

English Composition I

ENGL-1101

Fall 2020 Section E15 3 Credits 08/12/2020 to 12/05/2020 Modified 08/23/2020

Course Theme: Writing the Pandemic

This is a writing class, and this semester we will write about our own experiences and perspectives on the COVID-19 pandemic. We will discuss how illness is shaped not just by biology, but also by social factors like race, class, and gender. We will look at how people have dealt with outbreaks and epidemics in the past to help us understand our current moment. And we will write about how social media, political interests, rumor, and science all shape our understanding of our own health as well as the pandemic as a whole. My hope is that this class will help us all to think critically about our current time in history and to articulate our own informed views on the crisis we are all living through.

Description

Composition course focusing on skills required for effective writing in a variety of contexts, with emphasis on exposition, analysis and argumentation, and also including introductory use of a variety of research skills. Prerequisites: All English as a Second Language students must have exited from all English as a Second Language courses. All learning support students must have completed all reading and writing required remediation. For more information on this institution's eCore courses, please see <http://www.westga.edu/ecore/>

Requisites

Prerequisites:

Learning Support English 3

Corequisites:

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Matt Franks

Email: mfranks@westga.edu

Email is always the best way to contact me. Email me with any questions, or to set up a time to meet!

Office Hours

Thursdays 1-4

Virtual Office Hours

Please drop in for office hours online here: meet.google.com/ijv-pjuy-wbn (<https://meet.google.com/ijv-pjuy-wbn?hs=122&authuser=1>)

Meeting Times

This is an online course, so we will not meet in person or at any specific times. All of your weekly coursework will be due each Friday by 5pm.

Materials

There are no required books for you to purchase for this class. All assigned reading material will be available free online.

Outcomes

1. To identify and employ a variety of rhetorical modes and techniques of persuasion and acquire reasonable mastery of conventions of college-level prose writing;
2. To develop and apply critical thinking skills in effective expository, analytical, and argumentative writing and to gain facility with the entire writing process from invention through revision;
3. To develop organizational strategies, incorporate and document additional textual materials to strengthen and support an argument.

Evaluation

This class is graded differently than what you're used to. Instead of assigning you grades for the quality of your writing, your grade will be based on whether or not you complete the tasks that you pledge to do. This is called "contract grading," and it means that if you put in a good faith effort and do the work, you will be able to get an A in the class even if your writing is terrible. Hopefully, that means that you'll be able to worry less about your grades and about your writing, and instead focus on completing the required work. In short, you will be graded on the amount of effort you put into the class, not on your writing ability.

Criteria

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Major Assignments			You will write and revise three essays for the class, and this will make up all of the formal writing and revising that you do. To complete each major assignment, you must meet the minimum word count and you must put in a good faith effort.
Weekly Tasks			Each week, you will complete various tasks including watching weekly videos from me, reading short articles, listening to podcasts, contributing to online discussions, taking easy quizzes, and doing worksheets based on the topic of the week.
Portfolio Meeting			During finals week, you will collect all of your major assignments from the class and have a one-on-one virtual meeting with me to discuss (and celebrate!) your writing progress this semester.

Breakdown

This is a grading contract. That means you'll pledge to do a certain amount of work to earn a certain grade, and that is a contract that you'll hold yourself to. Below are the criteria for earning each grade in the class, A-F.

Grade	Range	Notes
A	90-100	To earn a grade of "A" in the course, you agree to do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete all of the major assignments in the course• Revise all of the major assignments in the course in consultation with the instructor• Complete at least ninety percent of all weekly tasks in the course• Compile a portfolio of your writing and meet with the instructor to discuss it at the end of the semester
B	80-89	To earn a grade of "B" in the course, you agree to do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete all of the major assignments in the course• Revise two of the major assignments in the course in consultation with the instructor• Complete at least eighty percent of all weekly tasks in the course• Compile a portfolio of your writing and meet with the instructor to discuss it at the end of the semester

Grade	Range	Notes
C	70-79	To earn a grade of "C" in the course, you agree to do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete all of the major assignments in the course • Revise one of the major assignments in the course in consultation with the instructor • Complete at least seventy percent of all weekly tasks in the course • Compile a portfolio of your writing and meet with the instructor to discuss it at the end of the semester
D	60-69	To earn a grade of "D" in the course, you agree to do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete all but one of the major assignments in the course • Revise one or more of the major assignments in the course in consultation with the instructor • Complete at least sixty percent of all weekly tasks in the course • Compile a portfolio of your writing and meet with the instructor to discuss it at the end of the semester
F	0-59	You will earn a grade of "F" in the course if you fail to meet any of the minimum requirements to earn a "D": <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fail to complete two or more of the major assignments in the course, or • Fail to revise one or more of the major assignments in the course in consultation with the instructor, or • Fail to complete at least sixty percent of weekly tasks, or • Fail to compile a portfolio of your writing and meet with the instructor to discuss it at the end of the semester

Assignments

See each assignment sheet for more detailed descriptions and requirements for the essays.

