EH 102: Written English II

**Required Textbooks:** Bring required reading to class **EVERY** day.


A word about textbooks: I know that they are expensive. Knowledge wants to be free, but information has its price. These textbooks are required, and you must have them with you in order to be counted “Present” on that class day. If you do not have your textbook, you are not prepared for class.

**Why Composition and Literature Courses are Vital:**

"The proper study of Mankind is Man." That famous observation by the poet Alexander Pope might serve as motto and directive for the College of Liberal Arts. Indeed, the proper study of students in our college is, quite simply, what it means to be human.

In the College of Liberal Arts, which is comprised of the Department of Fine Arts, the Department of Languages and Literature, Department of Behavioral Sciences, and the Department of History and Social Sciences, our students express their creativity through art, music, and theatre; they study the complex and fascinating story of human history; they decipher the complicated psychological motives and social interactions that shape our behavior; they examine and debate the great philosophical and political ideas that have driven human inquiry through the ages; and they study the languages and literatures that have allowed us to preserve and pass on what it means to be human.

But our students don’t simply debate the great questions of our time: they learn practical job skills as well. Graduates of the College of Liberal Arts emerge from their programs of study wielding a flexible array of analytical, creative, and communicative skills essential for an ever-evolving workforce environment.

Fortune 500 CEOs have repeatedly emphasized that the talents they value most in their employees are those gleaned from a liberal arts education: critical thinking, fluency in written and spoken communications, the capacity to read, interpret, and understand sometimes complex texts, and the ability to solve problems with creativity and innovation. Our students develop these very skills in our college and are thus prepared to enter a variety of professions in education, law, and business and industry.

**Department of Languages and Literature Student Learning Outcomes:**
- General education students in composition courses will improve their writing skills, as shown in their knowledge of grammar.

- General education students will attain a basic knowledge of either American or British literature.

- The department will prepare English majors and minors for graduate studies or careers by enhancing their skills in written communication and critical thinking.

- English majors will demonstrate a sound understanding of English and American literature.

**Course Description and Prerequisites:** This course provides training in expository writing, especially analysis, argumentation, and research writing. A grade of “C” or above is required to pass this course.

Credit: 3 semester hours. Prerequisites: EH 101

**Course Objectives:** English 102 is a written composition course designed to effect in the student:

1. A knowledge of and ability to use standard, edited, American English as well as an awareness of non-standard dialects.
2. A knowledge of grammar, organization, structure, and choice of dialect that will allow him or her to write effectively for a variety of purposes.
3. A knowledge of several patterns of expository writing, including thesis and support, comparison and contrast, and critical analysis.
4. An ability to impose logical and critical thinking in an essay and to identify and weigh facts, implications, inferences, and judgments in both literary and non-literary writing.
5. An ability to exercise this knowledge and these skills in a group context through class discussion.

Unofficial but valuable objectives for the course:

- To learn to write from an objective, not subjective, point of view
- Learn to work with sources, and integrate borrowed material into your own writing effectively
- Learn to document your borrowings from other sources
- Learn to compile a bibliography, using MLA style
• Learn to follow an assignment’s instructions precisely
• Learn to compose an essay, not just spit it out
• Learn the difference between argument and exposition.
• To acquire writing skills in exposition, analysis, and argumentation that will serve you well in your undergraduate career and beyond

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Welcome to English Composition 102! The uniting, umbrella idea that inspires each paper and reading assignment is cultural literacy and examining one’s world with a critical eye. What I mean by this is not to criticize the world, but to examine what people do, why they do it, what their actions and beliefs mean, what they reveal about their values, and consider whether that tradition or belief or action needs to be reconsidered or reformed….to not go through life doing something because that’s what’s always been done, but as an aware and thinking member of society who works to advance society rather than allow it to stagnate and even regress. We will use these assignments to develop not only your critical reading skills but also your critical revising and editing skills that will allow you to fulfill your intellectual and career goals.

We will start with a few short exercises and writing assignments before we will write more formal papers. Much of the emphasis in this course will be on preparing you to write at the university level.

