

ENGL 165-04: Writing and Rhetoric
Longwood University
Fall 2021

Professor: Dr. Shawn Smith

Office: Grainger B14

Office Hours: Unless CDC/VA/LU policies change, via Zoom (e-mail me to make an appointment; suggest 2-3 times between 7am and 5 pm).

<https://longwood-edu.zoom.us/j/6566251786>

Password: htims (“smith” spelled backward)

Phone: 434.395.2797

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Web Page: <http://www.longwoodshakespeare.net>

Class meets: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00-9:50 am in Grainger 201; Fridays on Canvas (asynchronous assignments).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course prepares students for the writing and research they will do throughout their university experience. Students will learn to explore, to analyze, and to inform within academic contexts using the most effective rhetorical strategies, structures, reference, and language of multiple disciplines. Students will identify the strengths and weaknesses in their written communication. 3 credits. WI.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Core Curriculum Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and explain the significance of language, structure, and reference among at least three of these four academic disciplines: humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and applied fields.
- Convey the results of research through an appropriate academic genre to achieve specific informational and/or persuasive purposes for defined academic audiences.
- Identify appropriate digital and print references for use in specific writing tasks after explicit instruction in evaluating a variety of sources.
- Identify and evaluate at least 3 strategies for improvement. Those strategies include: structure, language, and (composing) planning, drafting, revising, and proofreading processes of their own texts.
- Produce polished original prose that rarely interferes with reader comprehension and writer ethos.

REQUIRED TEXTS (available at the University Bookstore; additional texts will be available on Canvas)

- *An Insider's Guide to Academic Writing: A Rhetoric and Reader*, 2nd ed., ed. Susan Miller-Cochran, Roy Stamper, and Stacey Cochran, 2nd ed. (Bedford, 2019). [ISBN: 9781319361754]

Other texts will be available on Canvas under “Files.” A note about using digital editions of these works: Use them at your peril. Students who use digital texts tend not to mark them up as they would a physical text, and they therefore have a less meaningful interaction with that text, and this tends to result in poor grades. If you insist on using digital editions, you'll need to figure out on your own how your edition corresponds to the assignments on the syllabus. You'll also need to find bound editions when you need to cite them for your work in this course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Essays #1-3, three pages each, minimum (15% each of final grade).
- Essay #4, four pages, minimum (20% of final grade).
- Final exam (10% of final grade).
- Canvas assignments (15% of final grade).
- Class preparation and participation (10% of final grade).

POLICY MATTERS

It is essential that you read thoroughly and carefully, and this means marking up your book with underlining, comments, and questions. Think of it as “texting the book.”

Please arrive on time, and be prepared to listen, to think, and to contribute. Please turn off wireless phones, headphones, and other electronic devices that might disrupt class—and put them away, out of sight, and beyond the reach of your hands. Please treat other students and your instructor in a civil and respectful manner. About taking notes on laptops or tablets: I urge you not to do this. Taking notes by hand forces you to process information in a more productive way than transcribing comments into a word processor does. Laptops not only present you with numerous distractions (e-mail, Facebook, etc.), but they are also a distraction for other students, especially those sitting behind you. Students who take notes on laptops or tablets tend to do poorly in this course.

The Longwood University attendance policy in the *Undergraduate Catalog* will be the attendance policy for this course. You will receive an F on work missed because of unexcused absences. Your grade will be lowered by one letter grade if you miss 10 percent of the scheduled class meeting times for unexcused absences. You will receive an F if you miss a total (excused and unexcused) of 25 percent of the scheduled class meeting times. If you arrive late, it is your responsibility to check with me at the end of class to make sure that I've counted your late arrival. Three late arrivals will be counted as an absence. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a classmate (as well as announcements about syllabus

changes or other matters; it's also your responsibility to pick up papers or exams that might have been handed back). Exams can be made up only under the most grave circumstances, and with documentation from an MD or a Longwood University official. If you foresee a conflict, I expect you to discuss it with me beforehand. If you expect a prolonged absence from class because of illness or emergency, you should inform the Dean of Students. Written assignments handed in late will lose one letter grade for each class day late. Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of intellectual dishonesty will result in an F for the course and referral to the Longwood University Office of Student Conduct and Integrity.

Your written assignments for this class will be uploaded to Canvas. You should keep electronic (preferably on Dropbox, Microsoft OneDrive, or some other sort of cloud server in case your computer has problems) versions of any work you submit for this class, until after you have received your final grade. Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability should contact me privately. If you have not already done so, please contact the Office for Disability Services (103 Graham Building, 395.2391) to register for services.