Major Assignment: Essay #1: Engaging the Text

[Assignment sheet link \(https://westga.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2098836/viewContent/38198872/View\)](https://westga.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2098836/viewContent/38198872/View). In this essay you will critically engage with a text, focusing on what the author is arguing and what you argue in response.

Major Assignment: Essay #2: Analyzing Rhetoric

[Assignment sheet link \(https://westga.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2098836/viewContent/38394551/View\)](https://westga.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2098836/viewContent/38394551/View). Building on your work in Essay #1, you will focus on how a text presents its subject and argument.

Major Assignment: Essay #3: Synthesizing Arguments

[Assignment sheet link \(https://westga.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2098836/viewContent/38691965/View\)](https://westga.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2098836/viewContent/38691965/View). In this essay, you will join an ongoing critical conversation about a text and add your own perspective to that conversation.

Weekly Tasks

Each week I will give you a [checklist \(https://westga.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2098836/Home\)](https://westga.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2098836/Home) of tasks to complete. These will be due every Friday by 5pm.

Schedule

This class is not self-paced, so you will not be able to do work ahead of time. Every week, all of your Weekly Tasks and any assignments will be due by that Friday at 5pm. I will also release the readings and Weekly Tasks each week by Friday at 5pm for the following week.

When	Topic	Notes
Week #0	Intro to the Class	Weekly Tasks (https://westga.view.usg.edu/d2l/common/dialogs/quickLink/quickLink.d2l?ou=2098836&type=content&rcode=usg) August 14 by 5pm

When	Topic	Notes
Week #1	The Outbreak Narrative	<p>Weekly Tasks (https://westga.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2098836/Home?itemIdentifier=D2L.LE.Content.ContentObject.Module) August 21 by 5pm Watch: The Writing Process: Study Hall Composition #1 (%20The%20Writing%20Process%3A%20Study%20Hall%20Composition%20#1:%20ASU%20+%20Crash%20...www.youtube.com%2 Listen: The Road To Now Podcast #167, "The Outbreak Narrative"(http://www.theroadtonow.com/episodes/e167) (start at 11:00)</p>
Week #2	Disease as a Social Phenomenon	<p>Weekly Tasks (https://westga.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/calendar/2098836/event/10215056/detailsview#10215056) due Friday, August Watch: Health & Medicine: Crash Course Sociology #42 Read: Sontag, "Illness as Metaphor" Watch: Invention and the Writing Process: Study Hall Composition #2</p>
Week #3	The History of Epidemics	<p>Weekly Tasks due Friday, September 4 by 5pm Watch: "Coronavirus: Lessons From Past Epidemics" Read: Foss, "How Epidemics of the Past Changed the Way Americans Lived" Read: Downs, "The Epidemics America Got Wrong" Watch: How to Plan Your Writing Project: Study Hall Composition #3</p>
Week #4	The Plague	<p>Weekly Tasks due Friday, September 11 by 5pm Read: Wade, "From Black Death to fatal flu" Read: Clamp, "Coronavirus and the Black Death" Watch: What is Drafting: Study Hall Composition #4</p>
Week #5	The Spanish Flu	<p>Weekly Tasks due Friday, September 18 by 5pm Read: Tomes, "Destroyer and Teacher': Managing the Masses During the 1918–1919 Influenza Pandemic'" Watch: Critical Thinking and Arguing: Study Hall Composition #8 Essay #1 due (https://westga.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2098836/viewContent/38198872/View) Friday, September 18 by 5pm</p>
Week #6	AIDS	<p>Weekly Tasks due Friday, September 25 by 5pm Watch: How to Survive a Plague (free with trial of Amazon + IFC or rent for \$3.99) Read: Hinson, "For Black people who lived through the AIDS crisis, COVID-19 is a painful reminder'" Watch: Evaluating Arguments: Study Hall Writing Composition #9</p>
Week #7	Other Epidemics	<p>Weekly Tasks due Friday, October 2 by 5pm Read: Pamuk, "What the Great Pandemic Novels Teach Us" Watch: How war and misinformation are complicating the DRC's Ebola battle Explore: Infographic: The History of Pandemics, by Death Toll Watch: What Is Rhetoric?: Study Hall Writing Composition #10</p>
Week #8	Race	<p>Weekly Tasks due Friday, October 9 by 5pm Read: Hammonds and Reverby, "Toward a Historically Informed Analysis of Racial Health Disparities Since 1619" Read: Honigsbaum, "Epidemics have often led to discrimination against minorities" Watch: Purpose and Rhetorical Appeals: Study Hall Writing Composition #14</p>
Week #9	Xenophobia	<p>Weekly Tasks due Friday, October 16 by 5pm Watch: Xenophobia in the Age of COVID-19 Read: Danticat, The Ripple Effects of the Coronavirus on Immigrant Communities Watch: Connecting With an Audience: Study Hall Writing Composition #11 Essay #2 due (https://westga.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2098836/viewContent/38394551/View) Friday, October 16 by 5pm</p>
Week #10	Gender	<p>Weekly Tasks due Friday, October 23 by 5pm Read: Chukwueke, "The 'shadow pandemic' of gender-based violence" Read: Sharff, "Why the Coronavirus Outbreak Could Hit Women Hardest" Watch: When and Where? Context Part 1: Study Hall Writing Composition #12</p>