Writing Requirements:

We will have two basic types of reading and writing assignments: 1) paragraph-length responses to specific questions, and 2) essay-length responses to more general questions. The paragraph-length assignments will focus on specific aspects of writing or of an issue; the essay-length writings will allow you to consider matters that are broader and more abstract and will allow you to spend time with your writing, workshop with peers, and write multiple revisions before turning in the final product. (Basically, what writing is like in the real world—not an essay written the night before, turned in, and never thought of again)

All papers submitted in this class will be written using MLA format, and all papers will be submitted via Turnitin.com AND in hard copy form.

All academic papers are due at the beginning of class. Late papers will be marked down a full letter grade for every day they are late (two-thirds of a letter grade for any time they are late on the date which they are due). No papers will be accepted after one week—thus resulting in students earning an F in the course.

*Students must complete ALL major assignments in order to pass the class.

Late Work and Make-Up Work: There may be situations – such as a university-related function – that cause you to miss class. You must inform me of the impending absence at least one class period before you miss class. Furthermore, making arrangements for make-up work is
the responsibility of the student, not the professor. No work will be accepted after one week following the student’s return except with the permission of the department chairperson.

Professionalism:

Attendance:
Be Here! Regular, punctual attendance is expected and required. More than SIX absences— with the exception of university excused events—will result in being dropped from the course. Frequent absences, directly or indirectly, can lower your grade. This policy is not in effect to be harsh or punitive, but to underscore the importance of class attendance. Because of the writing workshop and group structure of this class, you—and the class—will miss something each time you are absent. By all means, if you know in advance that you will be absent, please let me know so we can make arrangements. When you must miss class, you must find out what you missed and keep up with the reading assignments so that you will be ready to participate in class when you return. This information you should get from a classmate.*** Every workshop students miss will result in a reduction of 5 points from the paper’s grade. Every conference a student misses or is not prepared for will result in a loss of 10 points on the paper’s grade. Students who miss a workshop or conference will be required to work with a tutor in the writing center and show proof of the session and what was covered.

Please note: Arriving in class on time matters. Walking in late is annoying and distracting not only to your instructor, but to your classmates as well. Please be considerate. If you arrive late for class, it is your responsibility to check in with the instructor after class to receive credit for attending, students more than 10 minutes late will be counted absent.

Students must bring a hardcopy of the reading via a print out or the text book to class. If electronic, must be on a tablet or lap top—cell phone access is not acceptable.

Cell Phones:
Please, let us have no cell phones going off in class this semester. No texting. Please leave your cell phones in your backpack or your dorm room. I do the same with mine.

Students sleeping, talking, using cell phones, or not being prepared for class will be asked to leave class and will be counted absent.

Email:
Be sure to check your UWA email account at least once daily. I use it often to contact students, and most important announcements come through this port. Contact me on the UWA system.

Grade Breakdown:
70% Major papers
20% Homework, quizzes, in-class essays, final exam, presentation
10% Professionalism

Any student enrolled in EH 099, EH 101, EH 102, EH 103, or EH 104 must receive an overall grade of C or higher to pass the course. Students who make a genuine effort but are unable to fulfill the course requirements during the first semester in which they are enrolled in the course may receive a non-credit,
non-penalty grade of N. If the student does not receive a grade of C or higher in subsequent attempts to pass the course, he or she will receive a grade of D or F. Students who do not make an effort to pass the course in the first semester and in subsequent semesters will also receive an F.

Students should be aware that as their knowledge of writing progresses over the course of the semester, the standards for a good paper increase, so what passes for B-level work at the beginning of the term will not necessarily receive B-level marks at the end of the course.

It is important to note that your essays are graded not only for spelling, punctuation, and correct use of language but also for effective statement and support of thesis, logical organization and development of thought, and adequate evidence of process-based composing (prewriting, outlining, drafting, editing, and revising).

**Grading Scale:**

- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D
- Below 60 F

**Academic Integrity:**
The UWA Academic Dishonesty policy stated in the *General Catalogue* and the student handbook will be followed in this course.

All students are expected to behave honorably in academic endeavors. Plagiarism or any other form of cheating or violation of the Code of Student Conduct will be dealt with according to the disciplinary procedures outlined in the *Student Handbook*.

