

English 111: Composition & Rhetoric in Public Argument

- Tuesday/Thursday 2:30pm-4pm
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- **Office Hours:** Tuesday/Thursday 11:30am-2:30pm

"It is absurd to hold that a man ought to be ashamed of being unable to defend himself with his limbs, but not of being unable to defend himself with speech and reason, when the use of rational speech is more distinctive of a human being than the use of his limbs."

-- Aristotle, Rhetoric

Introduction

In essence, the goal of this class is to improve your writing skills, specifically in the area of persuasive argument. For content, we will focus this semester on areas of public argument in the United States—topics that generate a lot of controversy. Throughout the semester, you will choose a topic within this general area and become a specialist in it. By the end of the semester, you should be able to explain the topic in simple language, and make a compelling arguments about it to a wide range of audiences.

In this class, you will develop your Miami plan competencies in writing, critical thinking, information literacy, and problem solving by learning to:

- Develop flexible and effective strategies for generating ideas; researching topics; composing drafts; revising, peer responding, editing, and proofreading writing via print and digital media.
- Conduct research-based inquiries, use invention techniques effectively to explore your own ideas, engage different perspectives, and develop findings into sustained arguments or narratives.
- Locate, evaluate, integrate, and cite secondary sources of information effectively and ethically, using appropriate academic citation methods.
- Produce effectively organized writing that is stylistically appropriate, demonstrating careful attention to proofreading and meeting conventional expectations for particular audiences in specific contexts.
- Write effectively and persuasively for diverse contexts, audiences, purposes, and genres.
- Develop critical awareness of the unique affordances and limitations of diverse writing technologies and modalities of communication, both digital and non-digital.
- Reflect critically on your own writing practices and rhetorical decisions.

Daily Expectations

A Fully-Charged Computing Device: This section of ENG 111 requires access to a laptop or tablet. You will be required to view things online, and you will be required to

write, daily, in class, and submit your writing to our Canvas site. You must have it every day and it must be charged.

Reading: You are required to purchase *Rhethawks*, otherwise known as College Composition at Miami, from the school bookstore. Make sure you get v68.1, which is marked “English 111 & 108/109.” In addition to relevant assignments from that book, students will be expected to read, watch, or listen to various pieces which will either be provided on or linked via our Canvas site.

Writing: This is a writing class, so writing will be expected. On days when papers are not due, you will turn in either a written response or an exercise known as progymnasmata, which we will discuss in class. These assignments must be 150+ words unless otherwise noted. Prompts will be assigned based on our class discussions.

Participation: Your active participation in class is expected. We will discuss in our first meeting the various ways in which one might actively participate in a class.

Inquiries

- **Manifesto 1.0:** You’ll begin by talking about your personal relation to writing and argument, drafting a “writer’s manifesto” explaining your views on the topic.
- **Rhetorical Analysis:** Choosing a specific topic of debate, you’ll look at opposing voices on the topic and discuss how they each frame their argument.
- **Research Paper:** Constructed an annotated bibliography to present your research, then talk about your chosen topic. Make your argument in a well-supported format.
- **Remediation:** Make your argument in a new format. This will be the fun one.
- **Manifesto 2.0:** Revise your initial manifesto in terms of what you’ve learned this semester.

Grading

Assignment	Grade %
Participation	9%
Progymnasmata (etc)	10%
Inquiry 1: Manifesto 1.0	10%
Inquiry 2: Rhetorical Analysis	17%
Inquiry 3: Research Paper	20%
Inquiry 4: Remediation	17%
Inquiry 5: Manifesto 2.0	17%
Total	100%

Policies & Procedures

Attendance: It is Miami University policy that every student is expected to attend every class meeting. Since this is a discussion-oriented course, your attendance is crucial, and

key to successfully completing assignments. Regular attendance will greatly elevate your chances of performing well. Simply showing up for class, however, will not be enough. I expect this class to be the site of lively intellectual activity, discussion, debate, and critical but respectful exchange. Accordingly, timely arrival is crucial. That said, I will allow you to miss three classes, after which your grade will drop one tier (C+ to C or A- to B+) per absence. Two late arrivals equal an absence. If you miss more than 25% of the class (20 minutes) you are considered absent. Please note that this not “three free skips plus excused absences,” this is three absences. Use them wisely.

