

ENGL 1310, Section 104 : College Writing I
Syllabus– Fall 2003

Instructor: Kim Wells
Office: FH 238

**Class Meets Monday,
Wednesday & Friday
@ 1:00-1:50**

**Class Meets in:
FH 256**

Office Hours

Mon & Wed
8:00-9:50 am
& by appointment.
No appts. available Fridays.

Contact Info

Home Phone: 210-659-4667
E-mail: kimwells@womenwriters.net
class webpage starts at:
<http://courseinfo.mediasrv.swt.edu/> – then log in with your SWT login info. You are automatically enrolled, but must have a SWT account first– you can then change your email to any address.
This syllabus is also available online if you should lose this paper copy.

6 REQUIREMENTS:

1. Comley, Nancy R., *et al. Fields of Reading: Motives for Writing, Sixth Edition.* Boston: Bedford St. Martin's, 2001.
2. Your grammar handbook.
3. Your syllabus (bring it to class *every day!*)
4. Signed Student Contract (on file with Ms. Wells; turn in by Sept 8 or lose homework points)
5. Any collegiate dictionary.
6. Access to a computer (there are labs on campus in several places on campus. See the following URL for more info: <http://www.swt.edu/computing/labs/>).

The information in this syllabus supplements that which can be found in the First-Year English Syllabus– online at: <http://www.english.swt.edu/freshman.html>

Course Description and Policies

Skills that we will cover in this course are:

- recognizing formal arguments and how one uses rhetoric to convince an audience;
- formulating a thesis (central idea/argument);
- developing your thesis in an orderly way;
- forming clear and effective paragraphs and sentences;
- using an appropriate collegiate vocabulary;
- applying the grammatical and mechanical conventions of standard written English;
- applying critical reading skills to your own writing and to the writing of others;
- revising and reviewing your arguments and writing;
- applying your new skills in interpreting and recognizing argument to the world around you.

Grades:

Description	Percentage of Grade	Due Date
Diagnostic: Paper 1 Essay (500 Words)	5%	<i>In Class</i> , Wednesday September 3 No Revision
Essay 2: (750 words)	10 %	<i>Final Draft:</i> Wednesday September 24 Revision option due: Wednesday October 15
Essay 3: (800 words)	10 %	In class peer review: Wednesday October 1 <i>Final Draft:</i> Wednesday October 8
Essay 4: (900 words)	15 %	<i>Final Draft:</i> Wednesday October 29
Essay 5: Documented Argument (1000 words) Includes oral presentation!	oral presentation: 5% essay: 15% <u>total:</u> 20 %	You may turn in your essay when you do your oral presentation for bonus points. <i>Last Chance to turn in final Draft:</i> Friday December 5 (NO PAPERS ACCEPTED after the 5 th)
Essays Total: 60 %		
Final Exam	20 %	Monday Dec 15 11:30-2:00
Daily Writing (Journals, Homework, etc)	20 %	Expect to turn a writing assignment in ALMOST daily.

**Ms. Wells' Official Policies:**

TALK TO ME: This is the most important element of this course— if you have trouble with any of the assignments, or you are falling behind, or you miss class, talk to me before it becomes a serious problem. I cannot help you if you come to me on the day of the final, after you've been having trouble all semester. I also will not come to you, first. You have the responsibility of making sure I know what's going on— few problems are

insurmountable if you try— but I will not make the first effort. Talk to me, before it's too late to fix it.

♪ Students with special needs (as documented by the Office of Disability Services) should identify themselves to me at the beginning of the semester (come to office hours, call me, write me an e-mail). I will be glad to make accommodation, but need to know about them as soon as possible. Even if you have not been officially “documented,” but have concerns about your learning style or other issues which might affect your performance, please talk to me.

Reading Assignments: You are responsible for having the assignments *READ COMPLETELY the day that your syllabus lists them; this means you must read ahead on the syllabus*. We will discuss the reading in class, the day it is listed (usually on a Monday). If you have not read your assignment you will not be considered prepared for class, and may be asked to leave.

Members of the Class Exchange names, phone numbers, and email addresses with several members of your class. Because you are responsible for all assignments, even when you are absent, you should know how to reach a classmate in an emergency. You may also want to contact a classmate to discuss an idea for a paper or to seek advice about an upcoming assignment. Think of your first-year English class as a community of writers; strive to become an active member of that community. You can also use the class group communication options on Blackboard.

Homework/In Class Work: Homework may include exercises, both written and otherwise, short writing assignments (from essays to other types of writing), journal entries, and possibly other work that will develop writing skills. **You should expect to write every day.** You are expected to participate in collaborative activities, class discussions, and listen to the occasional lecture. Realize that the work I give you is not to keep you busy— it really will help you learn to become a better writer. Trust me on this one, please. Almost every day, I will assign a topic on which you will write; you will turn these in at the end of class. They cannot be hand written, so don't think you will write it in class while we're discussing. The journal writing is a semi-formal assignment— it does not have to be as polished as an essay, but must be well-considered and proofread. Formal elements of style & grammar should also be followed— all must be typed. Check the daily reading schedule for your assignment— each day's assignment is listed as “Writing” and generally consists of answering specific chapter questions; however, other assignments are possible. Your grade will be a check, a check plus, a check minus or a zero on this grade. You will have a minimum of a check if the assignment is turned in— to get the “higher” grades, you must “wow” me. Some of these daily writings will be developed into major essays.

