

# ENGLISH 1102

Professor Amy Ellison

- Pronouns: She/Her/Hers
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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a composition course focusing on skills required for both *effective writing* for various rhetorical situations and *critical reading* of texts. Students must demonstrate competency in argumentation and strengthen writing through the use of multiple textual sources.

English 1101 and 1102 courses are often challenging because of the rigorous nature of the courses. During the semester, you will learn to identify and analyze text-based arguments, developing your own interpretive positions while training to clearly and effectively express yourself in writing. Although this may sound intimidating, rest assured that we will work *together* throughout the semester, breaking down the process into achievable steps. I am dedicated to assisting you and supporting your transition from high school to college (and beyond).

Course Description and Learning Outcomes: [http://www.westga.edu/english/index\\_308.php](http://www.westga.edu/english/index_308.php)

## Expectations

- Display a working knowledge of the syllabus
- Participate fully and respectfully in class discussions
- Improve your writing during each step of the process
- Submit quality work, complete and on time
- Promptly communicate with me about any concerns

## COURSE MATERIALS, ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

### Required Texts

- "Learning to Be Me" by Greg Egan; short story provided on CourseDen
- *Tell The Wolves I'm Home* by Carol Rifka Brunt
- *Get Out* (2017), Directed by Jordan Peele

### Assignments

All written assignments must be typed and formatted to MLA standards. Refer to <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/> to answer questions about format, citations, and mechanical issues; or see me.

- Essay #1 – "Learning to Be Me" (20%) – 4-6 pages with professor's provided secondary sources
- Essay #2 – *Tell The Wolves I'm Home* (20%) – 4-6 pages with two provided secondary sources and one source found on your own
- Essay #3 – *Get Out* (30%) – 5-7 pages with three secondary sources found on your own
- Attendance & Homework (15%) – This grade tracks both attendance and homework exercises. Studies show that active attendance of freshman composition classes, and writing practice through low-stakes exercises, *significantly increases* both written and verbal communication skills, as well as *greatly impacting* your potential for graduating on time!
- Final Presentation (15%) – This is a 5-6 minute presentation on *a text of your choice*, and may optionally be completed with a partner. Think of this as an oral essay presenting an argument about the text, supporting the claim with detailed evidence and analysis.

## Grading

Grade Chart: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; 50-59 = F; No Work = 0

You must earn a letter grade of C or better in order to complete English 1102. All essays must be completed in order to pass this course. Additionally, all essays will be graded according to the department's shared grading rubrics for ENGL 1102.

## POLICIES

### Submitting Assignments

All assignments must be submitted through CourseDen. There are no waivers for computer, program or user errors. Late submissions lose one letter grade per 24-hour late period. All assignments close down (no submissions accepted) after five days.

### Revision Process

The process exercises assigned for each essay integrate revision opportunities for students prior to turning in the actual essay. Essentially, for every essay, you will generate prewriting that should be revised into an essay based on feedback (but not proofreading—a distinction we will make in class). Because revision is an imperative part of the composition process, we will practice it regularly *before we turn in final products*.

### Attendance

I offer you **3** absences to use as you wish—use them wisely for the inevitable "stuff" that will mess up your semester. Two late arrivals count as one absence. No distinction exists between excused and unexcused absences, and assignments are still due on the day assigned. After 3 total

absences, each tardy will result in -2.5 points and each absence will result in -5.0 points docked from the Attendance and Homework category.

## **Disruptive Behavior and Electronic Devices**

Students will 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 video devices. Each dismissal of this kind will count as an absence and will be applied toward the attendance policy.

For the sake of transparency, my biggest pet peeves are off-task electronic usage, sleeping, and class disruption.

## **Office Hours**

See me the *moment* you begin to have a question or concern; do not wait until the day an assignment is due to seek assistance!

## **Email Policy**

The official communication method for this class occurs through campus email & CourseDen. You remain responsible for regularly checking both UWG Email and CourseDen (if class is suddenly cancelled, I will post an announcement via CourseDen). In order to guarantee your privacy, I do not respond in detail to emails sent from alternate email providers.

## **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/>.
2. To schedule an appointment, call 678-839-6513 or email [writing@westga.edu](mailto:writing@westga.edu).
3. The UWC is located in TLC 1201.

## **Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty**

The university considers plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty to be a serious breach of academic ethics. Section 207 of the University of West Georgia Faculty Handbook, which defines plagiarism as “Improper academic conduct...the purchase and use of ghost-written papers and reports, or incorporating into a report, term theme, research paper, or project, ideas and information obtained from another person without giving credit to the person from whom such information was obtained.”

**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.

Each incidence of plagiarism is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of penalties including but not limited to failing the assignment, failing the course, and referral to the disciplinary review board (which may ultimately result in the expulsion, suspension, or disciplinary removal of the student from the university). In order to facilitate the prevention and detection of plagiarism the Department of English and the University of West Georgia will maintain records of plagiarized assignments and those who prepare and/or submit them.