Plagiarism: The assumption in English 111 is that the writing you submit is your own original writing—that is, produced originally for this class. To copy someone else's writing without acknowledging that use is an act of academic and professional dishonesty, whether you borrow an entire report or a single sentence. The most serious forms of academic dishonesty are to "buy" an entire paper, to have someone else write an assignment for you, or to turn in someone else's entire paper (or significant portions of an existing piece of writing) and call it your own. These forms of dishonesty constitute serious breaches of academic integrity. If you have doubts about whether or not you are using your own or others' writing ethically, ask the instructor. For further details about Academic Integrity at Miami University—including a detailed list of examples of academic dishonesty and procedures and penalties for dealing with instances of academic dishonesty—see <http://www.muohio.edu/integrity/undergrads.cfm>.

Assignment Format: Papers should be in MLA format. There is a thorough guide to MLA style online at the Purdue Owl and we will review this information in class; no excuses will be accepted for incorrect citations or formatting. MLA formatting guidelines no longer require URLs. Do not use URLs in your MLA citations. Additionally, papers must be submitted in universally readable formats—PDF, RTF, DOC, or DOCX are all acceptable; Pages format is not.

Submission/Grading: All essays will be submitted via Canvas or Google Docs, as appropriate to each assignment, and must be submitted before the start of class on the day they are due. All assignments must be turned in on time. Final grades on papers will be downgraded one whole grade for each day late--for example from A to B--unless you have made prior arrangements for an extension. First, please note that "a day" is each period up to 24 hours--the penalty begins as soon as the paper is late. Second, please note that extensions are available for exceptional circumstances only.

Backing up Work: Make sure to have a plan for backing up all of your digital work in multiple places in case of computer failure. Please also make sure to save all of the writing you complete for class. You are responsible for data loss! Consider a real-time backup program such as Dropbox.

Accommodations: I assume that all of us have different ways of learning, and that the organization of any course will accommodate each student differently. For example, you

may prefer to process information by speaking and listening, so that some of the handouts I provide may be difficult to absorb. Please communicate with me as soon as you can about your individual learning needs and how this course can best accommodate them. You may also obtain additional information and support from the Office of Learning Disabilities Services 513-529-8741 or The Office of Disability Resources 513-529-1541.

Canvas/Daily Schedule: The daily course schedule and more detailed assignment prompts will be available on Canvas. The course schedule is subject to change based on the needs and interests of the class. You are responsible for regularly checking Canvas for updates, as well as regularly checking your Miami email address.

Distractions: Please silence your cell phone and refrain from texting. While we will regularly use laptops for in-class writing, research, and collaboration, please refrain from using your laptop for non-class activities. Additionally, side conversations are not acceptable.

Respect: Since this is a discussion-based class, it is vital that you listen and speak respectfully to others at all times. I encourage you to express your opinions, of course—they will help inspire good discussions. In other words, you are allowed and expected to speak your mind at all times, as long as you can do so without being a jerk.

Problems: If you run into problems or emergencies, talk to me as soon as possible!

Resources

Classmates: Rely on one another for the questions you have regarding the readings, the work we're doing in class, software we may be using, etc. You all, both individually and as a collective, embody a vast bank of knowledge and experiences.

Instructor: I will do all I can to assist you in succeeding in this course. Feel free to meet with me during my office hours or another scheduled time. Email is a reliable way to contact me and I will try my best to respond in a timely manner. I have office hours in the same building for three hours before this class, and I am more than willing to meet with you outside those hours by appointment.

IT Support: The IT support desk is the main point of contact for technology questions at Miami, including issues with connecting to MU wireless. You can call 513-529-7900, email ithelp@muohio.edu, or go to 317 Hughes Hall.

