ENGL/WRTG121: Composition II: Researching the Public Experience

TR, 9:30-10:45 a.m., Room: PH418, (CRN: 20519)

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Office Hours: T/R: 10:45-12:00 or by Appointment (via website)
Course Website: www.StuartComp.com

This course is part of the General Education Program: Area I: Effective Communication

In English/Writing 121, EMU students develop the foundation for writing, research and critical thinking strategies that they will use throughout their college careers and beyond. Writing is both a means of communication, and a tool for developing new ideas. Good writers are flexible. They know how to assess the expectations of a variety of audiences with whom they want to communicate and how to draw on or develop different strategies to meet those expectations. Good writers also understand that different kinds of writing have different conventions and they can move fluidly between those conventions. English/Writing 121 students develop these strategies that are key to effective communication throughout the course. Students write between 50-70 pages of draft work and between 20-30 pages of polished, final-draft work during the course of the semester, and that work is supported and directed by frequent feedback from the instructor and peers in the class.

Course Description

Focuses on academic writing and inquiry. Students use multiple modes of research to develop literacy used in academic and other public contexts. Through extended reading and writing, students engage in the process of writing researched essays that reflect conventions of standard written English and standard documentation styles.

Course Overview

Welcome to ENGL/WRTG121! This semester you will gain grounded, practical experience with researched academic writing. The primary subject of the course is writing: how effective writers write in all variety of situations, in and beyond college, what successful writing looks like, and how specific practices, strategies, and concepts will aid you in becoming a more flexible, adaptive, and skillful communicator. ENGL/WRTG121 is a small, studio-based course, which means you will spend considerable time writing, workshopping drafts, and discussing writing and related concepts with your peers and your instructor. The course progresses through a series of "projects." We refer to them as projects because they involve a gradual build-up among many different components, much of which will be assembled into a portfolio at the end of the semester.

This course is divided into three primary projects:

Project 1: Discourse Proposal

We will learn the value of brevity and compiling your ideas to *pitch* your research proposal. We will learn the basics of what makes a 𝒟𝒾𝓈𝒸𝑜𝓊𝓇𝓈𝑒 𝒞𝑜𝓂𝓂𝓊𝓃𝒾𝓉𝓎 and how to maintain a research log with EVERNOTE. You will make a final decision on your 𝒟𝒾𝓈𝒸𝑜𝓊𝓇𝓈𝑒 𝒞𝑜𝓂𝓂𝓊𝓃𝒾𝓉𝓎 with the guidance of the instructor and peers.

Project 2: Discourse Community Analysis

We will learn different methods of research and how they apply to the investigation of 𝒟𝒾𝓈𝒸𝑜𝓊𝓇𝓈𝑒 𝒞𝑜𝓂𝓂𝓊𝓃𝒾𝓉𝒾𝑒𝓈. Using your research log and discourse community log, you will write a Discourse Community Analysis.

Project 3: Analysis Transformation

This project has two prominent sections. 1)We will all be participating at the 𝒞𝑒𝓁𝑒𝒷𝓇𝒶𝓉𝒾𝑜𝓃 𝑜𝒻 𝒮𝓉𝓊𝒹𝑒𝓃𝓉 𝒲𝓇𝒾𝓉𝒾𝓃𝑔 on April 9th. You will be taking your analysis and transforming it into a presentation style of your choice. Dressing up, vloging, performance, posters, videos, etc. are all acceptable for this project. We will be working together to help find the best fit for the transformation. 2)You will also be writing a short reflection on both your 𝒟𝒾𝓈𝒸𝑜𝓊𝓇𝓈𝑒 𝒞𝑜𝓂𝓂𝓊𝓃𝒾𝓉𝓎 as well as your transformation.
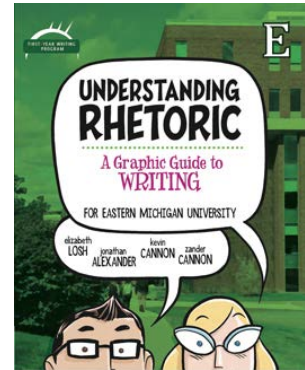
Course Outcomes

Rhetorical performance	You will have **enacted** rhetoric by consciously constructing persuasive texts.
Research process	You will have **practiced** different research methods, which includes analyzing and using sources and developing primary research.
Style conventions	You will have **developed** awareness of conventions of academic research processes, including documentation systems and their purposes.
Multimodal design	You will have **composed** using digital technologies, gaining awareness of the possibilities and constraints of electronic environments.
Reflective interaction	You will have **shared** your work with your instructor, peers, and/or the university community and accounted for the impact of such interaction on composition.
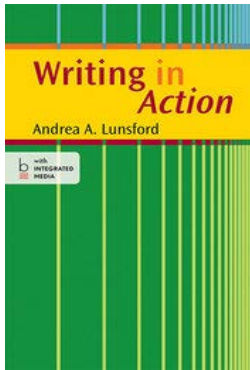
Required Course Texts and Materials

- Lunsford, Andrea A. *Writing in Action*. Boston: Bedford St. Martin's, 2014. ISBN 978-1-319-00314-2. (required)
- Losh, Alexander, Cannon, and Cannon. *Understanding Rhetoric (**EMU Custom Edition**)*. Boston: Bedford St. Martin's, 2014. ISBN 978-1-319-00314-2.
- You will also need a two pocket folder (or something comparable) for your projects.
- You will also need access to **EVERNOTE**, a web/PC/Mac/ IOS/Android program.

