

ENGL 1020: Cultural Expression
Critical Reading and Expository Writing
East Tennessee State University
Fall 2020

Class Time: MWF 8:15 am - 9:10 am / asynchronous online

Instructor: Mrs. Harley Mercadal (she/her/hers)

Email: mercadahl@etsu.edu

Office Number: Burleson 101-E

Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In ENGL 1020, students will be "writing essays based on critical analyses of various literary texts" with an "[e]mphasis on sound argumentative techniques[,] and also "[r]equires [a] documented research paper" (LitLang Composition Website). This class will also require daily written journal entries in order to facilitate the student's learning.

Students **must** earn a grade of "C" or above to pass this course. These courses **do not** assign grades C-, D+, or D or Incomplete. English 1020: Cultural Expression "will explore facets of high culture and popular culture. These sections are open to students of any major; researching and writing projects may relate to literature, dance, music, film, or the graphic arts" (Goldlink).

COURSE GOALS:

- Demonstrate ability to write clearly, critically, and concisely.
- Show an understanding of the writing process, including drafting, editing, revising, and proofreading.
- Demonstrate ability to think about, read, and analyze texts critically.
- Write a ten (10) page research paper about a facet of culture that reflects the above goals, with a focus in persuasive techniques.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS:

- Internet connection for turning in assignments electronically
- A flash drive, Dropbox, Google Drive, or other reliable means of keeping up with drafts
- Microsoft Suite/Office 365 (find the link [here](#) where you can download it as part of your tuition) or Google Docs for creating .doc or .docx files for assignments
- A computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone capable of using the aforementioned software, and also to check emails, to turn in assignments, and to format assignments correctly with

GRADING: Students will submit several small writing assignments geared to build on a topic for the final ten-page research paper. Students find all of their assignments on D2L (<https://elearn.etsu.edu/d2l/login>), which include quizzes, discussion board posts, journals, and smaller building block assignments that lead up to the final ten page paper. Be sure to check our

schedule, D2L course website, and/or due date calendar on D2L for assignment sheets, quizzes, due dates, and grades.

Daily Journal Entries/Discussion	250 points	25%
Final Completed Essay	250 points	25%
Annotated Bibliographies 1-5	100 points	10%
Annotated Bibliographies 6-10	100 points	10%
Topic Selection Assignment	100 points	10%
Project Proposal	100 points	10%
D2L Scavenger Hunt Assignment	50 points	5%
D2L Quizzes	50 points	5%
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Total	1000 points	100%

A: 93-100%	A-: 90-92%	B+: 87-89%	B: 83-86%
B-: 80-82%	C+: 77-79%	C: 70-76%	D+: 67-69%
D: 60-66%	F: 0-59%		

The Department of Literature and Language requires the writing of paragraphs and essays based on close readings of various texts, with an emphasis on clear, grammatically correct expository prose. Students must take this course during the first eligible semester at the university. *Students must earn a grade of "C" or above to pass this course.*

*****If you fail to turn in a major assignment, such as your final essay or your final journal, you will automatically fail this course.*****

ATTENDANCE: Due to the COVID-19 situation that has necessitated an online delivery of this course, I will not be holding an official attendance policy. **This means I will not be taking formal attendance via D2L, Goldlink, Zoom, or any other platform. It is the student's responsibility to watch either the Zoom live streams or the recorded videos that I will upload on Youtube after our scheduled time each day.**

PLAGIARISM: As per ETSU's Composition website¹: "Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this department, and its consequences are serious. **Proven willful plagiarism will result in failure in the course and may include dismissal from the university.**"

The MLA Handbook¹ defines plagiarism as repeating "as your own someone else's sentences, more or less verbatim... Other forms of plagiarism include repeating someone else's particularly

¹ <https://www.etsu.edu/cas/litlang/composition/policies.php>

apt phrase without appropriate acknowledgement, paraphrasing another person's argument as your own, and presenting another's line of thinking. . . as though it were your own."

