



Ringling College of Art + Design

Ringling College of Art and Design – Spring 2021

WRIT151_02: Writing Studio

Instructor: Dr. James McAdams

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Email: jmcadams@c.ringling.edu

Meeting Days and Times/Location: Tuesday 3:30-6:15 Zoom

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites/Corequisites: N/A

Hello from your Professor: *Call me James. (If anyone can identify that literary reference, I'll give you extra credit.) I'm a novelist, website designer, magazine editor, and former punk guitarist. I teach Writing Studio in Fall a lot, but this is my first time teaching in Spring. My understanding is that this class roster consists of students who failed it in Spring.*

-I want to say here, I am the King of Failure. I got an 8% in high school chemistry, and didn't even graduate high school until I was much older than you (25). Point being, you shouldn't feel bad about failing, and I don't judge you for it. Especially in the horrific and thankfully-gone year 2020, lots of things happened, and I'm sure you had reasons to not succeed in the first iteration of this class. That's all in the past. So, with my help and your energy, we will all pass this class this time. Please don't enter this class again with a resigned sigh, thinking of failing last semester, but with hope and anticipation. It'll work out, I...can't promise, but I have reasons to hope!~James.

Course Description: Introduction to academic and professional writing. Emphasis on: rhetorical knowledge; critical thinking, and reading and writing conventions. Analysis and evaluation of multiple reading strategies; composition; use of research tools; development of research process; documentation techniques and incorporation of sources; peer review; editing and proofreading strategies. Prerequisite(s): none.

Added: With my help, you establish a weekly meeting with a student learning consultant to help with assignments, time management, and writing skills. This will be a large component of your 10% participation grade.

Course Goals:

- Students will become familiar with the methods for generating, developing and revising pieces of academic and professional writing.
- Students will develop an understanding of the concept of audience.
- Students will learn contemporary research methods.
- Students will develop an understanding of the considerations of acknowledgment of sources and copyright issues.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Outline and compose multiple drafts of a writing project
- Understand and apply revision and editing strategies to produce a competent, polished final draft work
- Summarize the work of another author
- Compose in a variety of genres, including but not limited to the following genres:
 - Descriptive - providing detail to describe subject
 - Expository - writing to provide information and/or direction
 - Narrative - telling a story or relating an event
 - Argumentative - persuasive writing to convince or compel
- Demonstrate research skills in the following areas:
 - Understand how to use academic and professional resources
 - Incorporate external sources into original writing
 - Properly integrate quotations into original writing
 - Use appropriate documentation formats

Required/Recommended Textbooks, Readings, and Materials:

- Access to a computer with webcam and mic (for Zoom) and reliable Internet
- Grammarly (<https://app.grammarly.com/> (Links to an external site.))....I *highly* recommend installing/downloading the free (or premium) version of this proofreading tool, either the browser extension or the PC app.

- Purdue University's Online Writing Lab: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>(an excellent resourceful for grammar and punctuation questions and concerns)
- **Added for Spring _02:** Make use of Ringling's Student Learning Consultants to help with time management, grammar, syntax, formatting, ESL issues, and overall class preparation. (I'll help with this.)

Projects, Papers, and Assignments, in sequence with approximate due dates:

- 1) **Art Analysis Monday: Monday 2/15:** In this assignment, you will find a work of art pre-1950 that you admire (or hate, I guess!) and develop a formal art analysis of it with respect to categories such as composition, space, form, color, tone, etc. The artwork (preferably a painting) is up to you. 10% of grade.
- 2) **Interview/Article - Profile of a Creative: Monday 3/15:** In this assignment, you will contact a professional artist or senior Ringling student, preferably in your field or major, and conduct an interview with them about what it's like to work in a particular field. 30% of grade.
- 3) **Learning from the Masters: Monday 4/12:** In this assignment, you will select an artist you admire (different from the art analysis) and research them in order to create a paper that connects your ambitions, aesthetics, and values with theirs. 30% of grade.
- 4) **Creative Vision Statement: Monday 5/3:** This assignment is your chance, after pretty much an entire semester of asking or researching what other people think, to finally articulate *your thoughts* about art. Your influences, your themes, your methodology, your mediums and software of choice, etc. 20% of grade.
- 5) **Attendance/Participation:** 10%

All of the above will be much more clearly described on Canvas. If the assignments look intimidating, we will approach them with a variety of micro-assignments (tiny assignments), class discussions, class examples, and so forth. Please don't be intimidated.

Institutional Attendance Policy: copied directly from the 2016-17 Student Handbook, which can be found at <https://www.ringling.edu/sites/default/files/Student%20Handbook%202016-2017.pdf>

COVID-19 Grading and Attendance Policy: Spring 2021 If you are attending a course via Zoom, you are required to have your videocam on at all times, and your audio on when appropriate. As expected when attending a course in-person, you must be engaged, showing your entire face, and actively participating as appropriate during the scheduled class time. Students may wish to utilize an appropriate virtual background.

Upon consultation with the department heads and program director/coordinators, the College has decided that given the unprecedented COVID-19 situation, students should have the benefit of No Credit should their final grade be "F." Letter grading (A to D-) will be the default practice for students that earn a passing grade. Under this amended grading system, a

letter grade of A through D- will remain; a letter grade of F will be entered No Credit. Grades of No Credit are not passing grades, and will not affect GPA calculations. Students with additional questions, and how it may affect probation and dismissal status, may also consult with their academic advisor.