Writing Centers: The Howe Writing Center is located on the main floor of King Library. The Center is staffed with writing consultants from many different academic areas. In a one-on-one workshop, a staff member will consult with you concerning work-in-progress, final drafts, research style, and many other aspects of writing. It is best to schedule an appointment ahead of time, but you may also walk in on days when they have consultants

available. For further information, visit the student resources site at <http://writingcenter.lib.muohio.edu/>.

The Student Counseling Service: Located in the Health Services Center, this office provides a wide range of counseling services. For more information, call 513-529-4634. Also, they have therapy dogs that you can hang out with. No kidding. Call them.

Tentative Schedule

Date	Topic	Specifics
Tuesday 8/25	Syllabus; Rhetorical Concepts; Progymnasmata	For Next Time: Writing Response Bring a piece of writing you particularly enjoy.
Thursday 8/27	Imitation Workshop	For Next Time: <i>Rhethawks</i> pp3-28 Writing Response
Tuesday 9/1	Copia Workshop	For Next Time: Progymnasmata 1A
Thursday 9/3	Peer Review of Inquiry One	For Next Time: Final version of Inquiry One
Tuesday 9/8	Inquiry One Due	For Next Time: <i>Rhethawks</i> pp29-68 Writing Response
Thursday 9/10	Argument Workshop	For Next Time: Progymnasmata 1B
Tuesday 9/15	Genre and Discourse Community	For Next Time: Progymnasmata 2
Thursday 9/17	Style Clinic	For Next Time: Progymnasmata 3
Tuesday 9/22	Language Workshop	For Next Time: Progymnasmata 4
Thursday 9/24	Conferences	Make sure you bring your laptop and/or physical copies of your paper to this conference. We will meet in my office.

Tuesday 9/29	Peer Review of Inquiry Two	For Next Time: Final version of Inquiry 2
Thursday 10/1	Inquiry Two Due	For Next Time: <i>Rhethawks</i> pp69-127 Writing Response
Tuesday 10/6	Research and Citation Workshop	For Next Time: Library Prep (TBD)
Thursday 10/8	Library Day #1	Meet in King Library! For Next Time: Library Prep (TBD)
Tuesday 10/13	Library Day #2	Meet in King Library! For Next Time: Annotated bibliography entries for first three sources.
Thursday 10/15	Audience	For Next Time: Annotated bibliography entries for next four sources.
Tuesday 10/20	Personal as Evidence	For Next Time: Annotated bibliography entries for final three sources.
Thursday 10/22	Conferences	Make sure you bring your laptop and/or physical copies of your paper to this conference. We will meet in my office.
Tuesday 10/27	Peer Review of Inquiry Three	For Next Time: Final version of Inquiry Three
Thursday 10/29	Inquiry Three Due	For Next Time: <i>Rhethawks</i> pp129-148 Writing Response
Tuesday 11/3	Remediation	For Next Time: Progymnasmata 5
Thursday 11/5	Digital Tools Workshop	For Next Time:

		Progymnasmata 6
Tuesday 11/10	Fair Use Workshop	For Next Time: Progymnasmata 7
Thursday 11/12	Conferences	Make sure you bring your laptop and/or physical copies of your paper to this conference. We will meet in my office. For Next Time: Bring headphones!
Tuesday 11/17	Peer Review of Inquiry Four	For Next Time: Final version of Inquiry Four
Thursday 11/19	Inquiry Four Due	For Next Time (after Thanksgiving): <i>Rhethawks</i> pp149-173 Writing Response Progymnasmata 8
Tuesday 11/24	No class! You won't be here anyway.	Enjoy your vacation.
Thursday 11/26	No class! Thanksgiving.	Enjoy your vacation.
Tuesday 12/1	Revision/Reflection	For Next Time: Progymnasmata 9
Thursday 12/3	Donuts, evaluations, peer review of Inquiry Five	
Thursday 12/10	Inquiry Five due @ 2:30pm	Will be handed in online; no class meeting.