The above two texts are available as a bundle at the EMU Student Center Bookstore. I encourage you to buy the EMU Custom Edition for the unique information provided in the introduction. As a bundle at the EMU Student Center Bookstore it is only priced at $66 (cheaper than if you bought them separately). Supplemental readings will be available to you as PDFs and hyperlinks accessible via StuartComp.com. You should access these materials for reading on the screen or, if you prefer, for printing and reading. Plan to spend as much as $20 on printing and photocopying over the course of the semester if a computer or e-reader is not available to you.

Feedback

You will receive many different kinds of feedback on your writing during this course. Some responses will come from fellow students and some will come from your instructor. All forms of feedback, including responses you receive from scheduling individual appointments in the University Writing Center or the Academic Projects Center, are important; they tell you in various ways how your readers are responding to your writing. This will also help you learn how to assess your own work.

*It is important to keep your drafts to keep track of the progress of your writing. You can use "track changes" or separate file names to keep them apart. All drafts need to be present in the Invention Portfolio at the end of each unit.

Grading

Assignment	Description	Points
Project One	Discourse Proposal	10
Project Two	Discourse Community Analysis	40
Project Three	Transformation, CSW, and Reflection	30
Final Portfolio	Course portfolio with reflective cover letter	20
Total points possible		**100**

Each of the projects will be described fully in separate assignment prompts that will be available via StuartComp.com at an appropriate time in the semester. Grades on projects will adhere to the University's "A-F" system. All project grades will be provided in each portfolio along with a current class standing grade. You must complete *all* major projects, the portfolio with reflective cover letter, and present at the Celebration of Student Writing on Thursday, April 9, from 4-5:30 p.m. to be *eligible* for a passing grade in ENGL/WRTG121.

Turning in Work

Turning in Work/Keeping Everything

Most assignments will be turned in *electronically* via Google Drive (Specified on assignment page). Some in class assignments will be turned in as a hard copy at the beginning of the class period. Any assignments or portfolios received after 9:30am will be considered late. An absence or late does not excuse you from this rule. All projects and portfolios will be turned into the instructor as a hard copy on the due date unless specified differently. Make sure all assignments are saved and printed for the final portfolio.

Late Work

All work must be submitted at the start of class on the due date to be considered on time and therefore eligible for full credit. This policy applies whether or not you are in class on a given day. In other words, if you miss class, you are still responsible for meeting all related deadlines. In class assignments will not be accepted late for credit, though they may be included in the portfolio at the end of the unit for partial credit. All projects can be turned in late, but the grade will be lowered by 5% for every 24-hour period that it is late, starting after the portfolios are collected in class.

Course Policies and Expectations

Expectations Overview:
- I expect all students to attend every class, to arrive on time, and to arrive prepared to discuss that day's assigned reading and writing assignments.
- I expect all students to be curious, active, engaged and enthusiastic learners, who take ownership over their education.
- I expect that if you must miss a class because of an emergency, you will be responsible for getting notes from a classmate on the material you missed and you will be responsible for turning in the written assignment due that day.
- Finally, I expect all students to come to me for help when you need it, to raise your hand in class to ask questions, and to support one another – learning to navigate advanced academic reading and writing can be difficult and frustrating. It helps to know that we're all in this together.

Attendance and Participation

ENGL 121 is a writing and research intensive course, so you must be present and participate in order to get full credit for participation. You need to come to class on time prepared with any assignment that is due that day, do your weekly research log, be attentive in class, and be respectful of your instructor and classmates. Class begins at **9:30 am**. Tardiness, in this class, is defined as coming to class within 15 minutes of the class start time, and *two* instances of tardiness will result in an *absence*. Coming to class more than 15 minutes late will result in a *non-negotiable absence.*

Students enrolled in this class are expected to participate in daily interactive activities. You will, for example, routinely discuss reading assignments, write in class on impromptu topics, participate in collaborative activities, or engage in peer review of drafts. Many of these activities cannot reasonably be made up. However, as previously stated, in class writing can be handed in for *partial* credit with the invention portfolio. As a result, students who do not participate regularly should expect to receive lower grades in the course. Students who are absent for *more* than the four class periods will suffer a penalty of 2.5% off their *final grade*. Students that miss more than four classes should consider withdrawing and taking the class in a future semester.