The University of West Alabama reserves the right to use electronic means to detect and help prevent plagiarism. Students agree that by taking this course all course documents are subject to submission to Turnitin.com. All materials submitted to Turnitin.com will become the source documents in Turnitin.com’s restricted access database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in such documents. Students may be required by the instructor to individually submit course documents electronically to Turnitin.com.

In your writing for this course (and for others as well), you will have the opportunity to do research and consult other sources in your writing. When you incorporate this information—words, thoughts, and ideas—into your writing, you have the responsibility to document it. This documentation is important, not only to give credit where credit is due, but also to give the curious reader an idea of where to go to get more detailed information. Plagiarism includes any representation of another person's words, thoughts, or ideas as your own, and is a very serious academic offense. The penalty for plagiarism can range from simple failure of the assignment to suspension from school. By all means, consult your instructor if you are in doubt about any documentation issue, and please consult the UWA student handbook, *The Tiger Paw*. Please remember that multiple submissions (submitting work in one course that you have already performed for another course) are expressly prohibited.

By the same token, I expect you to prepare for class conscientiously—that you plan ahead and budget your time on the writing assignments, that you confront the material honestly, that you ask questions about things that are puzzling or unclear, that you respect your classmates and their views, that you start
your writing and research early enough to allow for your best work. If we can all agree on these points and follow through accordingly, we’ll have a great course.

**Disability:** Reasonable accommodations in accordance with ADA (1993) will be made for course participants whose personal characteristics require specific instructional and testing conditions. Persons with such requirements must identify themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the course.

**Course Outline:**

*The following is a schedule of daily activities. Unforeseen circumstances may occasionally require minor changes or adjustments; it is the student’s responsibility if he or she is absent to check with a classmate for any changes.*

- **Mon, Jan 11** - Course introduction
- **Wed, Jan 13** - Review MLA format and Academic Writing
- **Fri, Jan 15** - “Stories Hollywood Never Tells” Howard Zinn pg 784 **in-class essay**

- **Mon, Jan 18** - MLK—no class
- **Wed, Jan 20** - Discuss “A Visit from the Footbinder” Emily Prager (handout)
- **Fri, Jan 22** - Discuss “The Lottery” Shirley Jackson (handout)

- **Mon, Jan 25** - Research question and thesis-essay prompt
- **Wed, Jan 27** - Workshop introductions
- **Fri, Jan 29** - Workshop introductions

- **Mon, Feb 1** - Workshop body paragraphs
- **Wed, Feb 3** - Workshop body paragraphs
- **Fri, Feb 5** - Workshop conclusions

- **Mon, Feb 8** - Workshop conclusions
- **Wed, Feb 10** - No Class
- **Fri, Feb 12** - No Class

- **Mon, Feb 15** - **Paper 1 Due**, Review Informative essay topic list
- **Wed, Feb 17** - Elements of informative paper
- **Fri, Feb 19** - Works Cited preparation

- **Mon, Feb 22** - Topic choice/Research question
- **Wed, Feb 24** - Plagiarism/when to quote vs paraphrase
- **Fri, Feb 26** - Evaluating sources

- **Mon, Feb 29** - Library
- **Wed, Mar 2** - Library
- **Fri, Mar 4** - Library

- **Mon, Mar 7** - Thesis statements
- **Wed, Mar 9** - Open conference
- **Fri, Mar 11** - Required conference
Mon, Mar 14- Requires conference
Wed, Mar 16-Required conference
Fri, Mar 18-Required conference

Mon, Mar 21-Works Cited workshop
Wed, Mar 23-Polishing –academic language
Fri, Mar 25-Presentation preparation

Spring Break

Mon, Apr 4-Paper 2 Due; Presentations
Wed, Apr 6-Presentations
Fri, Apr 8-Presentations

Mon, Apr 11-Presentations
Wed, Apr 13-Develop research questions for Argument paper
Fri, Apr 15-continued…

Mon, Apr 18-Open conference
Wed, Apr 20-Workshop content
Fri-Apr 22-Workshop content

Mon, Apr 25-Workshop polishing
Wed, Apr 27-Paper 3 Due “Discuss A Modest Proposal” Jonathan Swift pg 752

FINAL EXAM

See University Final Exam Schedule for the day and time