***If plagiarism occurs, the student receives an automatic F for the course.*** If you are struggling with time constraints for any reason, see me before making a poor decision like plagiarizing. For further information: <http://www.westga.edu/~engdept/Plagiarism/index.html>.

## **University of West Georgia 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.

## **Students with Special Needs/Disability Pledge**

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.

Any student who has a special need should inform me during the first week of class. We will then set up a conference to discuss the specifics of the official paperwork from Accessibility Services. Students with documented special needs may expect accommodation in relation to classroom accessibility, modification of testing, special test administration, etc. For more information, please contact Accessibility Services at the University of West Georgia:

[http://www.westga.edu/studentDev/index\\_8884.php](http://www.westga.edu/studentDev/index_8884.php)

### **Departmental Policy on Severe Weather**

The University of West Georgia is committed to the personal safety of its students, faculty, and staff in the event of severe weather. University policy regarding severe weather and emergency closings is posted at [http://www.westga.edu/police/index\\_2277.php](http://www.westga.edu/police/index_2277.php) and official announcements about class and/or examination cancellations will be made only by the President and/or the Department of Public Relations. Although it is not possible to develop policy to address every weather-related emergency, these guidelines are intended to provide some general direction about such situations. For immediate severe weather situations, especially when classes are in session, faculty, staff and students are advised to follow the emergency procedures identified below:

1. Direct occupants to remain in the building and to seek shelter immediately on the lowest level of the building in interior rooms (closet, interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls.
2. Instruct occupants to not leave the building.
3. Evacuate all offices, rooms or hallways with windows and glass or with exterior walls.
4. Provide assistance to persons with disabilities.
5. Accompany occupants to the nearest designated shelter area in the building.
6. Comply with departmental severe weather policies/procedures.
7. Wait for an "all clear" signal" before resuming activity.
8. Occupants will: a) proceed to the nearest designated shelter area in the building by the closest route; b) move quickly but in an orderly manner so that all will arrive safely; c) will not attempt to vacate the premises, drive or seek shelter in cars; d) take a seat in the shelter area; e) remain cooperative with those in charge; and f) wait for an "all clear" signal before resuming activity.

In the event that classes are cancelled or disrupted for less than one calendar week, each professor, at his or her discretion, will make adjustments as needed to cover material missed during those cancelled sessions. This may or may not involve the use of rescheduled or online classes. If the closures exceed a single calendar week, students should contact the Chair of the

Department of English and Philosophy at 678-839-6512 or the professor of the class for updated information regarding changes to the schedule in the Department. It is the intention of the Department of English and Philosophy to handle every concern seriously and as effectively as possible.

## Reading and Assignments Schedule

All assignments are due *before class* the day they appear.

### January

T 1/8 Class introductions, syllabus

Th 1/11 Critical reading exercise

T 1/15 Read "Learning to Be Me" available on CourseDen

Th 1/17 Continued discussion

T 1/22 Read the Essay 1 articles available on CourseDen

Th 1/24 Continued discussion

T 1/29 Introduction to Multiple Analytical Responses (MARs)

Th 1/31 Workshop: Bring a hard copy of your MARs to class! (Failure to bring a printed copy will result in dismissal.)

### February

T 2/5 Essay 1 MARs due on CourseDen

Th 2/7 Essay 1 Outlines due on CourseDen

T 2/12 Workshop: Bring a hard copy of your essay to class! (Failure to bring a printed copy will result in dismissal.)

Th 2/14 Essay 1 Final Draft due on CourseDen

T 2/19 Read *Tell The Wolves I'm Home* Chapters 1-19

Th 2/21 Read *Tell The Wolves I'm Home* Chapters 20-40

T 2/26 Read *Tell The Wolves I'm Home* Chapters 40-End

**W 2/27 Last day to withdraw with a W**

Th 2/28 Continued discussion

## **March**

T 3/5 Essay 2 MARs due on CourseDen

Th 3/7 Essay 2 Outlines due on CourseDen

T 3/12 Workshop: Bring a hard copy of your essay to class! (Failure to bring a printed copy will result in dismissal.)

Th 3/14 Essay 2 Final Draft due on CourseDen

**T 3/19 Spring Break**

**Th 3/21 Spring Break**

T 3/26 Notes from *Get Out* due on CourseDen

Th 3/28 Continued discussion

## **April**

T 4/2 Continued discussion

Th 4/4 Works Cited Page with 6 relevant secondary sources due on CourseDen

T 4/9 Essay 3 MARs due on CourseDen

Th 4/11 Essay 3 Outlines due on CourseDen

T 4/16 Workshop: Bring a hard copy of your essay to class! (Failure to bring a printed copy will result in dismissal.)

Th 4/18 Essay 3 Final Draft due on CourseDen

T 4/23 Final Presentations

Th 4/25 Final Presentations

## **May**

T 5/7 NO CLASS; Optional Essay 1 or 2 Revision due in CourseDen

**Grades will be posted to BanWeb by noon on May 14. No grades will be distributed via phone or email.**