

**English 2010: Intermediate Writing**  
**Spring 2006**  
**32131 MWF 8:00-8:50 SS26**  
**32444 MWF 9:00-9:50 SS26**

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Office hours: MWF 10-11:30  
or by appointment

**Required Texts**

Maasik & Solomon, *Signs of Life in the USA*  
Strunk & White, *Elements of Style*  
A handbook which includes current MLA citation style  
*The New York Times*, daily edition, available free on campus

**Objectives**

Intermediate writing is designed to build on the writing and critical thinking skills taught in English 1010, with the addition of a heavily emphasized research component. You will be challenged to read and think critically, to express your thoughts in clear and organized prose, and to continually revise both your thinking and your writing.

**Course Requirements and Policies**

**Attendance:** You are expected to attend all classes. You may have up to five absences with no penalty, but each absence after that will result in a reduction of your final point score. Exceptions may be made in the case of serious illness, jury duty, family funerals and the like, but this must be cleared with me, in advance if possible.

**Class participation:** Expect to participate in class discussions, projects, and peer review of writing projects. Please come to class prepared to consider each day's readings, and bring your *New York Times*. There will also be readings from other texts which I will make available to you either online or in handouts. Quizzes on the required readings are a possibility. We will have open discussions almost every day and I expect you to behave civilly and respectfully both to me and your peers in all class activities.

**Assignments: Essays**

You will be required to compose three major essays of graduated length and complexity and during the semester. Topics will be determined jointly by the student and instructor, but will be expected to relate generally to topics which we are considering in

our readings and class discussions. The final paper will be a research project and will be expected to include outside sources. Essays are due on the dates indicated in the syllabus. Late essays will lose 1/3 of a letter grade for each day they are late unless you have made other arrangements **in advance of the due date**. I will not accept essays submitted via e-mail unless approved in advance. All essays are to be typed, double spaced, and should follow the MLA format.

**Responses** to the previous week's reading assignments will be due each Monday. These are to be typed, double spaced, and should be composed of three parts: )1 A summary of the text's primary arguments, )2 An evaluation of the author's argument, and )3 A discussion of the implications of the argument. Use the questions at the end of each article and our class discussions as a starting point. There will also be occasional in-class or overnight writing assignments and quizzes. These cannot be made up if you are not in attendance. Daily writings may be handwritten so long as I can read them.

**Scholastic integrity/Plagiarism: All work submitted in the course must be your own and written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. Plagiarism is defined in the WSU Student Code as "the unacknowledged (uncited) use of any other person or group's ideas or work." (Section 6-22, part IV, subsection D)**

Any attempt to claim credit for another's work, in whole or in part, is a violation of this code and is regarded by the English Department's composition program as a serious offense. Penalties for plagiarism are at the discretion of each instructor, and may range from (but are not limited to) the following: requiring the student to rewrite the plagiarized assignment, awarding the student a grade of zero on the assignment, or failing the student for the course. All suspected violations will be brought to the attention of the Composition Director.

**Students with Disabilities:** Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in Room 181 of the Student Service Center. SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary. If you have a qualifying disability, please let me know and have SSD contact me as well.

**Sports:** If you are a member of a WSU sports team and will be involved in travel that will necessitate missing class, please let me know in advance so that I can make appropriate accommodations.

**Conferences:** I will be available during my office hours or by appointment to meet with you about any specific problems or concerns you may have about papers, readings, almost anything you want to talk about. Additionally, I may schedule at least one conference with each of you during preparation of the research paper.

**Changes:** I want this class to meet your needs; therefore, almost everything in the syllabus is subject to change. Come to class and pay attention.

## **Grading breakdown**

Essay One	10%
Essay Two	20%
Essay Three	30%
Reading responses and in-class writing	25%
Attendance and work- shopping	15 %

## **Class schedule**

All readings are from *Signs of Life* unless otherwise specified

### **Week 1**

- 1-9 Introduction to course
- 1-11 Read pp. 1-18 and 25-31. Personal essay due.
- 1-13 Read *Consuming Passions*, p. 47  
*The More Factor*, p. 56

### **Week 2**

- 1-16 Martin Luther King Day, no class
- 1-18 Read *Masters of Desire*, p.160  
*The Addictive Virus*, p. 71
- 1-20 Read *Kid Kustomers*, p. 181  
*Barbie, G.I. Joe, and Play in the 1960s*, p. 769

### **Week 3**

- 1-23 Read *Sex, Lies and Advertising*, p. 186
- 1-25 Library orientation—meet in Stewart Library Room 138 at regular class time
- 1-27 Read *The Ghetto Cityscape*, p. 461  
*The Haves and the Have-nots*, p. 623

### **Week 4**

- 1-30 Read *Jihad vs. McWorld*, p. 126  
*The Spam Spoils of War*, p. 122
- 2-1 Begin workshopping Essay 1
- 2-3 Continue workshopping

### **Week 5**

- 2-6 Final draft of Essay One for peer review
- 2-8 Essay One due at the beginning of class  
Read *Video Dreams*, p. 223
- 2-10 Read *The Oprah Winfrey Show and the Talk-Show Furor*, p. 243  
*Signs of Intelligent Life on TV*, p. 250

### **Week 6**

- 2-13 Read *Resisting the False Security of TV*, p. 288  
*The Time to Get Serious Has Come*, p. 384

2-15 Read *The Hollywood Sign*, p. 299  
*The Thematic Paradigm*, p. 308  
2-17 Read *The Western*, p. 32  
*Movie Chronicle: The Westerner* (handout)

### **Week 7**

2-20 Presidents' Day, no class  
2-22 Read *Asian Women in Film: No Joy, No Luck*, p. 355  
*Class and Virtue*, p. 373  
2-24 Read *Put on a Happy Face...*, p. 569

### **Week 8**

2-27---3-1 Begin workshopping on Essay 2  
3-3 First draft due

### **Week 9**

3-6 Final draft for peer review  
3-8 Essay Two due  
Read *It's Not Just a Game*, p. 633  
*The Contradiction of Big-Time College Sport*, p. 642  
*Athletics 101*, p. 659  
3-10 Read *Be Like Mike?*, p.729  
*Unnatural Selection*, p. 704

### **Spring Break 3-13—3-17**

### **Week 10**

3-20 Read *We've Come a Long Way, Maybe*, p. 475  
*Gender Role Behaviors and Attitudes*, p. 484  
3-22 Read *The Beauty Myth*, p. 515  
*Warrior Dreams*, p. 530  
3-24 Read *Constructing Race*, p. 549

### **Week 11**

3-27 Read *In Living Color*, p. 557  
*Blind Spot*, p. 627  
3-29 Read *Goin' Gangsta, Choosin' Cholita*, p. 599  
3-31 Read *American Icons*, p. 721  
*Larger Than Life*, p. 785  
*A Patriot's Tale*, p. 795

### **Week 12**

Workshopping final essay

**Week 13** Continue workshopping  
Schedule TBA

**Weeks 14 and 15**

4-17 Final Essay due

4-19—4-28 In class project TBA

**Final TBA**