements with me in advance).
- Technological issues are **never** acceptable excuses for failing to turn papers in on time.
- If you arrive to class late and miss a quiz, or if you miss a quiz, workshop, or in-class assignment due to an absence, you **cannot** make it up.
- I do not accept assignments sent to me via email unless approved by me in advance.
- I do not accept any other late work.
- Failure to submit an essay will result in receiving an **F for the course.**

**Extra Credit:** There is none.

**Discussion of Work/Grade:** I will not discuss an individual’s grade during a class session. Please visit me during my office hours or make an appointment to discuss your work or other questions you have. I refuse to discuss any work until the day after I have handed back the assignment. This interval gives you the opportunity to look at my comments and to generate specific questions about improving your paper. On your graded papers, you will see my notes in the margins to help you—make sure you read what I’ve written before you come to see me.

**Office Consultations:** Students who seek help outside of class, either from me or the Writing Center, are usually the most successful. An office consultation, whether it are conducted during scheduled office hours or during a scheduled appointment, is a time for you to meet with me to discuss very specific issues, (i.e., a specific essay, a specific in-class or out-of-class assignment, a specific grade, a specific concern as it relates to your writing, etc.) When you schedule an office consultation, you should come in prepared.
**Course Evaluation/Grading Procedures:** Over the course of the semester, each student will be responsible for completing 5,000 words of formal writing. This requirement will take the form of three out-of-class essays and several in-class writing assignments.

**Other Important Points:**

- Because you are aware at the beginning of the semester the percentage each assignment counts and you will also have the grade for each assignment when the assignment is returned, it is **your responsibility** to keep track of your average during the course of the semester. I will keep a grade book for major assignments on CourseDen.
- In order to complete all English 1101 requirements, students must pass with the final grade of a C or higher. **The last day to withdraw with a W for this semester is October 18, 2013.** Make this decision wisely.

**COURSEWORK**

1. **Argumentative essays** (65% total; Paper 1 = 20%; Paper 2 = 20%; and Paper 3 = 25%)
   - **Paper One** (20%) is a three-page explanation or report paper, known as a survey of the literature in the English department. Our topic to explain will be the debate surrounding whether the government (federal or state) should regulate sugar, such as in the recent case in NYC banning Big Gulp-sized sodas.
   - **Paper Two** (20%) is a three-page argument paper about a topic, in this case, the current debate surrounding whether nations should boycott the upcoming Winter Olympics in Sochi due to Russia’s recent laws punishing homosexuality.
   - **Paper Three** (25%) is a four-to-five-page argumentative analysis based on a topic you choose from a list of approved issues. This paper will incorporate some outside research.

2. **Portfolio** (15% of grade): You will collect all your out-of-class essays and revisions in a two-pocket folder throughout the semester, and you will turn that folder in each time a paper is due. The portfolio represents the growth of your written work over the course of the semester. Our final exam will include an in-class essay assessing your portfolio.

3. **Classwork & Participation** (20% of grade): Quizzes—both announced and unannounced—along with in-class writing responses will be given often. The writing assignments may take the form of short explications or brief analytical responses to questions on the text being discussed. For this reason, you should read the text **in advance of** class discussion. Also included in this grade are in-class peer revision workshops (including all draft workshops). No part of this grade may be made up. If you are absent, you will receive no credit for the workshop session that you missed. If you fail to bring a completed draft, you will receive no credit either. Finally, I expect you to come to class having read the material, having reflected about the reading, and having come up with questions and topics you’d like to discuss. You may not sit in your chair like a stump; if you sleep I’ll make you suffer in a variety of ways, not least of which by counting you absent.
Note: Failure to submit any of the three outside essays will result in a failing grade for the course.

If you are concerned about your writing abilities, then seek help as soon as possible. I am available during office hours and via email. In addition, West Georgia offers an excellent Writing Center staffed by seasoned educators. I expect you to take responsibility for your writing and be proactive about improving. The earlier you seek help, the better chance you will have of exiting this course successfully.

Note: Grades will be posted to BanWeb following the final exam period. No grades will be distributed via phone or email.

### COURSE CALENDAR

(Subject to change. Please check CourseDen for updates or changes to the course calendar.)

Assignments are due the day they are mentioned.

SAW = *Sequence for Academic Writing* textbook

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
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</table>
| 8/27 FIRST DAY  
Introductions and Explanations | 8/29 Syllabus Quiz  
Diagnostic essay (in-class)  
Introduction to q/p/s and MLA  
nb: Drop Period ENDS Monday, 9/2 |
| 9/3 Summary  
READ: SAW, pp.2-22  
Classwork: Exercise 1.1, p. 22-23  
Summarizing tables and graphs  
Plagiarism introduction | 9/5 Quoting & Paraphrasing  
READ: SAW, pp. 33-47  
Plagiarism  
READ: SAW, 277-280 |
| 9/10 Critical Reading  
READ: SAW, 51-67  
Argument Paragraphs | 9/12 Critique  
READ: SAW, 67-80  
WRITE: Paragraph critique of “The Common App Fallacy” (see 78-80) |
| 9/17 Writing to Explain – Synthesis  
READ: SAW, 81-105  
Assignment for Paper One | 9/19 Writing to Explain  
READ: Three articles on CourseDen (govt and sugar) |
| 9/24 Writing to Explain  
READ: SAW, 245-250 (Revision)  
Draft Day | 9/26 Introduction to Argument  
Assignment for Paper Two  
Thesis statements  
Claim, Evidence, Commentary  
PAPER ONE DUE |
| 10/1 Writing to Argue  
READ: SAW, 122-145  
WRITE: Sentence Summaries, using Exercise | 10/3 Writing to Argue--Organize  
READ: SAW, pp. 145-68  
How to Outline |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/8</td>
<td>Writing to Argue – Thesis Read: four articles on my website (Russian olympics &amp; LGBT): WRITE: draft thesis (1-4 sentences) How to write an outline</td>
<td>10/10</td>
<td>Writing to Argue – Evidence Review Q/P/S WRITE: Outline your paper with evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/15</td>
<td>Writing to Argue Draft Day</td>
<td>10/17</td>
<td>Introduction to Research &amp; Analysis Assignment for Paper Three PAPER TWO DUE W DAY is Friday, 10/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/22</td>
<td>Analysis (Text) Read: SAW, 178-201</td>
<td>10/24</td>
<td>Analysis (Visual Media) Read: SAW, 206-14 Sign-up for Topic for Paper Three</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/29</td>
<td>LIBRARY DAY?</td>
<td>10/31</td>
<td>LIBRARY DAY?</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/5</td>
<td>Research Review</td>
<td>11/7</td>
<td>Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/12</td>
<td>Paragraphs and Introductions</td>
<td>11/14</td>
<td>Paragraphs and Conclusions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/19</td>
<td>Draft Day</td>
<td>11/21</td>
<td>PAPER THREE DUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11/26</strong></td>
<td>THANKSGIVING BREAK</td>
<td><strong>11/28</strong></td>
<td>THANKSGIVING BREAK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/3</td>
<td>Revision Day (paper #3 returned in-class)</td>
<td>12/5</td>
<td>Last day of regular class Evaluations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/10</td>
<td>EXAM WEEK (no class)</td>
<td>12/12</td>
<td>EXAM TIME 11:00-1:30 pm DUE: Revision of Essay #3 and portfolio</td>
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