When	Topic	Notes
Week #11	Other Risk Factors	Weekly Tasks due Friday, October 30 by 5pm Read: Kukla, " My Life Is More 'Disposable' During This Pandemic " Read: Held, " Respect the Old " Watch: Remediation! Context Part 2: Study Hall Writing Composition #13
Week #12	Class	Weekly Tasks due Friday, November 6 by 5pm Read: Alford, " Rich People Have Always Been Assholes During Plagues " Read: Green, " The Latest in School Segregation: Private Pandemic 'Pods' " Watch: Citations and Quotes: Study Hall Composition #7
Week #13	Social Media	Weekly Tasks due Friday, November 13 by 5pm Listen: <i>The Pulse</i> podcast, " The cost and hidden silver lining of COVID-19 misinformation " Read: " How social media plays a role in spreading coronavirus " Watch: Presentation and Persuasion in Writing: Study Hall Writing Composition #15 Essay #3 due (https://westga.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2098836/viewContent/38691965/View) Friday, November 13 by 5pm
Week #14	Animals & Us	Weekly Tasks due Friday, November 20 by 5pm Read: Brooks, " Brooks Coronavirus Animals and Human Health " Read: Shah, " Think Exotic Animals Are to Blame for the Coronavirus? " Watch: How to Revise: Study Hall Composition #5
Week #15	Revising	Portfolios with all revised essays due due Wednesday, November 25 by 5pm (no Weekly Tasks) Watch: What is Editing: Study Hall Composition #6
Finals Week	Portfolio Meetings with Matt	Individual virtual meetings November 30 through December 4

* Course Policies and Resources

Timelines

Unless an unforeseen situation arises:

- I will return all assignments within one week from the time they are turned in
- I will respond to all emails within one 24-hour business day
- I expect that you will talk to me immediately about any concerns or issues that arise, that way I can best support your success in the class! Email is the best way to reach me, or join me in virtual office hours.

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted in this class. Because you are graded based on the effort you put in, not on the quality of your writing, you need to make sure to get all assignments in on time each week on Fridays by 5pm. If you do not meet that deadline, you will not get credit for your work.

Discussion & Email Etiquette

In our online discussions and communications with one another, please be respectful of others' experiences, beliefs, and values. In general, try to follow these guidelines:

- Be sensitive and reflective to what others are saying
- Do not attack others or their opinions
- Avoid outbursts of extreme emotion or opinion
- Think before you hit the post (enter/reply) button
- Be forgiving. Anyone can make a mistake

Discussion Guidelines

To make our online discussions more like conversations and less like busywork, please follow these guidelines:

- Once 5 people have responded to a specific topic, then do not post another original response. Instead, build on what others have said in that topic to keep the discussion going.
- Respond thoughtfully, not just "I agree" or "Good point!"
- Have something new to say, don't repeat something that's already been said
- Respond to my follow-up questions to build on the existing discussion
- If you disagree, explain why. If you agree, add something. If both, then do both!

