

English 102.009: Composition 2

Nevada and Its (Dis)contents

Spring 2011

MWF 10-10:50 am | FH 227

Instructor: Sylvan Goldberg

E-mail: sgoldberg@unr.edu (PLEASE CONTACT ME THROUGH WEBCAMPUS)

Office phone: 775-682-6377 (PLEASE CONTACT ME THROUGH WEBCAMPUS)

Office: 024 FH, Desk 9

Office Hours: M/W 12:00-1:30 PM, and by arrangement

Required Texts and Course Materials

- *Literary Nevada*, Cheryll Glotfelty (Ed.)
- *The Motel Life*, Willy Vlautin
- *The Curious Researcher 6th Ed. with MLA Update*, Bruce Ballenger
- *Easy Writer: A Pocket Reference* (4th ed), or a similar handbook with MLA guidelines. If you already have a handbook but aren't sure if it will work, just show it to me before or after class.
- Additional readings will be provided via WebCampus (so you will need Internet access, which is available on computers in the Knowledge Center)
- A notebook/reading journal
- Copy card for printing/copying drafts and additional readings

Course Description

English 102 will provide you with an opportunity to continue improving as a writer, as well as learn and practice research skills. In this class, we will investigate some of the issues that affect Nevadans throughout the state—gambling, prostitution, mining, divorce, and nuclear waste, to name just a few. Through a mixture of essays, newspaper articles, historical documents, fiction, and film, we'll seek out the myth and reality of Nevada, ranging through the state's rural and urban areas to explore culture clashes and common ground. We'll think more critically about what it means to live in a state made up of more than 80 percent public land, and explore the divergent ideas—artistic, political, social—that come into play when trying to understand a place. The class will culminate in a research paper allowing you to go more in depth into a Nevadan issue of particular interest to you.

Course Outcomes

Students will:

- Continue and improve the writing practices learned in 101: prewriting, composing, revising, responding, editing, attending to language and style, and writing with audience and purpose in mind;
- Engage in critical reading and interpretation of a wide range of texts;

- Be able to summarize, analyze, synthesize, evaluate, and apply what they read—both orally and in writing;
- Use writing as a means of understanding, organizing, and communicating what they read;
- Frame complex research questions or problems;
- Demonstrate awareness of their own beliefs, concepts, and biases;
- Be able to produce a coherent, well-supported argument that shows critical thinking and careful consideration of alternative viewpoints;
- Recognize, evaluate, and use a variety of information sources: expert people, publications of information agencies, popular and specialized periodicals, professional journals, books, and electronic resources;
- Conduct research that shows evidence of the ability to synthesize, use fairly, and credit the ideas of others using the appropriate citation style;
- Write coherently, drawing from diverse sources, assimilating information and ideas and producing work that represents the student's position on the material.

Grading Scale

| | |
|---------------|------|
| 93–100% | = A |
| 90–92% | = A- |
| 87–89% | = B+ |
| 83–86% | = B |
| 80–82% | = B- |
| 77–79% | = C+ |
| 73–76% | = C |
| 70–72% | = C- |
| 67–69% | = D+ |
| 63–66% | = D |
| 60–62% | = D- |
| 59% and below | = F |

Grading (1000 points)

Attendance, Preparation & Participation: 100 points

Reading Journal & Homework: 150 points

Reno Essay (4 pp): 100 points

Research Cycle:

Primary Source Synthesis Paper (3 pp): 150 points

Annotated Bibliography (5 pp): 100 points

Research Paper (9-10 pp): 300 points

Research Presentation: 100 points

Attendance and Tardiness

If you miss more than **three classes** over the course of the semester, **your FINAL grade may be lowered by one-third (A to A-; B+ to B; etc) for each additional class you miss. IF YOU MISS MORE THAN SIX CLASSES, YOU MAY FAIL THE COURSE.** Please speak with me as soon as possible if something unexpected comes up

that may cause you to miss more than three classes. If you are late to class, you will be considered tardy; three tardy days will equal one absence.

Class Participation and Etiquette

Come to class prepared to participate in discussions and exercises. You will not need electronic devices of any kind (cell phones, laptops, iPods, etc.) for class unless I tell you in advance of a particular day, so leave them in your bags, and be sure ahead of time they will not make noise during class—I reserve the right to take away any disruptive devices for the remainder of class. If you are someone's emergency contact and therefore must have a phone on you, please let me know and we can come to an arrangement.

