

ENGLISH 302: ADVANCED COMPOSITION: WRITING ABOUT THE HUMANITIES
FALL 2009
TUESDAY 3-6PM . SECTION 007C SOUTH HALSEY 309



Glen Canyon, Photograph by Michael Melford, National Geographic

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Office Hours: Monday, 1:30-2:45 . Tuesday, 12-2:45 . Thursday, 9-9:30 . And by
appointment



Official Course Description

English 302 3 units (crs.)

Advanced Composition: Writing About the Humanities (EN)

An advanced composition course designed to enhance proficiency in critical reading and thinking and in expository writing on issues relevant to the Humanities and Fine Arts.

Recommended for majors in any of the Humanities and Fine Arts. Prerequisite: 60 units (crs.) including any Writing-Based Inquiry Seminar (WBIS 188), or English 101 or English 110) or consent of department chair.

Amount of Writing Required in Advanced Composition

Students in each section of Advanced Composition, regardless of course number, will compose a minimum of 6,000 words per semester and submit at least 4,500 words to instructors for feedback (graded or ungraded).

This total word count must include at least one polished, research-based argument of at least 1,800 words about a significant topic or issue in the course subject area; this argument should be the culmination of a series of inter-related assignments and multiple drafts.

The remaining 4,200 words (or less) should include written work in multiple genres/formats, the majority of which synthesizes and/or responds to a variety of print, electronic, visual, oral, and/or experiential sources.

Required Book Purchases

The Monkey Wrench Gang, Edward Abbey

The Essential Guide to Rhetoric, William Keith and Christian Lundberg

A Writer's Resource, Elaine Maimon, et al. (required for all Advanced Composition sections)

Additional Reading and Screening as announced: No purchase necessary:

Writing Assignments

All writing assignments receive separate instruction sheets, distributed in class and posted to D2L. In addition, we discuss how to approach each assignment during class hours and hold peer review sessions on them prior to the due date. Please also consider the University Writing Center a resource for questions and help in drafting.

∞ 6 Critical Responses focused on rhetorical analysis of different genres of material. 3 page minimum per analysis; 4 page preferable.

∞ Visual Rhetorical Analysis of landscape painting or photography. 8 pages, requiring quotation from sources.

∞ Researched Essay. Final essay 12 pages. *This is a sequential assignment and earlier components include:*

Long Bibliography of minimum 10 entries due to cover the topic.

Reduced, selected, annotated bibliography and cover essay proposal. 4 pages.

Grading Weights

Critical Responses. (5% per response). 30% total.

Visual Rhetorical Analysis Essay. 15%

Long bibliography (leading to researched essay). 7.5%

Annotated bibliography and cover essay proposal. 7.5%

Researched essay. 30%

Participation. Participation in class includes contributing to discussions, bringing books and essays, and taking part in group activities. 10%

Peer Workshopping

Peer editing workshops are designed to allow you to learn strategies for providing feedback to others and improve your own writing by responding to feedback. You will join groups with two to three other members of class this semester and these peers will read and respond to your work, just as you will read and respond to their work.

You are responsible for bringing a paper copy of your draft to class. Any group member who does not workshop a full draft during the session will receive one full grade lower on the final grade for the paper.

Attendance

I expect you to attend all class sessions. If you are unable to attend, I ask that you explain to me why you will not be in class. For medical absences, please supply a dated, signed excuse from a doctor.

After 3 missed hours of class (one full class period), your final grade will be lowered on a percentage basis: number of class hours missed divided by 42 class hours per semester (and this will include all absences).

Flu Epidemic Preparation

In the case of the flu epidemic, I will follow procedures outlined by the UW Oshkosh Emergency Response team. In individual cases, I have prepared assignments for affected students so that they maintain their coursework and grades; I will require a documented, dated contact from a medical professional.

Late Papers

All assignments are due, printed, in class on the date specified. If, for some reason, you do not have the printed copy at that time, please speak to me and put it in the D2L dropbox by midnight on the

due date. In exceptional circumstances, such as documented illness, I will accept a late paper.

➤ I will not accept papers through email attachment.

