

WRIT 1103 Descriptions 2022-2023

Molly Boggs, “Arguments That Change the World” (Session 2: WRIT 1103A; Session 3: WRIT 1103A; Session 4: WRIT 1103A)

- Every day, in newspapers and magazines, Twitter threads, TikTok videos, and cable broadcasts, people are busy making persuasive arguments in order to sell products, gain followers, or make political change. Even with so much riding on the power of persuasion, many of the arguments that get made and shared today are just...not that good. Sometimes writers don't think about perspectives other than their own, so they miss important points of view that could change their whole argument. Sometimes writers choose to rehash debates we're all familiar with instead of digging into complex issues that don't have one clear solution. Sometimes it's obvious that writers just aren't that interested in the arguments they're making, and don't really think they matter. (We might feel this way ourselves when we're asked to write for an assignment.) We will spend the session reading and analyzing persuasive essays being published right now about American culture, human psychology, social change, technology, education, science, and medicine. You will learn to write more clearly, thoughtfully, and persuasively, and will master the genre of the college essay. We will also cover writer's block and procrastination, reading and note-taking, and how to develop an essay topic that could change the world.

Matt Latimer, “How did we get here?” (Session 2: WRIT 1103B; Session 3: WRIT 1103B; Session 4: WRIT 1103B)

- In this section, students will explore, via research, written prose and class conversation, the ever shifting concept of necessity and if, especially in today's technologically driven age, the lines are indeed distinguishable between wants and needs for “modernized” societies. We will look at and discuss the urgency of basic human needs (food, shelter, etc.), how different societies around the world prioritize and procure these things and if, indeed, technology is creating new necessities on the part of individuals and societies that utilize it. We will be exploring the sliding scale of human perceptions of life and priorities and how they apply to you and the world around you...and we will learn to write solid college level prose along the way

Marilyn Bousquin, “You Say, They Say” (Session 2: WRIT 1103C; Session 3: WRIT 1103C)

- What is academic writing, and how do you use it to make an argument? At its most basic, an argument unfolds in conversation with others. But how do you enter this conversation in writing? You say one thing, they say another. It's that simple, once you learn the basic moves of academic writing. This course will demystify academic writing so that you leave with the writing moves you need to enter a conversation, state your own ideas, respond to others' ideas, and ultimately make an argument that makes an impact.

Dan Stiffler, “Banned Books” (Session 3: WRIT 1103D)

- “Banned Books”: This section will explore the power of written words, especially in social and political contexts. Texts will include *Burn This Book*, an anthology of essays on censorship edited by Toni Morrison; J.D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye*, one of America's most banned books; Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, both the masterpiece from 1953 and the graphic novel illustrated by Tim Hamilton, as well as film adaptations. Writing assignments will include various expository strategies, as well as formalist explication.