

Everyday Rhetoric

Engl 361 | spring 2010 | section 1

West 145 (computer lab)

Tues & Thurs 9:10 – 10:25a

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Office hours: T & Th 11:00a to
1:00p (and by appt.)

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Course Description & Objectives:

English 361 is designed to explore rhetorics as language and image of popular culture. As an Humanities [H] designated course, we will explore the cultural and social underpinnings of knowledge in the arts and humanities toward participating in the building of inclusive communities (WSU Catalog). We will engage in the history of ideas, acquaint you with significant cultural traditions, and give you direct experience of important cultural achievements (WSU Catalog).

To that end, this course will teach you to use a variety of methods of interpretation and analysis. We will use various modes of rational inquiry to understand complex human artifacts and, ultimately, to raise questions about the nature of rational inquiry itself. We do this to further develop your communication abilities and interpretive and critical thinking skills.

We'll concentrate in Everyday Rhetorics on contemporary popular culture texts and ideas that are usually taken for granted, but which carry important, sometimes largely unexamined messages. We will approach our subject through a variety of composing projects, concentrating on "writing" in different modes and media. Through our composing projects, we'll construct analyses and arguments that get behind the unexamined messages, cues, and values of popular culture texts. Learning to showcase and present your work for an academic audience will be a major emphasis of the course. To create our projects, we'll read about and study examples from movies, television, computer and video games, public and private space, music, and people. You'll be asked to use sophisticated theoretical readings in your composing projects as a way to build effective discussions and arguments.

Required Text(s), Readings, and Materials:

- Silverman, Jonathan and Dean Rader. *The World is a Text: Writing, Reading, and Thinking About Visual and Popular Culture* (3rd Ed.).
- Readings as assigned and provided through ANGEL.

Instructional Format:

This class meets Tues & Thurs for 75 minutes. Several of these sessions will be devoted to technology instruction in the computer lab in which we meet. Class format includes discussion (both F2F and electronic) small group work, workshopping, posting to ANGEL, and other forms of collaborative work. **You are expected to check your email accounts and ANGEL daily for course updates and last-minute announcements such as class cancellations.**

Grades:

Newsline Activity	100
Reading Responses & In-class activities.....	500
Reading movies/TV	200
Reading video/computer games.....	200
Reading music.....	200
Reading space/place	200
Reading people	500
Student Research Symposium participation	100
total points.....	2000

		Points	Percentage
A third absence will make a difference in your final grade; for every absence after one, your final grade will go down .25.	Late work is not accepted. For specific circumstances, talk to me ahead of time.	2000–1625 = A	100–96 = A
		1624–1550 = A/B	95–91 = A/B
		1549–1475 = B	90–86 = B
		1474–1300 = B/C	85–81 = B/C
		1299–1125 = C	80–76 = C

Attendance and Participation:

Participation is ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL. Come to class prepared to discuss the readings due that day. Plan on expressing your ideas, frustrations, questions, confusions, etc., even if you're not able to articulate them without some hesitation—sometimes ambivalent or ambiguous remarks spark the liveliest discussions.

If you are absent, you miss valuable class time with your peers and will have difficulty keeping up with the pace of the class. If you miss class, you are still responsible for obtaining class notes and completing work you missed when it is due.

Academic Honesty:

Academic dishonesty, including all forms of cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication, is prohibited, as is knowingly facilitating academic dishonesty. The expectation of the university is that all students will accept these standards and conduct themselves as responsible members of the academic community. These standards should be interpreted by students as general notice of prohibited conduct. They should be read broadly, and are not designed to define misconduct in exhaustive forms. Faculty and their departments have jurisdiction over academic dishonesty discovered in their courses.

For this course, carefully read the information on academic dishonesty in the *WSU Student Handbook*. You can find this information at http://www.tricity.wsu.edu/student_handbook_pullman.htm under "Standard of Conduct for All Students", Part III. According to this section of the student handbook, "Academic dishonesty includes cheating, falsification, fabrication, multiple submission, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials, complicity, or misconduct in research." Plagiarism is "knowingly representing the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgment of the source....Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, submitting as one's own work the work of a 'ghost writer' or work obtained from a commercial writing service; quoting directly or paraphrasing closely from a source without giving proper credit; using figures, graphs, charts, or other such material without identifying the sources." Each student is responsible for knowing and adhering to the university's standards for honesty in his/her academic work.

For a first violation of the academic honesty policy, students will fail the assignment, the office in charge of student conduct will be notified of the violation, and the student may be required to attend a workshop. For a second offense, the student may appear before the university conduct board and may be dismissed from the university. Exception: if the instructor or board determines that the academic dishonesty is particularly egregious or blatant the student may be dismissed from the university, even if it is the first offense.

Severe Weather:

The university does not close except under the most adverse conditions. If the decision is made to close the campus or delay the instructional day, key staff members and the news media will be notified. The closure status will also be posted on www.tricity.wsu.edu. If no notification is given, then students may assume that classes will proceed as usual.

Emergencies:

In the event of any emergency, call 911. If you hear a fire alarm sound, leave the class and take your belongings (car keys, coats, backpacks, etc) with you. Exit the building immediately to your staging area, which is the Cougar Garden for East and West Buildings or the West Parking Lot for CIC Building. Stay in these areas during an evacuation until released. Evacuation routes are posted inside the door of each classroom. Remember that elevators do not work and fire doors swing closed during a fire alarm.

Copyright:

Students can find the WSU copyright policy at <http://www.wsu.edu/Copyright.html>. Students are expected to read and adhere to this policy and copyright laws.

Americans With Disability Act (ADA) Statement:

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Classroom accommodation forms are available through the Disability Services Office. If you have a documented disability (even temporary) make an appointment as soon as possible with the Disability Services Coordinator Cherish Tijerina (ctijerina@tricity.wsu.edu or 372-7351). You will need to provide your instructor with the appropriate classroom accommodation form from Disability Services during the first week of class. Late notification may mean that requested accommodations might not be available. All accommodations for disabilities must be approved through the Disability Services Coordinator.

Subject to Change Clause:

This syllabus, course calendar, and accompanying documents are subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

Assignments:

Each of the projects will have an individual handout with the project procedures, expectations, and requirements. Timelines will be discussed in class as the project handouts are distributed. We will also discuss grading criteria. Most projects will allow for group as well as individual work. The final project culminates in participation in the Student Research Symposium during finals week. As the time draws closer, we will discuss this in class.

Course Calendar:

The calendar and assigned readings will be provided on ANGEL at the beginning of each unit and will be governed by that unit's composing project topic. Readings will draw primarily from the textbook with some additional articles and links provided in ANGEL.