

English Composition 102

Tuesdays 6:00 – 8:40 ATG 207

Instructor: Erin McCourt

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Office Hours: Tuesday ATG 476 4-6

Technology, Literature, and Literacy

In this class, we will continue to hone our skills of argument and critical reading from Comp 101, while we learn new research and writing skills. Our course readings and themes will revolve around a few interdisciplinary perspectives surrounding issues of media and mass/popular culture. For example, in the first part of the course, we will consider the intersections between technology, literacy, social media and consumerism. As we read and ponder these topics, we will complete a literacy narrative that explores our own relationship with reading and writing. Then we will immerse ourselves in a community through ethnological research and write a thoughtful profile of this community.

In the second half of the class, students will complete a 10-page research paper about a topic of interest (it may be a continuation of the community profile), as well as present their research to the class. Students will learn how to best utilize the library to find articles and sources, complete a professional proposal, and create an annotated bibliography. Students will not simply regurgitate the voices of others, but learn how to synthesize their research and interact and respond to research in a meaningful way. Finally, students will create an online portfolio showcasing their work.

Required Texts

Everyone's an Author by Andrea Lunsford

They Say, I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Mean Girls (2004) directed by Mark Waters

* All other readings will be available on Sakai and/or handed out in class. Please print out the readings and bring them to class annotated*

You also will need a notebook, folder and a stapler.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is a must, as this is a heavily discussion-based course. Additionally, we only have 14 classes. However, I understand that emergencies and sicknesses do happen. **Students are allowed one absence FOR ANY REASON without penalization.** There is no such thing as an “excused” absence. After the first two, it will negatively affect your participation grade. Students missing more than three classes will automatically fail. Two “lates” equal one absence.

Late Papers: Papers are due by the beginning of class on the due date. No extensions will be given. Papers will be deducted by 1/3 of a grade for each day that the paper is late (i.e., the grade will go from a B+ to a B-, etc.) Smaller assignments will not be accepted late.

Academic Integrity: Any student who hands in a plagiarized paper or is caught cheating will be given an automatic “F” for the class. Please read Rutgers’ official policy at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>.

Cell Phones/Laptops: Cell phones must be turned OFF or on to silent (not vibrate) during class. Texting during class is not permitted. Laptops are permitted during in-class writing assignments and for any lecture notes, but I ask that you put them away for our discussion sessions. Students using the internet, texting, or otherwise disturbing class will be asked to leave.

Class Participation: Students are expected to show up to class prepared and on time, as well as provide thoughtful and respectful contributions to class discussions. Quizzes are also included in your participation grade, to help those students who are a bit more introverted.

Critical Reflections: As we only meet once a week, I will ask that you upload a short critical reflection paper each week to Sakai under the “Assignments 2” tab. These papers are 400-600 words and are due Sunday night by midnight. Please see rubric under Resources for guidelines.

Grade Breakdown

There are a possible 1350 points in this course. I update grades on Sakai weekly (usually).

Participation and Quizzes: 150 pts

Literacy Narrative: 100 pts

Ethnography: 200 pts

Critical Reflections and Homework: 350 pts

Final Paper and Components (drafts, presentation, etc.): 350 pts

Final Revisions/Portfolio: 200 pts

Extra Credit: There are TWO and only TWO extra credit opportunities, which will be discussed in class. I do not offer any other extra credit options.

The Schedule

This list of assignments is not complete. Due to the nature of this course, I reserve the right to assign new articles or make switches so we can keep up with the technological world and current cultural/media issues. Smaller homework assignments and text readings from *Everyone’s an Author* and *They Say, I Say* are not listed and are assigned in class.

Unit One: Discussing Literacy

In this unit, we will review concepts from 101 as we consider the role of literacy in our lives – both personally and on a larger scale. We will read and analyze examples of the literacy narrative, and by the end of this unit, students will produce their own.

