

Spring 2012

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This course will apply the skills of making a point and supporting it, as practiced in Rhetoric 101, to writing a research paper. It will focus on finding and evaluating database, library, and Internet sources relating to a point or thesis about a contemporary issue; of citing these sources in support of the thesis; and of giving consideration to opposing views.

A research paper is different from a Rhetoric 101 theme that simply asks for facts from your own experience. For Rhetoric 102, you rely on facts provided by others.

**Course outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. use databases, the Internet, and the library for research;
2. understand more fully a contemporary controversial issue;
3. read critically and evaluate opposing arguments effectively;
4. write a research paper that provides evidence from the published work of others to support a thesis statement about the issue;
5. follow standard procedures for formatting the paper, citing sources, using quotations, and listing works cited.

\* **Help:** I want you to be very successful in this class while you learn the basics of doing research. I'm available at the end of every class meeting, and also at the Registrar's office, Kathryn Hall 309, most of the week Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. During those hours I will respond promptly to email, phone calls, or visits.

**Texts:**

Hacker, Diana. *A Pocket Style Manual*. Fifth edition. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2008.

Pound, Richard W. *Fitzhenry and Whiteside Book of Canadian Facts and Dates*. 3rd edition.

Markham, Ontario: Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2005.

Please bring both books to each class meeting unless otherwise advised. Also, please bring your folder of assignments.

**Folder:** Please get a two-pocket folder to store your written assignments and to turn in your final research paper. In that folder please keep everything: all assignments, notes, exercises, and papers.

**Saving:** Rhetoric 102 builds step by step from writing "world's shortest research papers" and source worksheets to a completed research paper of 2000–2500 words. So save everything you write, not just on paper but also electronically. I recommend using Dropbox, but you can also use a flash drive, or you can simply email a document to yourself for safekeeping.

**Sequence:** All assignments must be completed in sequence and graded before proceeding to the next. This is a very important aspect of Rhetoric 102, since it is impossible to do the research paper unless you do the steps in order.

**Deadlines:** Assignments are due at the start of class on the day indicated. You may send them as email attachments in Microsoft Word if you wish, but in that case, they are due by 9 a.m. on the day the class meets.

**Late work:** The steps leading up to the research paper must be completed in order and must be turned in on time. They will receive no credit if they are late. You will fail the class if you wait until the end of the semester to submit all of the work (not that you would even think of such a thing).

A late assignment loses one letter grade for each class day it is late, unless your absence is excused. Then the work must be presented the day that you return to class.

In-class exercises and quizzes can't be made up.

**Attendance** is expected. You are allowed three unexcused absences. Beyond that, each additional unexcused absence will reduce your final grade by 1/3 of a letter grade.

You are responsible for assignments missed when absent. If you do miss, look at the syllabus or ask me to find out what you missed. If you come to the next class unprepared, it is like missing two classes.

With excused absences, papers and homework are due on the first class date after the excused absence.

**Plagiarism:** Get acquainted with the official MacMurray policy on plagiarism, in the *Maggie* student handbook, available online from the Campus Life page of the mac.edu website.

In brief, submitting a paper as your own work, when you partly or completely copied or paraphrased from another person or source without appropriate credit (quotation marks, citation of author and work, etc.) is a serious act of academic dishonesty. Lending your own work to another person for this purpose is also a serious offense. In this course, where you are learning about appropriate credit, if you plagiarize you will fail the course. So watch it!

**Final grade:**

Research proposal 10%

World's shortest research papers and summary papers 15%

Source worksheets 20%

Drafts of parts of paper 10%

Research paper (final version, 2000-2500 words) 25%

The research paper must be 2500 words and have a minimum of 10 sources, at least five from peer reviewed journals; title page; text of paper, Works Cited in alphabetical order.

All other work, quizzes, assignments, etc. 10%

Final exam 10%

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

**January 12 (Week 1)**

From the email address you use most often, send an email to: [allan.metcalf@mac.edu](mailto:allan.metcalf@mac.edu)

Subject: Rhetoric 102-1

In the message, tell

Your name

Your hometown

Your major

Resident or commuter

One thing you know about Canada

**January 17 (Week 2)**

Tuesday: Writing assignment #1 due at start of class: *State an opinion about Canada and support it with facts that you think you'll find.* This first time you don't need to bother doing research but just state some facts you expect you will find. Double space. Make it about 300 words.

