

Advanced Composition in the Social Sciences 302S 01, 02

Spring 2012: Classroom - Blackboard 9.1

Instructor: Dr. Mark Rudnicki (mrudnick@gmu.edu)

Office: Robinson A 311A;

Office Hours: Fridays 10AM-Noon,

Other Contact: Bb chat room and by Skype: Rudnicki1969

Course Description:

This course is designed to build on the general writing skills you have acquired in previous university courses and to prepare you for completing advanced level writing, analysis, and research tailored to your discipline. Your task this semester, therefore, is to develop skills on how to locate and analyze the various genres of writing in your discipline and on how to communicate effectively within them. While many forms of writing in the social sciences exist, summary and analysis are the most common. As a result, we will closely examine key points in texts to assist in writing effective summaries, and we will critically investigate logical structures, rhetorical strategies, and arguments to assist in developing insightful analyses.

Course Objective: Students as Scholars

This section of English 302 is participating in GMU's "Students as Scholars" program. Across campus, students now have increased opportunities to work with faculty on original scholarship, research, and creative activities, through their individual departments and the OSCAR office (<http://oscar.gmu.edu>).

Assignments in English 302 will help prepare you to be contributors to knowledge in your field, not just memorizers of facts: you will

- understand how knowledge is created and transmitted in a field/discipline
- understand key methods and conventions of scholarly research in your field/discipline
- articulate and refine your own question for scholarly inquiry
- situate your investigation in an ongoing context/conversation in your field
- and design a final project that adds new perspectives and/or data to the conversation

English 302-SAS Student Learning Outcomes

For primarily text-based research that prepares students to make original contributions: students will

SLO-1, *Discovery*: Understand how they can engage in the practice of scholarship at GMU

SLO-2, *Discovery*: Understand research methods used in a discipline

SLO-3, *Discovery*: Understand how knowledge is transmitted within a discipline, across disciplines, and to the public

SLO-4, *Inquiry*: Articulate and refine a question

SLO-5, *Inquiry*: Follow ethical principles

SLO-6, *Inquiry*: Situate the scholarly inquiry [and inquiry process] within a broader context

SLO-7, *Inquiry*: Apply appropriate scholarly conventions during scholarly inquiry/reporting

Required Texts

Bazerman, Charles. 2010. *The Informed Writer: Using Sources in the Disciplines*. The WAC Clearinghouse. Fort Collins, CO. Available at <http://writing.colostate.edu/textbooks/informedwriter/> and posted on Blackboard 9.1.

302 Advanced Composition Manual. Ed. Mark Rudnicki. .pdf document on Blackboard 9.1

Website

<http://advancedresearchguide.weebly.com/index.html> designed by Mark Rudnicki

Other Supplies

- Please devote a computer “folder” or a Google doc folder (<https://docs.google.com/>) for this class; all of your notes, assignments, and drafts should be saved in that one space.
- A good dictionary, thesaurus, and grammar book. I recommend dictionary.com and www.dianahacker.com/writersref

Course Requirements

- A. Three (3) Formal Assignment Folders** are required. All formal writing must be typed, double-spaced, one-inch margins with your name, date, and assignment number in the upper right corner following all of the guidelines of MLA or APA documentation. These must be submitted on the assignment page of Bb.

NB. The Rudnicki course manual on Blackboard has more detailed information.

- 1. Folder #1 (Manual Chapter 1)** will be devoted to specialized encyclopedias and reference works. **Part A** requires you to find and analyze an article on a theory, movement, or technique in your discipline from a specialized encyclopedia (do not use Wikipedia). **Part B** requires you to write (minimum 1500 words and a maximum of 1800 words) your own encyclopedia entry on a topic of your choice, but different from part A.
- 2. Folder #2 (Manual Chapter 3)** will be devoted to analyses for a specialist audience. **Part A** will be a short comparison report analyzing journals in your field. **Part B** (minimum 1500 words and a maximum of 1800 words) requires you to write a analysis of the film *Fight Club* directed by David Fincher through the lens of your major. This requires outside research using the journals in your field.
- 3. Folder #3 (Manual Chapter 4)** **Part A** will be a detailed research proposal (8-12 pages in total) in a format and style appropriate for submission to a association in your discipline. The proposal application will include an outline, a grant proposal with a bibliography, annotated bibliography, and a description of two grants or fellowships in your field. **Part B** will be a brief reflective assignment on your final folder.

- B. Class Preparation and Participation** – The class preparation and participation grade is around 10% of the grade. Please submit all assignments on time. You must participate in a timely fashion (i.e. by the deadline) in all of the discussion posts. I will check the style and substance of all assignments formal and informal, so please be sure to check all of your work before posting. I suggest using a word program to write your posts and then copy and paste into the discussion post. The grade will be included in each folder. For example, if you do not participate in the peer review, your grade will be reduced for that assignment.