Observance Of Religious Holidays: University Policy: EMU recognizes the rights of students to observe religious holidays without penalty to the student. University Practice: Students will provide *advance notice* to their instructors in order to make up work, including examinations that they miss as a result of their absence from class due to observance of religious holidays. If satisfactory arrangements cannot be made with the appropriate instructor(s), students may appeal to the head(s) of the department(s) in which the course(s) is/are offered.

Important Dates

Date	Event
1-6	First Day of Classes
1-14	100% refund deadline
1-22	Project 1-Discourse Proposal Due
1-30	50% refund deadline
3-5	25% refund deadline
3-19	Project 2-Dicourse Community Due
3-23	Last day to receive "W"
4-2	Project 3-Analysis Transformation Due
4-9	Celebration of Student Writing
4-21	Final Portfolio Due/Last Day of Class

Technology Information and Policies

We will be interacting with a variety of sites on the internet during the course. Please let me know if you need help using the internet or any computer program. When using a computer, save your work frequently, always make backup copies by emailing drafts to yourself and/or using a jump drive, and

plan your projects with extra time allowed for unexpected technological difficulties. Google Drive and other cloud based storage is always a good idea for saving work.

Much of the work you do for this class will be typed, using a word processor. When turning in typed assignments, please use 12pt Times New Roman. Assign one inch margins and adhere to the page layout and documentation conventions established by MLA. Whatever the format of the assignment, I strongly urge you to plan ahead, to familiarize yourself with file formats and with the submission process, and to approach me with questions about submissions well in advance of the due dates.

The use of computers, tablets, and e-readers are strongly encouraged in the classroom. I ask that your in-class use of technology be focused on class related activities, such as note-taking, research, and reading. As long as everyone is respectfully attentive when someone is speaking, in-class technology use will not be a problem. That said, I strongly discourage the use of a cellphone in the classroom and require all phones to be set to silent (not vibrate). I reserve the right to ask any student to put away their electronic device if it appears to be distracting the student or those around them.

A large part of this class will be using these applications. EVERNOTE is a free program available on the PC, Mac, IOS, and Android platforms. To participate in this class, you must have an EVERNOTE account (we will set these up on the second day of class). EVERNOTE should be accessible on all library computers and computer labs. If you cannot access EVERNOTE through one of your own devices, plan your assignments accordingly. Google Drive is accessible through your email accounts.

Communication with the Instructor and Peers

You should make arrangements early in the semester to communicate with your peers. I hope that we all will prefer a climate in which dialogue and interaction runs between the instructor and students and *also* between and among students when questions come up. You will have to collaborate with your peers on some assignments. You should always be proactive about asking questions when you have them, either by raising questions during class or contacting me or one of your peers privately.

To communicate by email we will use our emich.edu accounts, accessible via google.emich.edu. A class roster with all student emails will be available through our GoogleDrive folder. If you ever have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact one of your peers or your instructor. With rare exceptions, I will always respond to all email inquiries within 48 hours.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism occurs when a writer passes off another's words or ideas without acknowledging their source, whether intentionally or not. For example, turning another's work as your own is plagiarism. If you plagiarize in this class, you will likely fail the assignment on which you are working and your case may be passed to the university for additional disciplinary action. Because of the design and nature of this course, it will take as much (or more) work for you to plagiarize in it than it will to actually complete the

work of the class. For a more detailed explanation of Eastern Michigan University's stance on academic integrity, refer to Section V.A. of the Student Conduct Code.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

If you have a documented disability that affects your work in this (or any other) class, the Disability Resource Center can provide support for you. It is my goal that this class be an accessible and welcoming experience for all students, including those with disabilities that may impact their learning in this class. If anyone believes they may have trouble participating or effectively demonstrating learning in this course, please meet with me (with or without a Disability Resource Center (DRC) accommodation letter) to discuss reasonable options or adjustments. During our conversation, I may suggest the possibility/necessity of your contacting the DRC (240 Student Center; 734-487-2470; swd_office@emich.edu) to talk about academic accommodations. You are welcome to talk to me at any point in the semester about such issues, but it is always best if we can talk at least one week prior to the need for any modifications.

Academic Projects Center

The Academic Projects Center is located in 116 Halle Library (487-0020, extension 2154). The Center is open M-R from 11-5 and is staffed by University Writing Center consultants, Halle Librarians, and Information and Communications Technology staff who can help with writing, research, or technology needs. No appointment is necessary. When you visit the Academic Projects Center, be sure to bring a draft of what you're working on and your assignment sheet with you.

University Writing Center

The University Writing Center (115 Halle Library; 734-487-0694) offers one-to-one consulting for both undergraduate and graduate students. Students can make appointments or drop in between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays. Students should bring a draft of what they're working on and their assignment.