If you had Rhetoric 101 at MacMurray, follow the six steps of *Writing to the Point*.

In class: In the Canadian book, look for events on your birthday (in different years).

Choose an event and state an opinion about it.

Thursday: Using *F&W* or the Internet, choose a Canadian province and discover the contemporary issues in that province. Writing assignment #2 due at start of class: Write five thesis statements (opinions) based on those issues. Indicate the source as *F&W* (date) or the website.

### January 24 (Week 3)

Tuesday: *Class meets in computer lab, EC 203.*

Read Hacker Chapter 28, "Supporting a Thesis" (104-107).

Writing assignment #3 due at start of class: From possible thesis statements discussed in class last week, yours or someone else's, choose one that you might want to actually use. Then in about 50 words, explain what information you would like to find to support the thesis.

In class at computer lab: Find and print one article in a peer-reviewed journal that is about a Canadian issue you are interested in.

Thursday: (Class meets back in Springer 112.) Writing assignment #4 due at start of class: Write a 100-word summary of the article you found on Tuesday.

Read Hacker Chapter 25, "Posing a Research Question" (92-93), Chapter 26, "Finding Appropriate Sources" (93-98), and Chapter 27, "Evaluating Sources" (98-102). Writing assignment #5 also due at start of class: In about 100 words total, summarize the main point of each of these chapters.

### January 31 (Week 4)

Tuesday: *Class meets in computer lab, EC 203.*

Continue to work on a possible thesis statement for your research paper. Writing assignment #6 due at start of class: Write the latest version of your possible thesis statement.

In class, after the library instruction, find an article in EBSCOhost relating to your thesis statement. Email it to yourself.

In class, be ready to state whether you prefer MLA documentation, or APA documentation, or—don't know, doesn't matter.

Thursday: (Class meets back in Springer 112.)

Writing assignment #7 due at start of class: Write a 100-word summary of the article you found on Tuesday.

Also: print a copy of the article and bring it to class.

Also: find the MLA (or APA) citation for the article and bring it to class too.

CANADA DAY: Bring to class something made in Canada, or something symbolic of Canada, or find a YouTube video about something Canadian. Present it to the class.

Sample Research Proposal will be handed out in class. Sign up for conferences Tuesday.

### February 7 (Week 5)

Tuesday: Conferences, as scheduled. (In Springer 112.)

Read Hacker Chapter 32b, "MLA Works Cited," (127-147), especially item 31 on pages 140-141. (If you have chosen APA, read Chapter 37b, "APA References" (171-185), especially item 20 on page 178 and the example on pages 180-181.)

Thursday: Assignment #8 due at start of class: Research Proposal of 300-500 words using your thesis and explaining what sources you hope to find. The proposal does not actually use sources, so do not cite or list sources.

**February 14 (Week 6)**

Tuesday: Conferences.

Thursday: Practice writing World's Shortest Research Paper (handout).

**February 21 (Week 7)**

Tuesday: Assignment #9 due at start of class: Write a World's Shortest Research Paper using your thesis and one of the articles you have found.

Thursday: Assignment #10: Another WSRP. In class: explanation and example of Source Worksheet.

**February 28 (Week 8)**

Source Worksheets due.

**March 6 (Spring Break)**

Source Worksheets due.

**March 13 (Week 9)**

Tuesday: Draft of two pages of paper due, with documentation.

Thursday: Conferences.

**March 20 (Week 10)**

Tuesday: Conferences

**March 27 (Week 11)**

**April 3 (Week 12)**

**April 10 (Week 13)**

**April 17 (Week 14)**

Thursday: Final research paper due.

**April 24 (Week 15)**

Tuesday: Last class. Review for final exam.

**Monday, April 30: Final exam, 3:00-5:00 p.m. in regular classroom.**