

English 200 (“Expository Writing II”)

Catalog Description

Introduction to writing persuasively and in response to literature. As with ENGL 100, uses discussions, workshops, and conferences, and emphasizes the writing process. Pr.: ENGL 100 or 110 and sophomore standing.

Course Policy Statement

Course Description

Expository Writing II is an introduction to persuasive writing, in which students are asked to consider the needs of their audience in order to make their arguments more effective. When focusing on their readers, students will need to make decisions about what evidence to choose, what organizational patterns to employ, and what tone and style to use. Importantly, this course enhances their ability to imagine the needs and values of their readers and to understand the reasons for why they might hold differing viewpoints.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to

- **adopt** effective process writing strategies, including invention, drafting, analyzing their own drafts and those of others, revising, and editing.
- **construct** an argumentative claim and develop and adequately support audience-based reasons.
- **identify** and apply the core concepts of an explicit argument: claims and audience-based reasons, evidence, warrants, credibility, conditions of rebuttal, as well as ethos, pathos, and logos.
- **anticipate** and rebut counterarguments to their claims, reasons, warrants, or use of evidence.
- **locate** and evaluate appropriate outside research sources and effectively integrate and cite them in their arguments.
- **analyze** specific audiences.
- **produce** a broad range of arguments for various contexts and audiences: evaluations, proposals, letters to the editor, etc.

Textbook

Ramage, Bean, and Johnson. *Writing Arguments*, 7th ed.

Expository Writing 200, 6th ed. [spiral-bound course supplement]

Recommended Texts

Lester Faigley, *The Brief Penguin Handbook*. 2nd ed.

A good college dictionary

Required Supplies

Several letter-size manila folders for keeping and handing in your work

Materials for taking notes in class

How To Submit Your Work

Put your name, your instructor's name, the name of the course, and the date on the top left of the first page. Skip lines between each entry:

John Student
Ms. Jane Instructor
English 100
October 3, 2006

All papers should be typed, double-spaced, using one-inch margins, on 8 ½" x 11" white paper. Make sure to number your pages and staple them together.

Put the paper, the assignment sheet, all notes, drafts, and response forms in a manila folder with your name written on the tab. Do not use title pages. Do not submit your work in a report cover or colored folder with pockets.

Late Papers

Papers are due at the beginning of class on the date due. Late assignments will lose one letter-grade for every calendar day that they are late. Papers more than a week late will not be accepted.

Workshop Policy

Workshops in which we read and comment on each other's work are an integral part of this course. As there will be at least one workshop for each paper you write, your participation is important. The workshops should also serve as a good way to motivate you to get an initial draft completed. Also, the very act of reading your classmates' work will allow you to internalize the goals of the assignment. If you miss a workshop, or if you come unprepared, you will lose participation points.

Revision Policy

There is a great deal of evidence that revision helps people learn to write. Therefore, I encourage you to revise your papers during the course of the semester. However, revisions do not automatically warrant higher grades. Revisions must demonstrate substantial improvement over previous drafts. That is, when you revise, you should not just correct editing errors, and you should not just answer my questions in the margins. Rather you should use my comments as a starting point for rethinking how you did the assignment and use the revision as a way to show that you have learned something which you can apply in new ways in new contexts.

All revisions must be accompanied by previous drafts and responses. When you hand in revisions, follow these guidelines:

- Highlight on the revision any additions you made to the previous draft.
- Mark and explain on the previous draft any deletions you made in the revision.
- Write a summary explaining how and why you revised the major elements of the previous draft, such as the focus, the organization, or the use of detail or evidence. You do not need to explain changes in editing and phrasing.

In general, you will only be allowed to revise your paper once. However, under certain circumstances, I may allow you further revision.

Attendance Policy

In a writing class, your attendance is necessary, not only because the class activities will help you draft your paper but because your own participation is helpful to other students and helps build a strong community of writers and readers.

However, I understand that from time to time, circumstances may make it impossible for you to attend class. If you must be absent for a good reason, contact me ahead of time or as soon as possible after the absence.

According to the attendance policy of the Expository Writing Program, if you are absent for more than nine class periods or the equivalent of three weeks of class, you may automatically fail the class. (T/U classes, students are allowed six class periods.)

The Portfolio Examination

At the end of the eighth week of the course, you will turn in one of your papers to be evaluated for the **midterm portfolio exam**. A different instructor will read your paper to determine if it meets the minimum requirement for this course. If the paper passes, it can then be used in the final portfolio examination as a passing paper. **If you do not hand in a midterm portfolio, your grade for that paper will not be recorded.**

During the last week of class, you will turn in a **final portfolio** that will contain two papers in addition to the midterm. Again, a different instructor will read your portfolio to determine if it passes. Portfolio readers do not determine your final grade; they just determine if your portfolio passes or fails the course. After I get the results of the final portfolio exam, I will assign you a letter grade for the course. **Please note that it is possible to pass the portfolio and still fail the course because you have not fulfilled other course requirements.** For more information about the portfolio examination, see the “Instructions for the Portfolio Examination in Expository Writing I and II at Kansas State University” in your course supplement.

Grades

Major papers will receive a grade of A, B, C, or R (an “R” indicates that your paper needs to be revised because it is currently in danger of not passing final portfolio). Papers receiving an “R” must be revised extensively for them to receive at least a C. A paper with an original grade of R that is not revised will be counted as an F in determining final grades. Note that individual papers cannot receive a D. This rule is in place because a D, since it is such a borderline grade, may be easily failed by the outside portfolio reader. If you receive a C on the paper, rest assured that in most cases it will pass portfolio.

You must pass the final portfolio examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. If you do pass the portfolio examination, I will determine your final grade according to the following formula: I will average the grades of each of your five major papers, and that average will be 95 % of your final grade. The remaining 5 % of your final grade will be determined by

what I call class participation; that is, your attendance, your coming to class on time, your contributing to discussions, and your grades on quizzes, class work, and homework.

Note: the program policy states that the major five papers must represent at least 90% of the grade. That is, additional evaluation categories, such as participation, quizzes, homework, etc. can only constitute 10% of the total grade

The Honor Code

Kansas State University has an Honor Code, which stipulates that all your academic work at the university should be done individually by you. All undergraduate and graduate students acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Honor System. Do not collaborate on any academic work unless specifically approved by your instructor. On all of your assignments, exams, and other course work, the following pledge is implied, whether or not it is explicitly stated: “On my honor, as a student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work.”

Plagiarism is covered by the Honor Code. Complete copies of the academic dishonesty policy are available on the Honor System web page at www.ksu.edu/honor.

Students with Disabilities

If you need special accommodation in this course for a verified learning or physical disability, please contact Disability Support Services in Holton Hall, Room 202 (532-6441), so that they may assist you and me in making those arrangements.

Brief Assignment Descriptions

Introduction & Evaluation Argument. Students evaluate a print or visual text based upon criteria that they have decided are important and appropriate for the audience. (Weeks 1-4)

Proposal Argument. Students describe a local problem and propose a solution. Students identify an audience that is appropriate for the proposal. Students focus upon a justification of their solution and address the audience’s needs and concerns. (Weeks 5-7)

Rebuttal Writing Argument. Students respond to an editorial. Students demonstrate their understanding of the argument and then find ways to counter it. (Weeks 8-10)

Persuasive Research Paper. Students identify a controversial topic and an audience that may not be sympathetic towards their position. Students practice audience-based reasoning in order to appeal to this audience. (Weeks 11-14)

Reflection. Students look back at their experiences and progress in the course and choose a format to write a reflection about what they have gained and about how they have fulfilled the course objectives. (Weeks 15-16)