January 19th

In Class	Assignments Due
Welcome, Syllabus, Icebreakers What is Literacy? Comp 101 Review “Alone at the Movies”	

January 26

In Class	Assignments Due
Comp 101 Review, continued Introducing the Literacy Narrative Discussion of readings	Read: “Is Google Making Us Stupid?” and “The New Literacy” and “Social Media and Creativity” Critical Reflection Due Sunday

February 2

In Class	Assignments Due
The Literacy Narrative Examples Amy Tan “Mother Tongue” Discussion of readings In-class writing prompts and speed conferences	Read: “Literacy: A Lineage” (<i>Everyone’s an Author</i>) and excerpt from <i>Convergence Culture</i> , “Why Heather Can Write” (pg. 52-72) Browse: FanFiction.net/Harry Potter and NewsEase.com Critical Reflection Due Sunday

February 9

In Class	Assignments Due
John Swales and the Discourse Community What is an Ethnography? Discussion: <i>Mean Girls</i>	Due: Literacy Narrative Watch: <i>Mean Girls</i> Read: "Mean Girls and Social Structures" Critical Reflection Due Sunday

Unit Two: Observational Research, Thesis, and the Ethnography

In this unit, we will consider the ethnography and review several examples of the form. We will learn how to take observational notes, conduct interviews and combine our research into an ethnography that says something meaningful (thesis!) about a specific discourse community. We will also start to think about the intersection between primary, secondary and tertiary texts. Finally, we will begin musing about our final paper and learn how to compose solid research questions.

February 16

In Class	Assignments Due
Conducting Research/Faux Interviews Thesis Review Discussion of readings	Read: "Redefining American Manhood" and "Naked" and "TBA". Watch: Bronies Mini-Documentary Critical Reflection Due Sunday

February 23

In Class	Assignments Due
Discussion: <i>Coming of Age in Second Life</i> In-class writing and speed conferences	Read: <i>Coming of Age in Second Life</i> excerpt Due: Ethnography Field Notes Critical Reflection Due Sunday

March 1

In Class	Assignments Due
Developing Research Questions Final Paper Requirements Discussion: <i>Frankenstein</i> and Technology Discussion: Ethnography Updates/Review	Read: <i>Frankenstein</i> Part 1 Watch: History Chanel Electricity Blurb Due: Ethnography Interviews Critical Reflection Due Sunday

March 8

In Class	Assignments Due
<i>Fahrenheit 451</i> Pre-Reading Discussion What is an Annotated Bibliography? Why Do We Have to Do It? Good Sources, Bad Sources and Wikipedia	Due: Ethnography Bring: <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> Browse: Censorship Website Critical Reflection Due Sunday

Unit Three: Conducting Academic Research

Unit Three begins with Spring Break, during which you will finish *Fahrenheit 451*. We will consider the conversations between the book and outside scholars, academics, historical and technological context, and even social media. We will learn how to conduct research at the library and start an on-going annotated bibliography for our final research paper. We will engage in conversations with our research groups and find out how our research intersects.

March 15

In Class	Assignments Due
Spring Break	Read <i>Fahrenheit 451</i>

March 22

In Class	Assignments Due
Thesis/Research Questions Review Discussion: <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> Library Visit 1	Read: Finish <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> Critical Reflection Due Sunday

March 29

In Class	Assignments Due
Discussion: <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> Library Visit 2 Research Time	Read: <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> secondary source Due: Revised Research Question Due: One annotated source for bib Critical Reflection Due Sunday

April 5

In Class	Assignments Due
Avoiding Fallacies Synthesizing Arguments/Integrating Quotes Secondary Source Speed Dating	Due: Two annotated sources for bib Critical Reflection Due Sunday

Unit Four: Putting it all Together

The last three weeks of class we will finish up our annotated bibliographies and write a rough draft of our final paper (due May 9th). We will learn how to integrate quotations effectively, revise our drafts, and use MLA format. We will also present our research and read published undergraduate writing (and learn how we could get our writing published, too!). Finally, we will put together our online final portfolio and write final reflections.

April 12

In Class	Assignments Due
Final Portfolio Requirements Review Introductions and Conclusions Sentence-level Writing Conference Sign-Ups	Due: Rough Annotated Bibliography Critical Reflection Due Sunday

April 19th

In Class	Assignments Due
Academic Tone, Style, MLA Review Peer Reviews Presentations	Read: One paper from <i>Young Scholars in Writing</i> (your choice) Write: Bring first two pages of final paper Final Critical Reflection Due Sunday

April 26th

In Class	Assignments Due
How to Publish Peer Reviews Presentations Teary Good-Byes	Due: Two Copies of Rough Draft (bring to class!) Due: Class reflection (not the same as critical reflection)

Final Papers and Portfolios Due Monday, May 9th

We do not have a final exam. However, I reserve the right to use the exam period if we have unforeseen cancellations due to weather, etc.