Essays: You will write one diagnostic essay and four major essays during this class. More details on this are forthcoming. Writing is a major component of the course so you should expect to write interesting, well edited, revised and grammatically correct work on each essay. You will receive a prompt for each essay long before it is due— If you follow the prompt carefully you should do fine. The essay component of this class is worth 60% of your final grade. For your final essay, you will also give an oral presentation of your research. You are encouraged to use, and will be graded on, visual aids. More details will follow. **I will not accept any papers that are more than a week late, for any reason short of a**

major crisis; they will automatically get a “zero” once you are late this long.

Revision Policy: You are required to revise essay 2 for an entirely new grade. You may choose to revise one other essay for up to ten extra points on your grade (you cannot, for reasons of time, revise essay 5 or the final). The second revision must be accompanied by a letter of argument— why should I take the time to regrade? What changes have you made? Revision is more than just correcting the errors I will mark on your page— and in order to get the full credit for your revisions, you must make global as well as local corrections. *Revision must be turned in one week after you get the papers back, corrected, from me.* More details will follow.

Final Exam: The final exam in any first-year English course is an argumentative essay. I will give you the topic, and you will write the exam at home, turning it in during the final exam period. The exam will count for 20% of the course grade.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend EVERY class. You are responsible for providing evidence to substantiate “authorized” absences. If you know in advance that you will have to miss a class, you are responsible for informing me (but try to just make it to class, please!). I will take attendance every day! I am SERIOUS about this policy— if the difference between an “A” and a “B” for your course grade is your attendance grade, you will get the lower grade! *Attendance includes late arrival— every three tardies counts as an absence.* You are allowed two unexplained absences before you will begin losing points on your final grade (up to a half a letter grade per absence, taking an A to an A- etc.). **You will receive an F for the course, regardless of your grade on the essays, if you miss more than 6 unexplained days of class— that is TWO WEEKS of class.** What would you expect if you missed more than two weeks at your job? Coming to class is your job.

Deadlines: Late papers and assignments cause conflict in everyone’s schedule. Unless you discuss problems that may cause you to turn in late assignments with me, preferably ahead of deadline, your paper grade will be dropped by up to *10 points for every non-weekend day you are late (this includes non-class days!)*. Obviously, you want to turn in your assignments when they are due. **YOU CANNOT PASS THIS CLASS WITHOUT COMPLETING ALL OF YOUR ASSIGNMENTS IN A TIMELY MANNER.**

Presenting others’ work as your own— Plagiarism policy. Any apparent scholastic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism) will be promptly reported to the proper authorities and will result in a grade of “F” for the course and a letter of reprimand in your file. Any assignment that does not appear to be deliberate plagiarism but fails to include proper and clear attribution of sources or direct quotation will receive a grade of Zero. Don’t tell me you just “knew” all that factual information. Also, assume that I know more about how to find information on the Internet than you do, and WILL find any paper you copy & paste.

Incomplete policy: The only grounds for an incomplete grade in this class are university authorized issues— and you must have completed at least 50% of course work to qualify.

Cell Phones

Do NOT bring your cell phone to class without turning it OFF. Don’t put it on vibrate, either. It should be off. If your phone rings or vibrates during class time, you have two options. The first is to bring snacks for everyone in class the NEXT class period (cookies, brownies, something like that). The second is to lose 10 points on your homework/in class

grade. I understand that you're on "student budgets" so if you can't afford the snacks, you can either take the grade deduction or SEE ME for an alternative. The best solution? Make sure your phone is OFF. (Plus, if you can afford a cell phone, I really don't think you can't afford a bag of do-nuts for the class.

Some General Advice

I want you to succeed, not only in this course, but in college. Please call me, email me, or come see me for help or guidance with your research, writing, or general progress in this course. If my office hours are not convenient for you, please see me to set up an appointment. However, if you want to discuss an unfair grade, or assignment deadline, or any kind of "grievance," the best time is **NOT** during class lecture. Do not interrupt a paper explanation with argument over deadlines or expectations. Come see me after class and/or during my office hours. If you get feisty during class, you might push my "sarcasm" button, and no one wants to see that! (It isn't pretty).

Reading Schedule

Abbreviations Note: **FOR** = *Fields of Reading: Motives for Writing*.