Mandatory Reporting of Crimes and Sexual Misconduct: In accord with its history and mission, Longwood University believes that each individual should be treated with respect and dignity and that any form of crime or violence is incompatible with Longwood's commitment to the dignity and worth of the individual. Longwood University is committed to providing a healthy living, learning and working environment which promotes personal integrity, civility and mutual respect. If you have been the victim of a crime or sexual misconduct we encourage you to report this. If you disclose this to a faculty member or employee (with the exception of our Limited Reporting and Confidential Reporting Resources; for example, the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff), she or he is required by law to notify the appropriate University officials. The faculty member or employee cannot maintain complete confidentiality and is required to report the information that has been shared. Please know that all reported information is treated with discretion and respect and kept as private as possible. For more information about your options at Longwood, the most current forms of these policies are available here:

<http://www.longwood.edu/police/crimereports.htm>
<http://www.longwood.edu/studentconduct/12050.htm>
<http://www.longwood.edu/titleix>

Current university policies regarding facemasks, intellectual property, accommodations and disability resources, mental health resources, and reporting of crimes and sexual misconduct are available here:

<http://www.longwood.edu/academicaffairs/syllabus-statements/>

CALENDAR

- 23 August: Course introduction.
- 25 August: Reading and writing rhetorically: *Insider's Guide*, pp. 45-52.
- 27 August: Analyzing rhetorical context. See Canvas for assignment.
- 30 August: Writing a rhetorical analysis: *Insider's Guide*, pp. 52-58.
- 1 September: Developing arguments: *Insider's Guide*, pp. 59-67.
- 3 September: Analyzing audience expectations. See Canvas for assignment.
- 8 September: Developing arguments: *Insider's Guide*, pp. 67-80.
- 10 September: Rhetorical analysis of an advertisement. See Canvas for assignment.
- 13 September: Academic research: *Insider's Guide*, pp. 81-98.
- 15 September: Class canceled. See Canvas for assignment.
- 17 September: Writing workshop for Essay #1 (Rhetorical Analysis).
See *Insider's Guide*, pp. 57-58, for assignment.
Be prepared to discuss at least two paragraphs of your essay.
- 20 September: Individual conferences on Zoom.
Be prepared to discuss at least the first four paragraphs of your paper.
- 22 September: Individual conferences, continued.
- 24 September: Understanding Documentation Systems. See Canvas for assignment.
- 27 September: Essay #1 due on Canvas at 9 am. Introduction to Textual Interpretation Essay.
- 29 September: Research in the Humanities: *Insider's Guide*, pp. 139-145.
- 1 October: Using the *Oxford English Dictionary*. See Canvas for assignment.
- 4 October: Kate Chopin, "The Story of an Hour." *Insider's Guide*, pp. 154-159.
- 6 October: Shakespeare, Sonnet 18 (on Canvas).
Paraphrase and Analysis Exercise (instructions and handouts on Canvas).
- 11 October: Writing workshop for Essay #2 (Textual Interpretation).
See *Insider's Guide*, pp. 173, for assignment.
Be prepared to discuss at least two paragraphs of your essay.
- 13 October: Class canceled for individual conferences on Zoom.
Be prepared to discuss at least the first four paragraphs of your paper.
- 15 October: Individual conferences, continued.
- 18 October: Essay #2 due on Canvas at 9 am. Introduction to Literature Review Essay.
- 20 October: More on Literature Review: *Insider's Guide*, pp. 211-217.
- 22 October: Information Literacy: See Canvas for assignment.
- 25 October: Library Visit: Meet at the entrance to Greenwood Library at 9:00 am.
Be prepared to ask the librarian at least one question about research related to your paper topic.
- 27 October: Research Methods: *Insider's Guide*, pp. 217-226.
Be prepared to discuss the topic and at least three sources you plan to use for your Literature Review Essay.
- 29 October: Annotated Bibliography due on Canvas.
- 1 November: Writing workshop for Essay #3 (Literature Review).
See *Insider's Guide*, pp. 216-217, for assignment.
Be prepared to discuss at least two paragraphs of your essay.

- 3 November: Class canceled for individual conferences on Zoom.
Be prepared to discuss at least the first four paragraphs of your paper.
- 5 November: Individual conferences, continued.
- 8 November: Essay #3 due on Canvas at 9 am. Introduction to final essay.
- 10 November: Cherlin, “How American Family Life is Different”; Whitbourne, “The Myth of the Helicopter Parent”: *Insider’s Guide*, pp. 341-350.
- 12 November: Personal Reflection Exercise on Canvas.
- 15 November: Milteer, “The Strategies of Forbidden Love”: *Insider’s Guide*, pp. 368-384.
- 17 November: Be prepared to discuss the topic and at least three sources you plan to use for your final essay. Be prepared to discuss, in a specific way, your response to one of those sources.
- 19 November: Annotated Bibliography due on Canvas.
- 22 November: Writing workshop for Essay #4 (Contributing to a Scholarly Conversation).
See *Insider’s Guide*, pp. 414-415, for assignment.
Be prepared to discuss at least two paragraphs of your essay.
- 29 November.: Class canceled for individual conferences on Zoom.
Be prepared to discuss at least the first four paragraphs of your paper.
- 1 December: Individual conferences, continued.
- 3 December: Essay #4 due on Canvas at 9 am. Preparation for final exam.

10 December, 11:30 am – 2:00 pm: FINAL EXAM. Bring a blue book to class.

Grading Scale: 94-100 = A; 90-93 = A-; 87-89 = B+; 84-86 = B; 80-83 = B-; 77-79 = C+; 74-76 = C; 70-73 = C-; 67-69 = D+; 64-66 = D; 60-63 = D-; 0-59 = F

Grading Rubric: <http://www.longwoodshakespeare.net/grading/WritingRubric.pdf>