We all have unique opinions, and we will hear a wide range of them in this class. Disagreements can make for dynamic class discussions, but please treat everyone with respect. This means listening when someone else is speaking, and responding appropriately. Disrespectful behavior may warrant your removal from class.

Assignments

All assignments must follow MLA format and be typewritten in 12-point, Times New Roman font, and must be double-spaced and stapled in the top left corner. Put your name, my name, the course name/number, and the date in the top left corner.

Late or Missed Work

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on their due date. **Late assignments will lose 10% of the total available points for that assignment for each day they are late.** If you know in advance of a due date that you will be absent on that day, please make arrangements with me in advance of class as to how you should turn in the work.

Revision Policy

On each essay, I will give you feedback and direction for improvement, and assign it a grade. You will be **allowed to revise the RENO ESSAY and the PRIMARY SOURCE SYNTHESIS PAPER once each** in order to improve your grade. Your final research paper is due at the end of the semester, so there will be no time to revise it for a changed grade (but we will workshop your draft, building revision into the process).

Revisions that do not meet the guidelines specified below will be returned to the author unread:

1. Highlight and explain any additions you make to the text on your new, revised draft.
2. Highlight and explain, on the old draft, any deletions made to the text.
3. Hand-number corrections in grammar and punctuation and, on a separate sheet of paper, write the grammar/punctuation rule that applies to each correction you made. (If you become aware of the rule, you are less likely to make the mistake again in the future.)
4. Write a 1/2-page revision explanation, describing how your changes improve the paper.
5. Hand in all previous drafts, notes, and comments in a manila folder with your name on the tab.
6. Each revised essay is due no later than one week after I return the papers to the class.

Reading Journal & Homework (Short Writing Assignments)

You will need to keep a double-entry reading journal for all readings assigned for class, and I will collect these at random throughout the semester. We will go over the appropriate format in class, but these journals can include quotations that stand out to you; your own thoughts that the reading inspires; questions you have about the reading itself or the topic.

In advance of some class meetings, you will be assigned a short writing exercise due just after midnight of the night **before class**, submitted through WebCampus. Each assignment must be uploaded to WebCampus by 12:05 am on its due date if you wish to receive credit for completing it.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

Plagiarism (copying all or part of someone else's work and passing it off as your own) is a serious form of academic misconduct, and will not be tolerated. The following definitions are taken from the Academic Standards section of the general catalog: "Academic dishonesty is defined as: cheating, plagiarism or otherwise obtaining grades under false pretenses. Plagiarism is defined as submitting the language, ideas, thoughts or work of another as one's own; or assisting in the act of plagiarism by allowing one's work to be used in this fashion."

We will be covering how to cite sources in this class. If you are unsure about how to properly cite a source in your work, please ask me.

You may not use essays written for other courses to fulfill the requirements of this course. To do so constitutes a violation of academic honesty and will be treated as plagiarism.

Plagiarism may result in a failing grade for this course, and you may be subject to disciplinary action. For further inquiry regarding UNR's academic honesty policy please visit: <http://www.unr.edu/stsv/acdispol.html>.

Disability Statement

If you have a documented disability and may need accommodations in this class, please speak with me as soon as possible or visit the Disability Resource Center in Thompson Building Suite 101.

Course Schedule

NOTE: This schedule is subject to change at my discretion. Any changes will be announced in class and a revised syllabus will be posted on WebCampus.

CR: The Curious Researcher

LN: Literary Nevada

| DATE | THEME | READINGS | MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS DUE |
|--------|---------|--|-----------------------|
| W 1/19 | INTRO | | |
| F 1/21 | PLACE | <i>CR</i> : pp. 15-25; 144-153; Gary Snyder, from <i>Practice of the Wild</i> (posted to WebCampus) | |
| M 1/24 | ORIGINS | <i>LN</i> : pp. 1-3; Western Shoshone/"Origin Tale" (5-6); Northern Paiute (11)/Southern Paiute + "The Creation of the Indians" (16-19); Washoe (23-24), "Damollale and the Black Widow Spider" (25-26); <i>CR</i> : pp. 33-36; 47-48 | |
| W 1/26 | | <i>LN</i> : Jedediah S. Smith, Peter Skene Ogden (31-39); Glotfelty, "Embedded" (posted to WebCampus) | |
| F 1/29 | RENO | <i>CR</i> : 62-73; <i>LN</i> : Leslie Curtis, "Reno" (274); Clark, from <i>The City of Trembling Leaves</i> (287-292); Webb, from <i>A Doubtful River</i> (323-329); Cloud, "Failing Our Geniuses" + news articles (posted to WebCampus) | |
| M 1/31 | | <i>The Motel Life</i> , pp. 1-49 | |
| W 2/2 | | <i>The Motel Life</i> , pp. 50-84 | |
| F 2/4 | | <i>The Motel Life</i> , pp. 85-121 | |
| M 2/7 | | MEET IN KNOWLEDGE CENTER, ROOM 114 | |
| W 2/9 | | <i>The Motel Life</i> , pp. 122- | |