Course Grading

Folder #1 – Encyclopedias	100 points
Folder #2 – Analysis	100 points
Folder #3 - Final Grant Proposal Project	100 points
Class Participation	10% included in each assignment.
TOTAL	300 points

Course Grading Scale

97-100%	A+	292-300
93-96%	A	279-291
90-92%	A-	270-278
87-89%	B +	261-269
83-86%	B	249-260
80-82%	B-	240-248
77-79%	C+	231-239
73-76%	C	219-230
70-72%	C-	210-218
67-69%	D+	201-209
60-66%	D	180-200
0-59%	F	0 - 179

Course Policies

Submitting Assignments

All assignments must be submitted on the due date by the designated time. Throughout the semester, assignments will be due unless otherwise indicated on the following day and time: **Wednesdays 11:30 P.M.** Late submissions of major assignments will be penalized by one letter grade, and it will only be accepted up to two weeks after the due date. Please note: *Peer review sessions will require you to post your rough draft on Wednesdays and complete the review by Friday.*

Formal Assignments should be posted on Blackboard using **Microsoft Word Document** in the **assignment section** and under the correct heading. When uploading a file, please use your last name and the folder number and letter. For example, the first formal assignment will be folder 1A, so the document name would be – smith1A.

Semi-Formal Assignments will be posted on the discussion board under the appropriate thread heading. If a student replies to the posted thread under a different heading, it will not be counted. Semi-Formal Assignments are considered “class time”, such as discussions and peer review, while **formal assignments** are considered the three formal essay “folders” parts A and B.

If you are having problems with an assignment, please contact me as soon as possible, not the day the work is due! **NOTE: I will not accept assignments through email, unless we have previously agreed.**

Blackboard

I maintain our course site on blackboard. Please check often for course assignments, announcements, and handouts. The following are the most important sections of blackboard:

Course Material Page will contain the all of the handouts, textbooks, and research website for the class. The Rudnicki course manual/textbook will be your guide throughout the semester.

Class blog will be used as a complement to my manual. If you have any questions about the current assignment, you should post a question/comment here or email me.

Calendar will have all of the important dates and deadlines for the assignments. You should check this every day. I will post everything one section at a time. In other words, everything for the first folder will be posted together; once we complete that, I will post everything for the second folder. If you choose, you will have the chance to get ahead with the course manual.

The Assignment Section will contain all of the formal assignment uploads. (These will also be linked in the course content section.) All of our formal assignments have a part A and part B, so both will be posted here.

Discussion Board will have all of the **semi-formal assignments**. Please pay attention to style and grammar when posting. There will be a **blog** on the discussion board that will be used as a complement to the course manual. I encourage questions, but please, if possible, allow me to answer them publically instead of through e-mail.

Chat Room: If you see me online, do not hesitate to invite me for a chat to clarify an assignment or for general guidance. The chat room and email are the preferred methods of communication.

Peer Review

Each Formal Assignment Part B will have peer reviews. I encourage you to maintain e-mails and contact information for four to five people in the class preferably with the same major. This group will be your peer review group preferably for the entire semester.

Office Hours

I will be available in my office at the time posted above and online throughout the week, so do not hesitate to contact me or to send me a chat invitation. For more pressing matters, I can be contacted via skype. My “number” is- Rudnicki1969.

Citing Sources

APA documentation is the preferred style in the social sciences. In our course I encourage students to use APA, but I will also accept MLA style in certain circumstances. You can check the Diana Hacker web site, if you need a refresher for documenting sources: <http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>. In the web links I have a citation machine, which can help you with citing sources.

Academic Integrity (Provost's statement)

GMU is an Honor Code university; please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification.

******Plagiarism will result in an automatic zero for the assignment and possibly a trip to the Academic Integrity Council.***

GMU Email Accounts

Students must use their Mason email accounts—either the existing “MEMO” system or a new “MASONLIVE” account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information.

E-mail Etiquette

Please have two colleagues' e-mail addresses to get information, if necessary, about the class. I encourage you to e-mail me if you have any questions, but please check the course materials first. While I encourage an open and friendly atmosphere in the classroom, I do expect a certain degree of respect in e-mail exchanges. Please be formal in e-mail correspondence.

Inappropriate e-mail:

Subject line: URGENT!!!

Hey, What up dawg? I missed class yestrday. Did we do anything important? Get back to me ASAP! Urgent! Thanx

Appropriate e-mail:

Subject line: English 302S Section ____

Dear Professor Rudnicki,

I apologize for missing class yesterday. Unfortunately, I had a medical emergency. I will provide you with documentation at the beginning of the next class. I e-mailed a colleague from class about the assignments due next meeting, but he has not responded. Is there anything due in addition to what is listed on the syllabus and Blackboard? In advance thank you for your help. Sincerely, Mark Rudnicki

Office of Disability Services

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS. <http://ods.gmu.edu>

Stress of the semester

If you feel overwhelmed this semester due to the academic workload and/or balancing work and/or adapting to a new situation, please let me know as soon as possible. The earlier we can recognize a potential difficult situation, the sooner we can resolve it. I will not consider any requests for special considerations the final week of classes.

Useful Campus Resources

WRITING CENTER: A114 Robinson Hall; (703) 993-1200; <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES: “Ask a Librarian” <http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html>

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS): (703) 993-2380;
<http://caps.gmu.edu>

UNIVERSITY POLICIES: The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs. Other policies are available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.