English 1304: Freshman Composition II

Dr. Mark Womack

Fall 2008

Meeting Time: T/Th 10:00-11:15
Office Hours: T/Th 8:00-10:00

Dr. Mark Womack
mark@drmarkwomack.com
http://drmarkwomack.com

Classroom: M 116
Office: Roy Cullen 227A

Required Texts

The Brief Penguin Handbook, Lester Faigley

*Copies of these textbooks, and all textbooks for Core Curriculum Courses, are available in
the reserves section of M. D. Anderson Library (Access Services, 1st floor)

Required Materials

a manila folder (for submitting assignments)
a stapler
in-class writing tools (pen/pencil/paper)

Prerequisites

Passing grade in English 1303, 1309, or equivalent. Students who do not meet this prerequisite may not remain in
the course.

English 1304 satisfies 3 of 6 hours of the Core Curriculum Communication requirement.

Catalog Description

1304: Freshman Composition II: Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: ENGL 1303 or equivalent. You cannot receive credit
for both 1304 and 1310 or 1360. A detailed study of the principles of rhetoric as applied to analyzing and writing
argumentative and persuasive essays; principles and methods of research, culminating in writing a substantial
research paper.

Core Communication Course Exemplary Educational Objectives (Learning Outcomes):
The student will be expected to:

1. Understand and demonstrate writing processes through invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing,
and presentation.
2. Recognize, understand, and apply the conventions of format, structure, and style appropriate to a variety of
rhetorical situations, audiences, and genres.
3. Develop the ability to use writing and reading for inquiry and research; i.e., find, evaluate, and analyze
appropriate primary and secondary sources; integrate one’s own ideas with the ideas of others; and write a
documented paper that conforms to the standards of the discipline, using a consistent documentation style
(e.g., MLA, APA).

Course Policies

Attendance You should attend all of every class. Failure to attend constitutes grounds for failing the course. I make
no distinction between “excused” and “unexcused” absences; an absence is an absence. I will ignore your first two
absences; starting on your third absence, each day you miss will reduce your final average by one point. Three
tardies equal one absence. Leaving class before I dismiss you also counts as a tardy. I will take role at the
beginning of each class session; if you arrive after role call, check in with me at the end of class. It is your
responsibility to find out, from your classmates, what you miss when you are not in class.

Assignments You will write several short writing exercises (1-2 pages) and three longer, researched and
documented essays (3-5 pages); longer essays will require multiple drafts and in-class peer critiques. I do not
assign extra credit work. I do give pop quizzes. Failure to complete ANY assignment, graded or not, may result in
a failing grade for the course. Hand in assignments to me at the beginning of class on the designated due date.
Papers not submitted directly to me will not receive grades. I do not accept late papers.

Professionalism Our class will reproduce in many ways a “real-world” work environment, and I expect you to
participate professionally—be on time, meet deadlines, collaborate, and pull your load. I expect you to have read
and be prepared to discuss the assigned readings for every class period. Professionalism includes all of these as well as regular attendance, willing participation in all facets of classroom life, and sincere effort to improve your own writing and that of your peers through peer review, revision, and conferencing.

**Manuscript Requirements** Make and keep a copy of every exercise, essay, draft, and peer critique you submit. Print out your final drafts on 8.5 x 11 inch paper. Use 1 inch margins, double space, paginate, and staple pages together. *(NB: I will not accept, read, or grade any unstapled papers). Use only 12 point fonts and readable typefaces (such as Times New Roman, or Georgia). Always print with a good ink cartridge to ensure legibility. I will not grade papers I consider illegible.

**Cell Phones** Keep your cell phone turned off during class time. Notify me before class begins if there is an emergency situation that absolutely requires you to leave your cell phone on. I reserve the right to answer or confiscate any cell phone that rings during class.

**Website** I will make all course materials—including the syllabus, assignment sheets, and so on—available on my website: [http://drmarkwomack.com/](http://drmarkwomack.com/). I expect you to check the site regularly so that you can keep up with class announcements.

