Course Goals

English 1020 is the second course in your two-semester freshman writing sequence. We will be concerned with both the process of writing and the actual texts that you will produce. We will focus on improving your knowledge of what makes an effective college-level essay and will spend time looking at strategies that will improve your papers on the levels of content, organization, vocabulary, grammar, and mechanics. You will learn how to effectively complete research, including how to draw from both primary and secondary sources. You will also learn how to use different argumentative strategies for a variety of writing situations. In order to generate ideas for our class discussions and writing assignments, we will view television series, films, internet videos, and other media, as well as read models of non-fiction writing in *Everything’s An Argument*, and do supplemental reading as needed. Being “present” in 1020 entails more than being physically present. This is not a lecture course; it is a demanding, fast-paced course requiring reading, writing, and participation in class discussions.

Required Textbooks

Hhhh: *Hodge’s Harbrace Handbook*, 16th edition, by Glenn and Gray
DF: *Storm Front*: Book 1 of the *Dresden Files*. (Trade Paperback), by Jim Butcher
Any handouts and any material presented over email, UWC website, or Desire2Learn are also required texts.

Required Materials

Access to the internet, including Desire2Learn, and word processing software (MS WORD ONLY)
One-subject notebook for daily journal writings
E-mail address that you check regularly

Note on Desire2Learn: This will be a Desire2Learn assisted class. You will need to print handouts for class off of D2L before class. You should also check D2L for course announcements on a regular basis and use the dropbox function on D2L to send me electronic copies of your essays.

Evaluation and Grading Scale

To pass this course and earn three credit hours, you must earn a final class grade of C or above. I may use any of the grades, including D and F, to grade each individual assignment, but YOU MUST receive a C to pass. The only exception is for first time 1020 students: you may receive an “N” instead of an “F” for the
final grade IF you have met all the course requirements, including the attendance policy and completion of all assignments.

I will use a Grade Sheet when determining your grade for each essay. Each part of an individual essay will be awarded points, from which I will total your grade on a 100 point scale. Your final course grade will also be determined on a 100 point scale, which is then converted to letter grades as per the chart below.

A: 100-90% / B+: 89-86% / B: 85-80 / C+: 79-76% / C: 75-70 / 69 and below: F

Assignments and Grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>In-Class Proficiency Essay</td>
<td>0% (P)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay One (Research in World Pop Culture)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay Two (Issues in South Park: Bigger, Longer &amp; Uncut)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay Three (Yes/No to Issues in Pop Culture)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay Four (Critical Analysis of Literature)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Response Papers</td>
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<td>Peer Review Response Letters</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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Class Policies

--At MTSU, the instructor of each course sets the policy for attendance. In this class, absences are neither excused nor unexcused. You may be absent for any reason four times without penalty. Each absence after the fourth will result in five percentage points taken off your final course grade. The only exception to this rule is for university-sanctioned absences IF you provide proof and your absence schedule to me before your absence. Attendance and participation are essential to passing this course.

--5% of your final grade is for participation. Each day, if you are present in class and complete all in-class work, in-class journals, and participate in class, you will be awarded daily points. If you do this every class, you will accumulate 100 points, and 5% of your grade, at the end of the semester. Participation in in-class parts of peer-review is part of this grade!

--If you miss class and do not turn in due assignments before the absence, you will not receive credit for your work. There is no exception to this policy for any absence. You will also not receive daily participation points for any class you miss.

--Please be on time--more than 5 minutes late, and you’re counted as tardy. Tardies are disruptive to the whole class. Also, two tardies equal one absence—no exceptions. If you come to class late, it is YOUR responsibility to come see me immediately after class to get your absence changed to a tardy!

--Each day, you will write in class in your journal. Bring your journal to every single class meeting. Writing in your journal in class is part of your participation grade. I will check your journals at the end of the semester for grading. Your journal grade will be based on completion.

-You will be required to write four Reading Response Papers of at least one full page during the semester. Due dates are listed on the schedule. You are free to choose any of the readings we’ve done by each due date to write your paper on. Your grade will be based on completion. These four letters total 5% of your final grade.

--You will be required to write three Peer Review Response letters of at least one full page for each essay assignment, one for each of your group members. This equals a total of twelve Response Letters for the semester. These are graded for completion—and they total 5% of your final grade. You will receive a separate sheet explaining this component in more detail.

