English 102: 093  College Writing and Research
TR 12:30-1:45 pm  Curtin 108

Professor Mary Louise Buley-Meissner

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Course Description: English 102 focuses on reading, writing and research culminating in a ten-page research paper and a five-page reflective essay. Independent and collaborative activities will involve critical inquiry into the common research theme of “Searching for Heroes in Modern Society.” Overall, this course offers an introduction to the demands of college research writing, including the opportunity to develop your abilities in the following areas:

- gaining knowledge of the rhetorical context influencing research writing, particularly the interrelationship of authorial self-representation, controlling purpose, audience expectations and anticipated outcomes of research writing
- critical reading, specifically analysis and interpretation of material related to the course theme and your chosen research topic
- productive, mutually respectful exchange of ideas with the instructor and your classmates in discussion of course material and the development of your research project
- guided practice in the process of generating and drafting ideas for writing a research paper, revising in line with instructor and peer suggestions for improvement of writing, and editing according to research conventions.

Details regarding English 102 course goals are available in A Student’s Guide to the First-Year Writing Program at UWM.

In this section of English 102, we will investigate the possible meaning of heroism in modern society and the related principles by which we view individuals as heroes. These are to be real life heroes: individuals who stand out for exemplifying qualities such as courage, compassion, imagination and vision in their choices and commitments, whether in their daily lives or at crossroads in their life journeys. Rather than celebrities or fictional characters, this course focuses on heroes in real life who are largely unknown or – as your research could show – deserving of new recognition for their relevance in modern society. In the time period from World War II to the present, who among ordinary people deserves to be called a hero, and why? Rather than a group of people (such as American fighter pilots in World War II or the firefighters in New York on 9/11), this course asks you to identify an individual of that time period whose background, values and achievements are possible to investigate in depth (such as a single pilot or firefighter whose life story gains significance in its historical context). All projects must be based on integration of valid academic sources, such as books and journal articles in the fields of psychology, comparative religion, sociology, American history and/or world history. Please keep in mind that English 102 requires more than report writing; it involves critical inquiry based on investigative questions leading to new insights (for writer and reader) on instructor-approved topics. Accordingly, students are encouraged to work with UWM librarians and Writing Center consultants as well as the instructor and their classmates in carrying out their projects.

Prerequisites: Enrollment in English 102 requires an EPT score of 3 or above; a grade of C or higher in English 101; or permission to enroll from the English 102 program coordinator.

ESL Sections of 102: UWM offers the equivalent of 102 (and other levels of composition) designed for speakers of English as a Second Language (ESL). These sections feature smaller class sizes and teachers trained to work with non-native speakers of English. If you are interested in taking an ESL section of 102, please contact Amy Shields (grisk@uwm.edu) during the first week of the term.
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Course Books: The two required books for this section of English 102 are Student’s Guide to Writing College Research Papers: Fourth Edition by Kate Turabian (University of Chicago Press, 2010, ISBN-10: 0226816311); and Heroes: What They Do and Why We Need Them by Scott Allison and George Goethals (Oxford University Press, 2010, ISBN-10: 0199739749). These books are available at the UWM Bookstore and online bookstores such as amazon.com. Supplementary reading will be distributed in class and/or sent to the class via email. In addition, all English 102 students are required to purchase A Student’s Guide to the First-Year Writing Program at UWM: 2014-2015, which is available only at the UWM Bookstore.

Course Requirements and Grading: Students must submit a final portfolio including a ten-page research paper (on an instructor-approved topic) and a five-page reflective essay. In accordance with English Department policy, assessment of this portfolio by an English 102 portfolio committee will determine whether or not eligible students (i.e., those who have regularly attended class and submitted all required work) will receive a passing or failing grade for the course. Within that parameter, the instructor then will determine the letter grade for each student, based on a holistic assessment of class participation (25%); weekly reading and writing assignments throughout the term (25%); and the quality of the final portfolio (50%). Under this system, grades are not given on weekly assignments, research drafts or other required work. Instead instructor feedback during the term will indicate whether or not students are satisfactorily keeping up with course requirements. At individual conferences, students also will have the opportunity to discuss the quality of their work and their progress in the course. Please see A Student’s Guide to the First-Year Writing Program for details regarding the portfolio and grading system for 102. Add/drop policies also are explained in that guide.

Class participation is a major component of English 102. Please note that the participation grade will be based on the following: punctuality, attendance, cooperation with instructor directions for assignments and activities, completion of weekly reading and writing assignments on time, constructive contributions to small and large group discussions throughout the term, and respectful attentiveness to others’ views in class. Also included in class participation will be students’ shared responsibility for developing questions and responses to initiate class discussion of course material. Details regarding this work will be provided in class.

Cell Phone and Laptop Use: Please note that neither cell phone nor laptop use is allowed during class.

Attendance Policy: The English Department sets a strict attendance policy for all sections of English 102. Students cannot receive a grade higher than C- if they miss four or more class periods, and a C- does not satisfy the composition requirement for graduation. No “excused absences” are allowed. Being more than a few minutes late to class counts as an absence (unless cleared in advance by the instructor), as does missing a scheduled conference or other required class activities.

Academic Accommodations: Students who need academic accommodations (such as a sign language interpreter) should contact the instructor during the first week of class.

Writing Center: All students are encouraged to work with Writing Center consultants on their research projects. Consultants can assist you with drafting, revising and editing. Please see the Writing Center homepage (http://www4.uwm.edu/writingcenter/) for open hours and walk-in/appointment options.

UWM Syllabus Links: A separate class handout provides UWM Syllabus Links regarding university policies on issues such as plagiarism, military service and conditions for receiving an “incomplete.” If you have any concerns regarding these policies, please let the instructor know as soon as possible.