

ENGL 1020

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Office Hours: In Zoom MW 10-12

### **Recommended Texts**

A good unabridged dictionary and thesaurus

### **Purpose/Goals of the Class**

This course is designed to help you develop skills involved with written argumentation, research, and the effective application of outside research to your own position on an issue. In a broader sense, it is a course that asks you to engage in the world around you, to think critically about all sides of an issue, and to make informed decisions about your own stance on the issues you engage with. These skills have many applications; not only will developing these mental habits enable you to be a more informed citizen, but also a more constructive and innovative member of the workforce. In order to develop these skills, I expect you to be an active participant in class discussions as we explore together the possibilities and challenges various issues represent.

### **Types of Writing**

Minor assignments will consist of various quizzes, in-class essays, and short writings. The major assignments for the class will be an annotated bibliography with ten entries, a 1,500 word persuasive proposal, a literature review, and the final 2,500 word research paper. Twice you will be expected to give a two to three minute oral presentation.

## Expected Outcomes

Over the course of the semester the students will become much more familiar with the research process and how to use research to back up their argument. The students will gain experience in persuasive and research writing.

## Classroom Policies

1. Attendance: Even though this class is an online class, there are synchronous components. You will be expected to log into D2L to keep up with the weekly readings and assignments.
2. Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the use of someone else's words or ideas without giving proper credit or by making it seem as if the words or ideas are your own. Plagiarism also includes such acts as turning in a paper to me that has previously or simultaneously been turned into me or another professor. Sloppy documentation and paraphrasing often results in unintentional plagiarism. Plagiarism is unacceptable for any assignment, including oral reports and exams. Anyone found willfully plagiarizing in my class will fail the course, as well as be reported to Dan Westover, the Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. I have no tolerance for it. Don't do it—ever.
3. Assignments: All major assignments must be completed for the class to be considered completed. Any student who fails to complete a major assignment will not be able to pass the class. The department does not allow an “I” for incomplete to be given in this class.
4. Electronics: A computer with a stable internet connection will be required to do the work for this class.
5. D2L: The use of electronics is encouraged outside of the classroom. The syllabus and all assignments will be posted on D2L. If you lose your assignment sheet then access it on D2L and do not ask me for another copy. Any updates to the schedule or assignments will be made through D2L and I would encourage you all to check D2L every morning and to check your campus email on a regular basis.
6. Extra Credit: Extra credit will not be offered, but students with failing grades on papers will be allowed to take them to the Center for Academic Achievement where they can work with a tutor. If I get an email from the center stating that you met with a tutor and you turn your paper back in you may be able to receive a higher grade.
7. Late Assignments: Late Assignments will not be accepted. If you do not have the assignment finished on D2L by the assigned time then you will not get credit for the assignment. If the missed assignment is one of the major papers then you will

automatically fail the course. If you are taking this class then you are of the age to be considered an adult, so act like one and keep up with the class responsibilities.

8. This Syllabus is subject to change as needed.

## **Academic Integrity**

I expect your complete participation in the assigned reading and writing, and responding to class discussions. I expect you to participate fully in each class and to complete your work on time; late work will carry a penalty as outlined in this syllabus. I also expect your strict adherence to the University code of conduct; instances of academic misconduct will result in the failure of the course.

Cheating, incorrect documentation, or plagiarism results in an automatic failure for that assignment. Due to the importance of research methods in this course, you will receive instruction on correct integration of source material and documentation; therefore plagiarism will not be tolerated in this department, and its consequences are serious. The *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (2009) defines plagiarism in the following manner:

Plagiarism involves two kinds of wrongs. Using another person's ideas, information, or expressions without acknowledging that person's work constitutes intellectual theft. Passing off another person's ideas, information, or expressions as your own to get a better grade or gain some other advantage constitutes fraud (52).

As stated in your student handbook, proven willful plagiarism will result in failure in the course and may include dismissal from the university. Even unintentional plagiarism significantly impacts your grade with penalties including an automatic failure for that assignment.

## **Students with Disabilities**

I will work with anybody who brings me a disability form to ensure that all of your needs are met that fall under the [Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#) provided by Disability

Services. I can only assist you if you bring me the form from Disability Services that details what accommodations I am to help you with.

## **Grading Policy**

All grades will be given a variable amount of total points. These points will then be added together to calculate the final grade for the class. The department requires all students to achieve a grade of “C”, or 700 total points of graded items, in order to pass this class. By adding all of your points together as you go will be able to determine exactly where you stand with your grades. The department does not allow an Incomplete to be assigned in ENGL 1020.

As I mentioned previously no passing grade of less than a “C” will be given for this class, but you can receive a grade of less than a “C” on an assignment. If you receive a grade of less than a “C” on one of the two major papers we will discuss methods of revision that may allow you to raise your grade to a “C” level.

## **Grade Scale**

A: 930-1000    A-: 900-929

B+: 870-899    B: 830-869    B-: 800-829

C+: 750-799    C: 700-749

## **Grade Distribution**

Each assignment will be worth a percentage of your grade. You will not be assigned a grade higher than the Max Score for that assignment.

Feel free to record the grades you receive on your assignments in the chart I have below so you can see how you are doing over the semester. The “Grades” section of the D2L website will also have the grades there as you receive them.

Assignment	%	Grade
Paper Proposal	20	
Annotated Bibliographies	20	
Literature Review	10	
Research Paper	35	
Final Exam	5	
Quizzes	10	
Final Grade	100 max	