

WRITING & RHETORIC — SYLLABUS

My information
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a course on rhetoric and writing – two terms whose meanings may not be completely transparent. Writing is one component of a broad spectrum of “human” communication practices. When humans communicate, we assume that there is some purpose behind their communication. Our objective in this class is to think about the social purposes of human communication, and what makes this communication effectual. To that end, I will ask you to write and re-write, in a variety of genres, with the end goal of thinking more about: how you write; how you improve your writing; how your writing enters into a “conversation”; how you can help your classmates make their own writing more effectual; and how to better appreciate the writing of others. The royal road to all these aims is writing often and reading what others write – particularly your classmates. I will ask you to read and comment on your peers’ writing, as part of the larger social project of writing and communicating better.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Evaluate, construct and support arguments.
- Analyze the effects of different audiences, purposes, and genres on communication practices across media (rhetorical analysis).
- Locate, evaluate, synthesize and manage information (text, visuals, media) effectively and ethically.
- Analyze how information is created, disseminated and used in a constantly evolving information environment.
- Compose in a variety of academic, professional and civic contexts.
- Compose and deliver effective oral presentations.
- Understand, evaluate, and compose effective visual communications.
- Understand and use current digital composition methods.
- Vary appropriately genre conventions for structure, paragraphing, tone and mechanics.
- Analyze cultural and human differences when communicating.

COURSE MATERIALS

- Textbook: *Views: A Rhetoric and Reader for the University at Buffalo, SUNY*. W. W. Norton & Company, 2019.
- Additional readings, which will be made available on our course website.
- Eli Review, a website where you will submit writing and give feedback to your peers' writing. Eli Review requires a subscription, which can be purchased online or at the bookstore.
- UBPortfolio, where you will submit a piece of writing in anticipation of the UB Curriculum Capstone.

Notes on Additional Digital Materials

- UBLearns: The majority of your work for this course will be conducted on Eli Review and our course website, but we will use UBLearns, for FERPA-compliant private messaging, and for the days the librarian visits. However, please note that **your grade on UBLearns is not your grade in the course**. If you would like to know your grade, please contact me.
- Slack: I will be running a channel on Slack, a secure group messaging platform that can send files, links, images, etc. Participation is optional, but it may be useful for quick questions or sharing

articles or media you find over the course of the semester that are relevant to the class. Ask me if you would like to be added.

GRADES

Eli Review:	25%
Participation:	15%
Presentation:	10%
Papers:	
A Day in the Life at UB:	10%
Reading Reflection:	5%
Interview:	10%
Research Paper:	15%
Movie Review:	10%

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

The writing program attendance policy allows students one week total of unexcused absences. **Each additional week of unexcused absence will reduce your final grade by one full letter.** University-approved absences are excepted. In the case of a University-approved absence, please provide me with appropriate documentation.

Participation is a relationship to the class that goes beyond attendance. Some strategies for participating include:

- Speaking in class often.
- Doing the readings, taking notes, and preparing questions or comments about them to share in class.
- Arriving on time with a copy of the reading for the day, something to write with, and paper to write on. A notebook dedicated to this class might be helpful. I will be asking you to hand in in-class writing exercises. On Mondays, when we are in the computer lab, please bring your laptop as well. Additional laptops are available in the lab if you do not have one.
- Coming to my office hours, emailing me frequently (even incessantly) about the course.
- **Responding to your peers during class discussion.** This is without doubt the most productive thing you can do for yourself in any class. I appreciate it immensely.

PAPER SUBMISSIONS

All papers must be submitted **before the due date on Eli Review and via email.** I do not accept late work unless you make arrangements with me ahead of time.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY & PLAGIARISM

Please familiarize yourself with the University's Academic Integrity policy, which can be found at <https://catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/integrity.html>. In a writing course, we are particularly concerned with plagiarism, which the catalog describes as "Copying or receiving material from any source and submitting that material as one's own, without acknowledging and citing the particular debts to the source (quotations, paraphrases, basic ideas), or in any other manner representing the work of another as one's own." The writing program's policy states that the first instance of plagiarism will result in an "F" on that assignment. Any additional instances of plagiarism will result in failure of the course.

ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES

If you require classroom or testing accommodations due to a disability, please contact Accessibility Resources, located at 60 Capen Hall. AR can be reached by phone at 716-645-2608 or by email at stu-accessibility@buffalo.edu. You may also visit the Accessibility Resources website for further information: <http://www.buffalo.edu/studentlife/who-we-are/departments/accessibility.html>. Please inform me as soon as possible about your needs so that we can coordinate your accommodations. I am always more than happy to do whatever it takes to ensure you succeed in this class.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Students interested in receiving guidance in overcoming obstacles, in addition to other services to ensure your success at UB, should check out UB's Student Support Services Program (SSS). SSS is located in 220 Norton and at buffalo.edu/cpmc/sss.html and can be reached via sssinfo@buffalo.edu and 716-645-2732. Students in any major are welcome to apply to SSS.

COUNSELING SERVICES

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. These might include strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, health concerns, or unwanted sexual experiences. Counseling, Health Services, and Health Promotion are here to help with these or other concerns. You learn can more about these programs and services by contacting:

- Counseling Services: 120 Richmond Quad (North Campus), phone 716-645-2720
202 Michael Hall (South Campus), phone: 716-829-5800
- Health Services: Michael Hall (South Campus), phone: 716- 829-3316
- Health Promotion: 114 Student Union (North Campus), phone: 716- 645-2837

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

UB is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence and stalking. If you have experienced gender-based violence (intimate partner violence, attempted or completed sexual assault, harassment, coercion, stalking, etc.), UB has resources to help. This includes academic accommodations, health and counseling services, housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and assistance with reporting the incident to police or other UB officials if you so choose. Please contact UB's Title IX Coordinator at 716-645-2266 for more information. For confidential assistance, you may also contact a Crisis Services Campus Advocate at 716-796-4399.

THE CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN WRITING (CEW)

The Center for Excellence in Writing (CEW) provides individual consultations to support you at any stage of your writing process. Friendly and relatable CEW consultants help students at their individualized points of need or interest, whether it be devising an approach to an assignment, brainstorming, assistance with the research process, helping you to generate more material, assisting with citation practices, providing feedback on a finished draft, and more. The CEW also can be a great source of ongoing support for students writing outside of their native language. The CEW's main center is located in 209 Baldy Hall. Appointments can be made by dropping in, online at buffalo.edu/writing, or by calling 645-5139. Additional tutoring, especially for early stages of a major assignment, will be available in the Academic and Professional Writing Program's offices. Ask your me for details or contact the APWP at engcomp@buffalo.edu.

REPEAT POLICY

Enrollment in a controlled enrollment course (CEC) is restricted by the available student positions, and self-registration for a CEC in any fall or spring semesters is available only to students taking that course for the first time. Repeat enrollment may be difficult or impossible in a fall or spring semester; a student seeking to repeat a CEC should plan to register for and do this in a UB summer session. Open seats available just prior to the start of a fall or spring semester may be released with registration on a first come first served basis. Repeat enrollment is enrollment by a student who previously enrolled in the course at UB or transferred an equivalent course to UB and for which course the student has a grade of 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D', 'F' or qualified value thereof [e.g., 'A-', 'D+'], or a grade of 'P', 'S', 'U', 'I', 'J', 'N', or 'R'. A student may self-register to repeat a CEC in a fall or spring term only if the student's grade of record for the previous enrollment is 'W', i.e., administrative withdrawal. Students may petition for enrollment in such a designated spring course by the third week of the preceding fall semester, and in a fall course by the third week of the preceding spring semester. Information about the petition process and other facets of UB's Repeat Policy can be accessed here: <https://catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/repeat.html>.

INCOMPLETE POLICY

An incomplete grade may only be given to students who have (1) fulfilled the attendance requirement for the course and (2) completed all but one of the written assignments.