| | | | |
|--------|--------------|---|--|
| | | 170 | |
| F 2/11 | | <i>The Motel Life</i> , pp. 171-206 | |
| M 2/14 | | <i>The Misfits</i> (screening time TBA); “Two problems surface” (posted to WebCampus) | Reno Essay (4 pp) |
| W 2/16 | | MEET IN KNOWLEDGE CENTER LOBBY | |
| F 2/18 | | CR: 121-143 | |
| M 2/21 | | NO CLASS | NO CLASS |
| W 2/23 | VEGAS | Las Vegas news articles (posted to WebCampus) | |
| F 2/25 | | LN: Thompson, from <i>Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas</i> (347-349); Berman, from <i>Easy Street</i> (355-363) | Annotated bibliography DRAFT (3 sources) |
| M 2/28 | | LN: “Living Las Vegas,” pp. 339-340; Smith, “Flying Nun,” pp. 379-381 | |
| W 3/2 | | LN: Davis, Jr., from <i>Yes I Can</i> (343-346); Bracey, from <i>The Moulin Rouge and Black Rights in Las Vegas</i> (posted to WebCampus) | |
| F 3/4 | | MEET IN KNOWLEDGE CENTER LOBBY | |
| M 3/7 | | <i>Bugsy</i> (screening time TBA) | |
| W 3/9 | | Rothman, from <i>Playing the Odds</i> (posted to WebCampus) | |
| F 3/11 | | CR: 169-174; 181-193 | Primary Source Synth (3 pp) |
| M 3/14 | | SPRING BREAK | NO CLASS |
| W 3/16 | | SPRING BREAK | NO CLASS |
| F 3/18 | | SPRING BREAK | NO CLASS |
| M 3/21 | RURAL NEVADA | Douglass, “Interstitial Culture” (posted to WebCampus); CR: 201-206 | |
| W 3/23 | | LN: Sterling, “Greetings from Burning Man!” pp. | |

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------------|---|--|
| | | 523-531 | |
| F 3/25 | | CR: 207-215; 218-219 | |
| M 3/28 | VICES | Brents+Hausbeck, "Violence and Legalized Prostitution" (posted to WebCampus) | Annotated bibliography FINAL (7 sources) |
| W 3/30 | | Diaz, "Religion and Gambling in Sin City" (posted to WebCampus) | |
| F 4/1 | | CR: 221-222; 230-234 | |
| M 4/4 | | CR: 234-248 | |
| W 4/6 | | Thompson et al, "Political Culture and Gambling Policy" (posted to WebCampus) | |
| F 4/8 | | WORKSHOP | Research Paper DRAFT DUE |
| M 4/11 | ENVIRO/NUCLEAR | LN: "In Our Backyard," pp 427-429; Vasquez, "Early Morning Test Light over Nevada, 1955," pp. 439-440; Williams, "The Clan of One-Breasted Women," pp. 441-447; Solnit, from <i>Savage Dreams</i> , pp. 454-458 | |
| W 4/13 | | LN: Kittredge, "In My Backyard," pp. 469-473; Yucca Mountain news articles (posted to WebCampus) | |
| F 4/15 | | Childers, Review of Hulse (posted to WebCampus); Rothman, from <i>Playing the Odds</i> (posted to WebCampus) | |
| M 4/18 | | WORK DAY | |
| W 4/20 | | | |
| F 4/22 | WRAP-UP/ PRESENTATIONS | PRESENTATIONS | Research Paper (9-10 pp) |
| M 4/25 | | PRESENTATIONS | |
| W 4/27 | | PRESENTATIONS | |
| F 4/29 | | PRESENTATIONS | |
| M 5/2 | | PRESENTATIONS | |

FINAL EXAM
Friday May 6, 9:45-11:45 am