Turning in Assignments

Your essays will be turned in on CourseDen, under assignments. It is your responsibility to ensure that your files are successfully uploaded as an attachment in .docx format. You will not receive credit for submitting files that are incompatible with Microsoft Word, are corrupted, or are empty.

Accessibility

If you have a disability or require any kind of additional support in order to succeed in this course, please let me know within the first two weeks of class.

Institutional Policies

Academic Support

Accessibility Services: Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. 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. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given. For more information, please contact [Accessibility Services \(https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php).

Center for Academic Success: The [Center for Academic Success \(http://www.westga.edu/cas/\)](http://www.westga.edu/cas/) provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6280 or cas@westga.edu.

University Writing Center: The [University Writing Center \(https://www.westga.edu/writing/\)](https://www.westga.edu/writing/) assists students with all areas of the writing process. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6513 or writing@westga.edu.

Online Courses

UWG takes students' privacy concerns seriously: technology-enhanced and partially and fully online courses use sites and entities beyond UWG and students have the right to know the privacy policies of these entities. For more information on privacy and accessibility for the most commonly used sites, as well as technology requirements visit the [UWG Online \(https://uwgonline.westga.edu/\)](https://uwgonline.westga.edu/) site.

Students enrolled in online courses can find answers to many of their questions in the [Online/Off-Campus Student Guide \(http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php\)](http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php).

If a student is experiencing distress and needs help, please see the resources available at the [UWG Cares \(http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/\)](http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/) site. [Online counseling \(https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php) is also available for online students.

Honor Code

At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to,

plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.

The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing. Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of academic penalties including, but not limited to, failing the assignment and/or failing the course. Student conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student's conduct record at UWG.

Additionally, the student is responsible for safeguarding his/her computer account. The student's account and network connection are for his/her individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. The student is responsible for all actions originating through his/her account or network connection. Students must not impersonate others or misrepresent or conceal their identities in electronic messages and actions. For more information on the University of West Georgia Honor Code, please see the [Student Handbook \(https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/handbook-code-of-conduct.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/handbook-code-of-conduct.php).

UWG Email Policy

University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to check his or her email.

Credit Hour Policy

The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in-class or other direct faculty instruction AND two hours of student work outside of class per week for approximately fifteen weeks. For each course, the course syllabus will document the amount of in-class (or other direct faculty instruction) and out-of-class work required to earn the credit hour(s) assigned to the course. Out-of-class work will include all forms of credit-bearing activity, including but not limited to assignments, readings, observations, and musical practice. Where available, the university grants academic credit for students who verify via competency-based testing, that they have accomplished the learning outcomes associated with a course that would normally meet the requirements outlined above (e.g. AP credit, CLEP, and departmental exams).

HB 280 (Campus Carry)

UWG follows University System of Georgia (USG) guidance: http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information# (http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information)

You may also visit our website for help with USG Guidance: <https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php> (<https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php>)

Mental Health Support

If you or another student find that you are experiencing a mental health issue, free confidential services are available on campus in the [Counseling Center](#). Students who have experienced sexual or domestic violence may receive confidential medical and advocacy services with the Patient Advocates in [Health Services](#). To report a concern anonymously, please go to [UWGcares](#).

ELL Resources

If you are a student having difficulty with English language skills, and / or U.S. culture is not your home culture, specialized resources are available to help you succeed. Please visit the [E.L.L. resource page](#) for more information.

COVID-19

Proctored Exams/Online Instruction: Students should be aware and plan ahead for the possibility of having to complete all courses and/or exams online or in a proctored environment. This means talking with your instructors about what minimum technical requirements (software and hardware) will be required should your class move online or a student's personal needs dictate. This also includes making plans for internet access at whatever location participation may occur.

Virtual or in-person proctored exams, if your instructor should require them, may result in an additional cost to the student. Please discuss these details with your instructor or see the information provided here.

Face Coverings: Effective July 15, 2020, University System of Georgia institutions, including the University of West Georgia, will require all faculty, staff, students, and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible. Face covering use will be in addition to and is not a substitute for social distancing.

Face coverings are not required in campus outdoor settings where social distancing requirements are met. Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area.

Reasonable accommodations may be made for those who are unable to wear a face covering for documented health reasons.

Student FAQs: For more information about UWG COVID-19 guidance for students visit the [Student FAQ webpage](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/health/coronavirus-info/return-to-campus/students-faq-return-to-campus.php) (<https://www.westga.edu/student-services/health/coronavirus-info/return-to-campus/students-faq-return-to-campus.php>).