

# ENGLISH 1010: Composition I

English 1010  
Time: XXXX  
Locations: XXXX  
Credit hours: 3

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Ernst  
Office: XXXX  
Office Hours: XXXX  
Email: XXXX

## Texts & Materials

- Bullock, Richard, and Maureen Daly Goggin. *The Norton Field Guide to Writing with Readings* (5th Edition). New York, NY, W.W. Norton & Company, 2019.
  - ISBN: 9780393655780
- Additional readings as needed (on iLearn or linked to on Google Doc calendar)

## Course Description

Successful writing is not achieved by memorizing and following a series of grammar rules but rather by expanding the items in your linguistic toolbox used for expressing yourself and creating meaning. The concept of rhetoric is at the heart of this class, and I define rhetoric as “how we do things with words.” Through a variety of creative assignments, your imagination will be tested as you learn to reach for different kinds of linguistic constructions to communicate in writing. The goal of this class is to make you confident in your ability to choose the most effective rhetorical strategies for whatever communicative situations face you. You might find yourself composing an elegant metaphor in order to inform a lay audience, or arguing forcefully and with style to persuade a reader to take action. In addition to your writing, you will hone your critical thinking for clarity and insight.

English 1010 introduces students through a clear and definite sequence of writing assignments to expressive, expository (or referential), and persuasive writing. Emphasis is placed on the latter two categories. Information for expressive writing assignments is based on knowledge gained from personal experience (knowledge from participation); information for expository and persuasive writing assignments is based on knowledge gained from research (knowledge from observation), such as interviews, surveys, observation and printed sources.

## Units and Major Projects

### Unit 1 - The Art and Science of Rhetoric; Project 1: Word Profile

This unit introduces the concept of rhetoric and culminates in a project in which you select and profile a word or phrase, analyzing its linguistic composition and cultural significance. In this unit we will discuss rhetorical appeals, rhetorical devices, and the four master tropes of language. We will also consider your current writing and revision process.

### Unit 2- Argumentation and Persuasion; Project 2: Editorial

This unit explores the narrow domain of argumentative and persuasive writing. Concepts discussed include the Toulmin model of argumentation, prose style, digital and social media discourse, and the art of persuasion. You will select a timely topic and write a brief editorial arguing for a specific position.

### **Unit 3 - Academic Research; Project 3: Annotated Bibliography**

This unit reviews the patterns and norms of collecting, conducting, and synthesizing academic research. During these weeks, you will practice searching the library databases and learning to read and interpret academic research. The rhetoric of the academy is quite formalized, and learning the rules of its discourse will allow you to enter conversations on technical topics. You will also learn practical skills such as summary, synthesis, web navigation, and plain style writing. You will produce an annotated bibliography of sources on a topic of your choice and an abstract summarizing your findings.

### **Unit 4 - Public Communication; Project 4: Public Service Announcement**

The final unit asks you to take the knowledge you collected in Unit 3's annotated bibliography and remix it into a new medium designed for public consumption and digital circulation. We will discuss how to compose effective public-facing and informative media and consider multimodal alternatives to alphanumeric text, such as video, audio, and image-based genres. You will present your PSA to the class in a brief presentation to conclude the semester.

### **Rhetorical Device Quizzes**

There will be two quizzes over the various rhetorical devices we discuss throughout the semester. Every Thursday is Rhetorical Device Thursday, where I will discuss a particular device and where we might find it in the wild today, but we will also cover many other devices in the course of the semester. There will be a running list maintained on the course website for you to study. Devices include: litotes, chiasmus, irony, sprezzatura, metaphor, synecdoche, metonymy, prolepsis, enthymeme, ethos, pathos, logos, kairos, telos, anaphora, and more.

### **Selected Readings Outside Textbook**

- [The Four Master Tropes of Language](#)
- [Metaphors We Live By](#)
- [Authority and American Usage](#)
- [Adios Strunk and White](#)
- [Thank You For Arguing](#)
- [Enthymemes](#)
- [Living in a World of Argument](#)
- [The I in Internet](#)
- [Parachute Use to Prevent Death and Major Trauma When Jumping from Aircraft: Randomized Controlled Trial](#)