Wednesday August 27	First class day! Intro to course policies. Class intros.
Friday August 29	No Class– just lil' old us.
Monday: Labor Day Class Does Not Meet– University Wide (Note: your reading assignment for next week is pretty bulky– but since you get several class days off, consider it class-time).	
September	
Wednesday September 3	In class: Paper 1, Diagnostic Essay. <i>Your diagnostic essay will be graded, for 5% of your total grade.</i>
Friday September 5	Finish Diagnostic Essay.
Monday September 8	Paper 2 assignment handed out, explained. Lesson: Ethos, Pathos & Logos, or, how you too can win friends and influence people with your writing & command of Plato's/Socrates' favorite tools (Hemlock not included).
Wednesday September 10	<i>Reading:</i> FOR, "Reading the Slender Body" pp. 693-699. <i>Writing:</i> Find an "argument" from the media. It can be an advertisement from a magazine, a video clip of a commercial, a newspaper editorial, whatever. What is the ad selling? How? How effective is the argument? How does it miss the mark? Does it use ethos, pathos, logos? How? Bring in an "ad" and prepare to discuss it.

Friday September 12	Finish discussion of media & arguments.
Monday September 15	Lesson: Introduction to PIE. (mmm, pie)
Wednesday September 17	In Class: More on ads & argument... presentation by Kim.
Friday September 19	finish Mon/Wed discussions
Monday September 22	<i>Reading:</i> FOR, pp. 185-192 & “Hatsuyo Nakamura” pp. 203-210. <i>Writing:</i> FOR, pp. 210– answer question 3 (1-2 typed pages, double spaced).
Wednesday September 24	Lesson: “I just love a happy ending/beginning/middle?” or, strategies for writing papers with all the good stuff included. Paper 2, final draft DUE.
Friday September 26	Paper 3 assignment handed out and explained.
Monday September 29	<i>Reading:</i> FOR, pp. 323-330 & “Urban Legends: ‘The Boyfriend’s Death’” pp. 338-346. <i>Writing:</i> Go to the following URL: http://www.snopes.com Find an urban legend on the site that interests you, and then explain what is interesting to you about this legend. How does the Snopes site present urban myth? How do they explain the legend you find interesting? Explain why this example is interesting to you. Bring a printout of the page you choose, along with your written discussion. (1-2 pages, typed, double spaced).
Semester Mid Term is (we aren’t having an exam though)	
October	
Wednesday October 1	In Class Peer Review of Essay 3 Bring a complete, typed draft of essay 3, along with your thinking cap! (This is not a skip day– you must revise or lose points on essay 3).
Friday October 3	Finish peer review.
Monday October 6	<i>Reading:</i> FOR, “Eggs For Sale” pp. 508-522. <i>Writing:</i> FOR, p 521, answer question #1 (1-2 pages typed, double spaced).
Wednesday October 8	Paper 3 Due

Friday October 10	Paper 4 assignment made and explained.
Monday October 13 Oral presentation sign-up.	Lesson: “Communism is a Red-Herring and we don’t want to go down that slippery slope today” or, Logical Syllogisms, Fallacies, & You.
Wednesday October 15	Revision of Paper 2 due to Ms. Wells.
Friday October 17	More on fallacies.
Monday October 20	<i>Reading:</i> FOR, “The Interface Culture.” pp. pp. 639-646. <i>Writing:</i> FOR, p. 657, answer question #5.
Wednesday October 22	Paper 5 assignment made & explained–Discuss. Sign up for oral presentations.
Friday October 24	Finish discussion from Mon/Wed.
Monday October 27	Lesson: Proper care and feeding of a quote, or, How to make MLA your best buddy.
Wednesday October 29	Paper 4 Due. Oral Presentations formatting .
Friday October 31	More on oral presentations.
November	
Monday November 3	<i>Reading:</i> FOR, “The He Hormone” pp. 537-551. <i>Writing:</i> FOR, Answer question # 5, p. 551 (1-2 pages, typed, double spaced).
Wednesday November 5	<i>Reading:</i> “Letter From a Birmingham Jail” Handout.
Friday November 7	Discuss “Letter from a Birmingham Jail.”
Monday November 10	Handout Final Exam, explain.
Wednesday November 12	Individual Oral presentations begin.
Friday November 14	Oral Presentations continue
Monday November 17	Oral Presentations continue
Wednesday November 19	Oral Presentations continue
Friday November 21	Oral Presentations continue

Wednesday 24-30 Thanksgiving Holiday. No class. (Officially, vacation does not begin till Wednesday but IMHO, there's no point in coming on Monday).

December

Monday December 1

Oral Presentations continue

Wednesday December 3

Oral Presentations continue

Friday December 5

Oral Presentations continue
Last chance to turn in paper 5!!

Monday December 8

Course evaluations.

Last Class Day

December 9-16. Classes Do Not Meet– Finals Begin

After December 8 I will not hold regular office hours, and will only be reachable by phone or email. Grades available by CATS phone & Web: December 19. I will not give out grades before this.

Final Exam: Monday Dec 15 11:30-2:00.