

Course Description & Objectives:

English 302, Advanced Composition, will enable you to develop critical thinking, research and writing skills in the humanities.

We will read closely essays by professional and student writers, examining the link between the writers' rhetorical strategies and the humanities disciplines they represent. Some readings on our list include a narrative about learning French abroad, an analysis of television talk shows, an interpretation of SUVs in the context of the American West, and an account of a U2 hit as a musical and literary collaboration.

The essays we read also serve as models for your own writing. You will write four formal essays, including two related to your major. To understand the importance of writing as a *process*, you will complete several informal writing assignments and essay drafts as well as participate in student and instructor conferences. I hope you will consider your own learning objectives as this course progresses.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Attendance and Participation:

Attendance
and active
participation are
expected at all
course meetings.
All classroom
discussions and
activities count

You may earn up to four percentage points of extra credit to be added to your final course grade by
✓ participating actively and productively in class on a regular basis;
✓ attending class regularly (missing no more than one class).

toward your participation assessment. Students who have excellent participation may receive extra credit. Students who fail to participate satisfactorily and/or have excessive absences may receive a lower final course grade.

2. On-line Communication:

We will use GMU on-line resources for communication beyond the classroom.

A. Class E-mail List

E-mail Forwarding: Access your e-mail at <http://mail.gmu.edu>, click on Options, select Settings, enter the e-mail address to forward to, click on Save Changes.

GMU policy requires students and faculty to use their GMU accounts for all university communication. If you use another internet service provider, you can forward your GMU e-mail to that account.

We will have a class e-mail list that I use to make announcements to the class and you use to ask questions and continue discussions.

B. Townhall

Register for Townhall to participate in online discussions.

Go to <http://townhall.gmu.edu> and register, using your GMU login name. Then, login, click on "Courses," "2005 Fall," "ENGL302-H21 KOCH".

B. Townhall, cont.

Extra Credit - Online Textual Analysis Questions

In six entries, analyze six readings from the syllabus. In each, answer four questions from the "Textual Analysis Guidelines": one from numbers 1-3, one from 4-6, one from 7-8, and one from 9-10. Use quotations for support. Each entry must appear twelve lines or longer. Four of the six entries must be posted before the class period in which we discuss the material. No more than two entries may be posted per week.

You may earn up to two percentage points of extra credit to be added to your final course grade by
✓ completing six online textual analyses.

3. Presentation:

See "*Presentation Guidelines*" in the Course Packet.

Each student will do a class presentation on one of the assigned readings. The presentation will include a creative component and a class discussion that you lead. You may choose to present alone, with a partner, or in a group; presentations range from 20 to 30 minutes.

4. Portfolio Assignments:

See "*Portfolio Assignment Checklist*" in the Course Packet.

Throughout the semester, you will complete informal assignments; bring them to class on the due date and then place them in your portfolio. All portfolio assignments must be typed and numbered. These assignments count toward your portfolio grade.

5. Essays:

See the assignment sheet for each essay and "*Grading Criteria*" in the Course Packet.

You are required to turn in first and final drafts for the four listed essays; only the final drafts will be graded. Essays will be marked down ½ letter grade *each* for failure to participate in peer conferences or to submit a first draft on time. Late final drafts will receive ½ grade lower per class meeting day. Make back-up copies of all submitted essays, and save them once they have been returned to you.

<input type="checkbox"/> Essay #1: Personal Narrative	2-3 pages
<input type="checkbox"/> Essay #2: Textual Analysis	3-4 pages
<input type="checkbox"/> Essay #3: Proposal	2-3 pages
<input type="checkbox"/> Essay #4: Research Position Paper	6-8 pages

6. Conferences:

I will offer three individual instructor/student conferences during the semester, a required one for Essay #3 and two optional ones for Essay #4. We will work together to shape your projects.

7. Portfolios:

Refer to "*Portfolio Guidelines*" in the Course Packet.

Each student will keep a portfolio, a folder containing your written work from this course. At the end of the semester, you will turn in a portfolio that consists of your essays (final drafts, first drafts, and peer conference sheets) and portfolio assignments. Your portfolio will be evaluated by the completion of the assigned work, and extra credit will be given for improvement in writing.

COURSE POLICIES:

Submission of Work:

All written work must be handed to me at the beginning of class on the appropriate due date. Do not place papers or portfolios in my mailbox or under my office door; work submitted as such will not be accepted and will not receive credit.

Final Course Grades:

You must earn a grade of "C" or better to complete this course successfully. A grade of "C-" is not satisfactory to complete the University's general education requirement.

Assignments and Percentages:

- ☐ Presentation: 15%
- ☐ Essay #1: 15%
- ☐ Essay #2: 15%
- ☐ Essay #3: 10%
- ☐ Essay #4: 25%
- ☐ Portfolios: 20%

Up to 6% may be added to your final course grade for outstanding attendance, participation, and completing Townhall entries. →

Final Course Grades:

A+	98-100%
A	95-97%
A-	92-94%
B+	88-91%
B	85-87%
B-	82-84%
C+	78-81%
C	75-77%
C-	72-74%
D	60-71%
F	59% & below

Converting Letter Grades to Numbers :

A+	98%	B-	82%	D	65%
A	95%	B-/C+	80%	D-	62%
A-	92%	C+	78%	D+/D-	60%
A-/B+	90%	C	75%	F	59% & below
B+	88%	C-	72%		
B	85%	C-/D+	70%		

Office Hours:

I encourage you to meet with me during my office hours to discuss questions, comments, and/or your general progress in the course. Appointments are also available.

GMU Writing Center:

The GMU Writing Center, located at A116 Robinson Hall, offers free help with essay writing. You may meet individually with a tutor or arrange for online help. For more information, visit their Web site at <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu> or call 703-993-1200. Click on "Resources for Writers" for an online MLA Style Guide.

Honor Code:

Academic honesty is expected of all students. Cheating and plagiarism violate the GMU Honors Code. Plagiarism means using the words, opinions, or factual information from another person/text without giving the person/text credit (adapted from the English Department statement). I am required to report any violation of the Honor Code to the University Honors Council.

Disability Support:

If you have a documented disability on file with the Disability Support Services office and need accommodations, please inform me during the first two weeks of the semester.