*****I reserve the right to not accept any paper with a TurnItIn plagiarism score of 40% or higher.** I also reserve the right to either ask the student to redo the aforementioned paper in 24 hours with the highest possible grade being a B-. I also reserve the right to fail the paper with a grade of zero (0/F) and report the student for Academic Misconduct to the university if the student does not comply with the plagiarism policies listed herein. If you're unsure how to cite something or if it should even be cited, please schedule an online writing appointment with the CFAA or email me.***

CLASSROOM POLICIES: If you need to contact me at any time with questions or concerns, please use my ETSU email (mercadalh@etsu.edu) with a formal greeting and salutation along with your question or concern. If you need an appointment to speak with me via Zoom, please email me and ask. Please keep in mind that I teach multiple online classes and may not be able to meet you or answer you right away. **All emails must occur over the university's email program; thus, I will not respond to emails from personal accounts, only emails from your _____@etsu.edu account.** I will respond to emails within 24 hours, excluding weekends and holidays. Please make sure to check your email frequently (found over at <http://mail.etsu.edu/>) as I will use it to send you updates on assignments, class cancellations, reminders, and et cetera. We will also utilize ETSU's online platform D2L (<https://elearn.etsu.edu/d2l/login>) daily, so please become familiar with it as soon as possible.

Late work will lose ten (10) points per day off of your graded score. So, for example, if you turned in an assignment three days late (-30 points) and your original grade would have been a 100, that means your new adjusted grade is a 70 (since 100 - 30 points = 70). I will not accept late work past five (5) days for this reason. **I also cannot accept late work past the last day of class, which is December 4th, 2020.**

All completed essays and assignments will be turned in to the instructor via Goldlink's Dropbox. All assignments will be run through ETSU's plagiarism detector TurnItIn. I do not accept Google Doc links, .txt files, or direct emails for digital assignments. Everything must be uploaded to the Dropbox on D2L in a .doc or .docx file.

*****If you fail to turn in a major assignment, such as your final essay or your journals, you will automatically fail this course.*****

STUDENT CONDUCT: Students must conduct themselves in a manner which is conducive to learning for themselves and for others in the class. Disruptive behavior is not acceptable and may

result in a student facing campus disciplinary action or in being temporarily or, in severe cases, permanently removed from class. Additionally, hate speech, slanders, slurs, yelling, or arguments will not be tolerated. This class is open to polite and informed discussion only. The professor reserves the right to remove any student from her class or classroom for inappropriate conduct.

Additionally, when students contact the professor via email, the students should always use proper etiquette. We will review proper etiquette in class, but if you need another example, please see our D2L page.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND SOFTWARE: This class is being taught online this semester, so students should make every effort to either borrow or buy a computer, laptop, smart phone, or tablet on which to do their work. Due to both the online nature of this class, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, I will not accept physical copies of a student's work at this time. **Those who need special accommodations should see the instructor and Disability Services (see the Resources section for contact information).** I will make every effort to provide additional materials and/or modes of assignment submission and lectures as needed.

ZOOM MEETINGS: You do not have to attend the live stream Zoom sessions in this class; however, you should know that it is in your best interest to do so. We will not meet every scheduled day on Zoom, but I will record the sessions when I do a Zoom session, then upload them to Youtube for your later viewing. **Please turn off your camera and mute your microphone when joining a Zoom session in this class.**

IN-CLASS JOURNALS: These are a crucial part of your grade in this class: 25% of it, in fact, so please make sure you're checking our D2L page, course calendars, and your email for due dates. You will have two (2) journals due per week of this course; however, you are always welcome to turn them in early. Journals can be found on our D2L website under Evaluation → Assessments. I cannot accept journal entries sent via email. The journals will vary on subject matter, but will include questions about readings or current events, questions about future assignments, grammar exercises, and other relevant writing exercises. These will each have different length requirements, so please be sure to read the instructions on each journal.