Late Persons

While there are no bells in college, class begins at the time listed in the timetable. You may be late once due to weather; however, repeatedly walking into class late will affect your final grade: it is not constructive, it is disrespectful, and it interferes with students' ability to learn in a conducive and positive environment. Announcements, such as changes to the schedule, clarification of essay assignments, and announcements of English Department and campus events, are made in the first 10 minutes of class. Missing these will impair your ability to succeed.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a punishable offence, covered by the university rules. I can tell when your writing is not your own and the university now subscribes to Turnitin, which is an authentication tool for all essays. In addition, all essays must be original, which means that, even if you work with someone in class, you should ensure that you turn in individual writing and research. Even duplicated sentences between essays are considered an infringement of the academic honesty codes. We will discuss writing and plagiarism in this class. In the meantime, if you have any doubts about how to properly cite research, talk to me before you write.

Writing Center

The Writing Center will help you conceptualize your essays (for this class and others). The Writing Center is not a proofreading or editing service. All Writing Center services are free, but you need to schedule an appointment. The Writing Center is located in the basement of Radford Hall. The phone number is 424-1152; you may also email them at wcenter@uwosh.edu.

Daily Syllabus

Not everything that we do during this semester is represented on this syllabus! The major reading and writing assignments are listed here. All assignments should be completed on the date that they are listed on this syllabus. Dates may change slightly to accommodate our progress during the semester.

Week One . Tuesday, September 15 . Welcome!

This afternoon's class will introduce you to the history of rhetoric and the varieties of rhetorical analysis. We will engage in a brief practical exercise to get you started.

Week Two . Tuesday, September 22

Readings: *The Essential Guide to Rhetoric*, Chapters 1-3.

“Into the Wild,” by Jon Krakauer (Outside Online version, see D2L link)

Emphasis: The Rhetorical Situation: Bitzer and McGee (pages 28-31 / *Essential Guide*)
Writing: Critical response #1 on Krakauer (situation)

Week Three . Tuesday, September 29

Reading: “On Civil Disobedience,” Thoreau (Online, see D2L link)
Emphasis: Publics and Adaptation (pages 14-19 / *Essential Guide*)
Writing: Critical Response #2: Who is the public for “Civil”?

Week Four . Tuesday, October 6

Readings: Helmers, *The Elements of Visual Analysis* excerpt (D2L)
Arthur Asa Berger, Reading Advertisements
“Gender and the Natural World,” Diane Hope (D2L)
Writing: Critical Response #3 to a nature or natural product advertisement

Week Five . Tuesday, October 13

Readings: Portfolio of landscape paintings and photography online (see D2L)
Writing: Draft of Visual Rhetorical Analysis Essay for peer review

Week Six . Tuesday, October 20

Screening: *The Milagro Beanfield War*, with note taking
Reading: *The Essential Guide to Rhetoric*, Chapter 4
Emphasis: Film and the use of ethos, pathos and logos
Writing: Visual Rhetorical Analysis essay due

Week Seven

Tuesday, October 27

Reading: *The Monkey Wrench Gang*, pages TBD (about one third of work)
Writing: Critical Response #4: Ethos, Pathos, Logos

Week Eight

Tuesday November 3

Reading: *The Monkey Wrench Gang*
Writing: Critical Response #5: Audience and Publics

Week Nine

Tuesday, November 10

Reading: *The Monkey Wrench Gang* to end
The Essential Guide, Chapter 6 (Style)
Writing: Critical Response #6: Style

Week Ten

Tuesday, November 17

Reading: Journalism, audience, style:
“The Whale Warriors,” Peter Heller
“When Yellowstone Explodes,” Joel Achenbach
“Rescue at Sea,” Mary Pols

Writing: Long Bibliography Due

Week Eleven

Tuesday, November 24

Screening: *Whale Wars*

Week Twelve

Tuesday, December 1

Writing: Annotated bibliography (select) and research proposal cover essay due

Week Thirteen

Tuesday, December 8

Writing: Peer group editing on Long Essay

Week Fourteen

Tuesday, December 8

Writing: Researched Essay due on the Rhetoric of the Environment