Attendance Policy:

Come to class at least 87% of the time. That other 13% is the equivalent of 2 classes. If you miss 2 classes and you have a B, your final grade will drop to C-. Worth that much of a grade drop? Not so much. 3+ absences = fail the course. Just talk to me, that shouldn't happen again.

Grading Policies:

Post your assignments to the Canvas course site, submitting them to the appropriate submission box. If you are confused or Canvas glitches, you can email any assignments to jmcadams@c.ringling.edu.

Please see me if you ever have questions about grading or your grades in particular. Please also see me if you have any questions about my feedback on your work. ~James

Grading Scale:

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Percentage Scores*
A Superior Performance	4.00	94-100
A-	3.67	91-93
B+	3.33	88-90
B Above Average	3.00	84-87
B-	2.67	81-83
C+	2.33	78-80
C Average Performance	2.00	74-77
C-	1.67	71-73
D+	1.33	68-70
D Below Average	1.00	64-67
D- Lowest Passing Grade	0.67	61-63
F Failing	0.00	0-60
WF Withdrew Failing	0.00	

*Scores above .5 will be rounded up to the next full point

Grades not computed into the GPA

W	Withdrew Passing	It is the student's responsibility to adhere to the withdrawal deadline listed in the academic calendar.
I	Incomplete	Incompletes are only granted at the discretion of the instructor. See student handbook for more information.

Course Calendar/Schedule:

A detailed description of assignments and class activities will be accessible on the Canvas course site. Check in at least twice a week for assignment completion and submission guidelines. Due dates may change, so check back often.

Contacting Me:

You can email, call or text me. My number is 302-290-0037 and my email address is jmcadams@c.ringling.edu. Sadly, my favorite form of communication – meeting in person – is not possible this semester...well, maybe in April??!! But we can Zoom, which I recognize is a poor substitute for a face to face interaction. Let's make the best of it.

Inside of Class:

Our goal this semester is to get all of you a passing grade. You have tons of awesome things to accomplish at Ringling, but you need to get past this class first. I'm here to do everything I can to ensure you do so. For that reason, I'm going to be tying in mandatory meetings with Student Learning Consultants to help you with assignments for at least the first four weeks. We can check back then. You can ask other students about me: I'm fair and reasonable and easy as long as you put forth effort and get things in on time, or let me know if you are having any problems at all. The most important part of this syllabus: **contact me often, stay in touch, especially if you need help with something.**

Students: Please check on your grades and performance periodically on Self Service <https://selfservice.ringling.edu/SelfService/Home.aspx> ([Links to an external site.](#)) throughout the semester to avoid any misunderstanding at the end of the term.

Disabilities Accommodations:

The Ringling College of Art and Design makes reasonable accommodations for qualified people with documented disabilities. If you have a learning disability, a chronic illness, or a physical or psychiatric disability that may have some impact on your work for this class and for which you may need accommodations, please notify the Student Access Coordinator, Rm 220, Alfred R. Goldstein Library, 2nd floor; 309-4013, (SAS@ringling.edu), preferably before the end of the drop/add period so that appropriate adjustments can be made.

Health and Safety:

Ringling College of Art and Design is committed to providing students, faculty, and staff with a safe and healthful learning and work environment and to comply with all applicable safety laws and regulations and safe work practices. Rules and safety guidelines for maintaining a safe working environment in this shop/studio/class will be provided to you at the beginning of the course (e.g., students must wear closed-toe shoes, students must wear protective eyewear, students may not eat or drink in the studio, etc.).

Academic Integrity Policy:

Academic Integrity is the process of openly acknowledging the sources of your ideas and creations in the building of your personal and public identity as a practitioner in the artistic community. Ringling College expects students to acknowledge their sources of ideas and images in a manner consistent with best professional practices in their field. In academia, as in life and in work, integrity is crucial. Your reputation often precedes you into the world, and it is composed of how others view you, the way you treat and interact with other people, the way you perform your work, the manner with which you conduct your everyday affairs, and the level of honesty you display. Your reputation has the power to open – and close – doors. Guard your reputation zealously: once “dinged,” it takes a long time to repair, and sometimes damage is permanent. In professional life, integrity is shown by doing your own work and by giving other people appropriate credit and acknowledgements for their contributions to your work. In our class, I expect you to always do your own work. If you receive help from the Student Learning Center, from friends, from other teachers, from your parents, please acknowledge their contributions to your work by including a separate “Acknowledgments” page in your projects. Whenever you borrow a phrase, sentence, paragraph, or even an idea stated in your own words, from any outside source (news writing, magazine, TV show, book) without giving credit to that source, you have plagiarized. Never plagiarize or cheat on quizzes, papers, or other assignments. All work you turn in must be completed by you for this course this semester. You must always cite (document) the sources you use in your essays. I will inform you of appropriate ways to document and acknowledge sources for this course. The consequences of plagiarism are severe, including failure of the assignment, probable failure of the course, disciplinary referral to the Dean, and possible expulsion from the College. Academic integrity is expected of every individual in the College (See the Student Code of Conduct section of the Student Handbook). If you have any questions about how to acknowledge someone else’s words or ideas, please see me, visit the Student Learning Center and speak with a Writing Consultant, or visit the library and consult with a librarian or research consultant. Full details of Ringling College's Academic Integrity Policy, including penalties and processes regarding violations, can be found on the website: <http://www.ringling.edu/policies-and-procedures> (Links to an external site.).

