

ENGL 2050: Fall 2019

Instructor Information

Professor Amy Ellison

Office Location: TLC 3131

Email: aellison@westga.edu

Phone: 678-839-4882

Office Hours: M/W from 12:30-2 pm and T/Th from 9:30-1 pm

Course Description

This self-staging class helps students explore and evolve their own identities; recognize, analyze, and participate in a variety of interactions; and craft persuasive communication for targeted audiences.

Section Description

Course Theme: *Acting Out*

- ❖ *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*, written by sociologist Erving Goffman, uses the imagery of theater in order to portray the nuances and significance of face-to-face social interaction. According to Goffman, social interaction may be likened to a theater, and people in everyday life to actors on a stage, each playing a variety of roles. Central to the book and Goffman's theory is the idea that people, as they interact together in social settings, are constantly engaged in the process of "impression management," wherein each tries to present themselves and behave in a way that will prevent the embarrassment of themselves or others. This is primarily done by each person that is part of the interaction working to ensure that all parties have the same "definition of the situation," meaning that all understand what is meant to happen in that situation, what to expect from the others involved, and thus how they themselves should behave.

Texts and Course Supplies

1. There are no official texts required for this course.
2. Use Google Docs and Google Drive to save and backup your work.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to identify, analyze, and practice the various discursive modes involved in everyday self-presentation.
- Students will develop the ability to adapt their oral communication to specific purposes and audiences.
- Students will learn and practice techniques of effective conflict resolution, team building, stress management, and impression management.
- Students will achieve a deeper awareness of the subtext underlying oral communication, how to read it in others, and how to master their own.
- Students will learn how to express themselves more precisely and articulately by expanding their vocabulary and leading/participating in current events discussions.

Assignments

- Class Participation: Students will engage in assignments such as classroom discussion and improvisation, quizzes, assignments, and reading annotations.
- Kindness Reflections: Students will practice “moments of kindness” throughout the semester and submit reflections about these experiences.
- Individual Presentations: Students will learn to communicate clearly based on a specific audience and topic of their choice.
- Group Presentation: Students will learn to better navigate group projects.
- Interviews: Students will meet the instructor for individual interview practice.
- Self-Assessment: Students will reflect on their progress and process throughout the semester, and write a self-evaluation describing their successes in the course.

Work Policies

- All work loses 10 points per day late. After points are no longer an option, I will not review the work. Due to the nature of the course, in-class exercises cannot be made up.
- ****Note**** There is no extra credit work for this course, and no work done for another course may be recycled as an assignment for this course.
- Please see the [Common Language for Course Syllabi](#) for official information on UWG’s Academic Integrity Policy. *Note that I will enforce this policy.*

Attendance Policy

When you enter class, make sure to sign the attendance book.
Being engaged and active in class adds to your grade every time we meet!

Communication Rules

You may contact me via UWG Gmail. Do not email me using an email address other than your official account (such as Yahoo)--I will not respond to you for security reasons. I will answer to all emails within 24 hours during the week and generally within 48 hours over the weekends. If you don’t hear back from me within that timeframe, please email me again or see me in class.

Expected Response Times

Larger assignments, such as the group presentation, will generally be graded within two weeks of the due date and will contain feedback on what you did well and what you can do to improve. Smaller assignments will usually take less time to return and will coordinate with the follow up exercise or assignment.

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement:

If you are a student who is disabled as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act and require assistance or support services, please seek assistance through the [Center for Disability](#). UWG also provides [Accessibility Statements for Technology](#) that you may be required to use for this course.

For more information on the Americans with Disabilities Act, UWG Email, Credit Hour, and UWG Honor Code policies as well as information on Academic Tutoring, Student Services, and Technical Requirements, Privacy Policy, and Accessibility Statements, please see the [Common Language for Syllabus](#) document.

The University Writing Center (UWC)

TLC 1201

678-839-6513

Hours: Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

writing@westga.edu

www.westga.edu/writing

The University Writing Center seeks to assist students in their pursuit to become better writers, thinkers, and scholars. We can assist students with any writing assignment in any class. This includes Self-Staging classes!

Tentative Class Schedule

Please note that everything is due *before* class, so that we may discuss the assigned reading or work that same day.

August

W 8/14	Welcome to class!
M 8/19	Interview Your Professor
T 8/20	Open Drop and Add Period ends at 11:59pm
W 8/21	Practicing Kindness
M 8/26	Defining and Redefining Self
W 8/28	Kindness Reflection due on CourseDen; Communicating Self

September

M 9/2	<i>Labor Day-No Classes</i>
W 9/4	Kindness Reflection due on CourseDen; Unconscious Biases
M 9/9	Ethical Dilemmas
W 9/11	Kindness Reflection due on CourseDen; Personal v. Private

M 9/16	Online Awareness
W 9/18	Kindness Reflection due on CourseDen; The Challenge of Explaining
M 9/23	Tone and Inflection
W 9/25	Kindness Reflection due on CourseDen; Communicating Complicated Concepts
M 9/30	Individual Presentations introduction; Storytelling

October

W 10/2	Individual Presentation topic commitments; Storytelling
R 10/3	<i>Fall Break</i>
M 10/7	Speaking
W 10/9	Kindness Reflection due on CourseDen; Speaking Last Day to Withdraw with a Grade of W
M 10/14	Individual Presentations
W 10/16	Individual Presentations
M 10/21	Social Interaction Practice
W 10/23	Kindness Reflection due on CourseDen; Professional Interaction Practice
M 10/28	Group Presentation Introduction
W 10/30	Group Presentation topic commitments; Kindness Reflection due on CourseDen

November

M 11/4	Group Workday (we will still meet in class!)
W 11/6	Group Workday (we will still meet in class!); Kindness Reflection due on CourseDen
M 11/11	Group Presentations

W 11/13 Group Presentations
M 11/18 Interview Practice
W 11/20 Interview Practice; Kindness Reflection due on CourseDen
M 11/25 *Thanksgiving Break*
W 11/27 *Thanksgiving Break*

December

M 12/2 Interviews
W 12/4 Interviews
F 12/6 *Last Day of Classes*
W 12/11 Self-Assessment Due on CourseDen by 1:00pm.

Grades will be posted to BanWeb by noon on December 16th.