FREE RESOURCES:

- **Disability Services** is located in the D. P. Culp Center, Room 326. Their phone number is 423-439-8346 and their office hours are 8:00AM - 4:30PM Monday-Friday, with after hours appointments on request. Please contact them if you have a documented disability so they can provide your professors with information on how to best accommodate you.

- **Center For Academic Achievement:** The CFAA is located on the first floor of the Sherrod Library. The tutors there can help you with brainstorming, organizing your paper, revising, conducting research, and citing your sources. The CFAA is also open to online writing appointments. Visit <http://www.etsu.edu/uged/cfaa/> for more information.
- **Counseling Center Services:** College can be a source of stress for students on every level, from undergraduate freshmen to graduate-level students. The free resources on campus are here to help you manage that stress as well as outside stress. From their website², "we provide a variety of personal services, including drop-in consultations, crisis referrals, ongoing individual and couples therapy, group therapy and psychiatry. We also provide outreach programs in mental health and wellness, as well as serve as a training facility for graduate students in counseling, social work and psychology."
- **Bucky's Food Pantry:** Food insecurity is common among students out on their own for the first time and those students may need additional assistance. Please check out the website at <https://www.etsu.edu/foodpantry/> if you, or someone you know, is a student and needs help procuring food.

ETSU DIVERSITY STATEMENT: East Tennessee State University recognizes that the pursuit of knowledge and understanding is enriched by an environment in which people of diverse backgrounds learn together and from each other, and participate in free and genuine exchange of views. It recognizes that all members of the University community benefit from diversity and that the quality of learning, research, scholarship and creative activities is enhanced by a campus climate of inclusion, understanding, and appreciation of differences and the full range of human experience. ETSU must prepare students to function successfully in a diverse society. A university diverse in its people, curricula, scholarship, research, and creative activities expands opportunities for intellectual inquiry and engagement, helps students develop critical thinking skills, and prepares students for social and civic responsibilities.

ETSU aspires to be an institution that celebrates diversity by welcoming all students, faculty, administrators and staff as respected and valued participants in the University's educational mission. Therefore, ETSU welcomes people of different races, ethnicities, religions, creeds, national origins, genders, sexual orientations, physical abilities, ages, veteran status, and social, economic, or educational backgrounds. ETSU is particularly committed to welcoming groups that have been traditionally underrepresented or excluded. The University also supports and

² <https://www.etsu.edu/students/counseling/>

encourages the promotion of diversity in its curricula, programs, faculty research, scholarship, and creative activities.”

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT / TITLE IX STATEMENT: East Tennessee State University is committed to fostering a safe learning environment. Sexual misconduct and/or gender-based discrimination of any kind is prohibited. ETSU investigates cases of sexual misconduct (including, but not limited to sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking) and may take steps to protect the parties involved from harassment, retaliation, or negative impacts from the incident or complaint.

Complaints may be made to ETSU’s Title IX Coordinator at (423) 439-4444. In cases of a student complaint against another student, reports may be made to and the investigation conducted by the Dean of Student Office/Office of Student Affairs under the Tennessee Board of Regent’s Policy P-O80. Contact the Dean of Students Office at (423) 439-4210.

If you wish to speak confidentially about an incident of sexual misconduct, contact the ETSU Counseling Center at (423) 439-3333. After hours calls may be directed to Bucs Press 2 by dialing the same number and then “pressing 2.” ETSU encourages anyone who has experienced sexual misconduct to talk to someone about what happened so they can get the support they need.

If you would like to learn more about sexual misconduct or how to report an incident please visit: www.etsu.edu/violencefree

To review the ETSU Student Sexual Misconduct policy, please visit:

http://catalog.etsu.edu/content.php?catoid=13&navoid=613#Student_Sexual_Misconduct_Policy

For general campus safety information and/or to view the Annual Campus Security report, visit:

<https://www.etsu.edu/safety>