**Plagiarism Policy** The University of Houston Academic Policies define and prohibit academic dishonesty as follows: “‘Academic dishonesty’ means employing a method or technique or engaging in conduct in an academic endeavor that the student knows or should know is not permitted by the university or a course instructor to fulfill academic requirements” (Article 3.02; see Student Handbook URL [www.uh.edu/dos/hdbk](http://www.uh.edu/dos/hdbk) for further details). The primary concern in this course is plagiarism, again defined in the Academic Honesty Policy: “Representing as one’s own work the work of another without acknowledging the source.” Plagiarism will be dealt with according to its type and severity: faulty citation of sources will be treated as a matter for teaching and revision; willful and knowing academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to University policy and can result in failure of the assignment or the course, and/or suspension from or expulsion from the University.

**Academic Support Services** “In compliance with the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Center for Students with DisABILITIES (CSD) provides ‘reasonable and necessary’ testing accommodations for qualified students with health impairments, physical limitations, psychiatric disorders, and learning disabilities.” Students who want to know more about these services should consult the Student Handbook, or should contact CSD in Room 110 of the Justin Dart, Jr. Center for Students with DisABILITIES (building #568), 713-743-5400 (voice) or 713-749-1527 (TTY); [www.uh.edu/csd](http://www.uh.edu/csd).

**Grades**

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<td>Writing Exercises</td>
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## Calendar

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activities/Lecture</th>
<th>Readings Due</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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| 1    | T 8-26 | Review instructions, policies, & syllabus | “Argument: An Introduction”  
*Writing Arguments (WA)* Chp. 1 |  |
|      | Th 8-28 | Analysis & Discussion |  |  |
| 2    | T 9-2 | Analysis & Discussion | “The Core of An Argument: A Claim With Reasons”  
*WA* Chp. 4 |  |
|      | Th 9-4 | Analysis & Discussion | “Reading Arguments”  
*WA* Chp. 2 |  |
| 3    | T 9-9 | Analysis & Discussion | “Writing Arguments”  
*WA* Chp. 3 | Writing Exercise 1:  
Argument Summary |
|      | Th 9-11 | Analysis & Discussion | “Using Evidence Effectively”  
*WA* Chp. 6 |  |
| 4    | T 9-16 |  
**HURRICANE IKE!**  
Th 9-18 |  |  |
| 5    | T 9-23 | Analysis & Discussion | “The Logical Structure of Arguments”  
*WA* Chp. 5 | Writing Exercise 2:  
Microtheme |
|      | Th 9-25 | Analysis & Discussion | “Informal Fallacies”  
*WA* Appendix One |  |
| 6    | T 9-30 | Essay 1 Assignment | “Causal Arguments”  
*WA* Chp. 12 | Writing Exercise 3:  
Classical Argument |
|      | Th 10-2 | Analysis & Discussion | “Why We Crave Horror Movies”  
(on-line) |  |
| 7    | T 10-7 | Analysis & Discussion | “Moving Your Audience”  
*WA* Chp. 7  
“Accommodating Your Audience”  
*WA* Chp. 8 |  |
|      | Th 10-9 | *Peer Critiques* |  | Draft for Essay 1  
(Bring 3 copies) |
| 8    | T 10-14 | Revision Workshop |  |  |
|      | Th 10-16 | Essay 2 Assignment |  | Essay 1 DUE |
| 9    | T 10-21 | Analysis & Discussion | “Evaluation and Ethical Arguments”  
*WA* Chp. 14 |  |
|      | Th 10-23 | Working With Sources | “Finding and Evaluating Sources”  
*WA* Chp. 16 |  |
| 10   | T 10-28 | MLA Format | “Using, Citing, and Documenting Sources”  
*WA* Chp. 17 | Draft for Essay 2  
(Bring 3 copies) |
<p>|      | Th 10-30 | <em>Peer Critiques</em> |  |  |</p>
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**THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**