--iPods and other electronic devices are not allowed. However, because of the MTSU emergency text messaging system, here is the policy regarding cell phones:
You may leave your cell phone out on the desk during class, but your phone must be set to vibrate, and you may not actively engage your phone during class. Actively engaging the phone means talking on the phone, using the phone to play games, or text messaging (in other words, the phone can be on the desk, but you should not be actively using it); if you do actively engage your phone during class, you will lose all your participation points for the day. In the event that the ETMS is activated by the University, multiple phones should be vibrating at the same time, and in that instance, text messages will be promptly checked.

I also do not allow audio recordings of our class—some of the issues and writing we will talk about are of a sensitive or personal nature, and deserve a modicum of privacy.

--Please don’t eat in class, as it can be distracting. Drinks are allowed.

--As we are all adults, mature behavior is expected of everyone in the class. You will be responsible and accountable for your own work and actions. We will discuss some materials of a sensitive nature, which may challenge your belief systems or make you uncomfortable. You do not have to agree with anyone, but you should respect the freedom of expression guaranteed to all of us. I ask that you discuss all of the writing and issues in this class in a civilized and intellectual manner. There is an exception to this, however: blatant discrimination and derogatory/hateful language or actions from members of the class will not be tolerated. Some of your classmates may write about sensitive or personal issues in their essays—please do not discuss these issues outside of class. It is important that we maintain a secure and comfortable learning environment.

--If you need to discuss any issues pertaining to our class with me, please visit me during my office hours or contact me by email. I generally will not return phone calls. If you contact me by email, please be advised that I generally only read and respond to student email during my posted office hours. However, if you have a serious emergency situation, please contact me! I am often available for an appointment if you cannot make it to my office hours; however, if you need to cancel, please do so at least an hour before your appointment. I have an open-door policy; I am here to help you, so don’t be afraid to ask any question regarding our class.

--For extreme weather conditions, please check www.mtsu.edu for cancellations. Also, please check your email before coming to class on days with extreme weather.

--If you need special accommodations due to a disability, please provide a letter from Disabled Student Services (898-2783) to me at the beginning of the semester. I am more than happy to provide accommodations, but need to know in advance.

--**PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN THIS CLASS.** You will receive a zero for a plagiarized paper. MTSU policy requires that I notify judicial affairs in any plagiarism case. This matter is serious and equivalent to criminal fraud or theft. It is my expectation and should be yours as well that you can do any assignment in this class without cheating. I have access to the website turnitin.com, which allows me to search the internet and essay databases for plagiarism in your papers. In addition, you will be required to read over, sign, and turn in the plagiarism statement found in *Surviving Freshman Composition* (5th ed., pg. 15) by Tuesday, September 9th. There are no exceptions to this policy; students failing to take this small measure CANNOT have any work graded until the page is turned in. Signing the form shows that you are aware of what constitutes plagiarism. Also, any questionable citations or lack of credit to the original source may result in an automatic 55 (F) on the essay.

--I will occasionally provide opportunities for extra credit. It’s totally random, and you have to be in class when it happens.

--Please visit the English Department’s website at [http://www.mtsu.edu/~english](http://www.mtsu.edu/~english) for more information on MTSU’s policies on civility in the classroom, academic dishonesty, disabled services, and absences/tardies. Also at the website you will find the English Department’s standards, goals, writing requirements, and grading procedures for English 1010. These guidelines are also included in *Surviving Freshman Composition*. 
Paper Guidelines

--As required by the English Department guidelines, you will be writing four essays of at least 5-6 pages each, based on textual readings, outside sources, and various media. Your proficiency essay will be written in-class.

--You will have each rough draft of your paper read and commented on by me, as well as evaluated by your peers in editing sessions and peer-review sessions, BEFORE you turn in a final revised draft for a grade. All rough drafts turned in for peer review should be nearly full drafts of at least 4 pages. If you don’t have at least 4 pages for your draft, I will not give you credit for that Peer Review session, and your group mates will get full credit for reviewing yours. This is not optional—and will make you a better writer while also helping to improve your chances of getting a better grade on your final draft.

--All papers, legibly printed and stapled, are due to me when class begins. You must include your rough draft with my comments and a printed Grade Sheet attached to your final copy. Also, you must send me, through D2L’s dropbox feature, a digital copy of the final paper BEFORE you come to class. Both versions, printed and digital, must be submitted in this exact manner for your paper to be considered on time. Except for the emergency clause, there is one other exception to this late paper policy: you can turn ONE paper in up to one class period late with no penalty. If you fail to turn in this one late paper in at the next class period, you will be penalized a letter grade a class period, until you turn it in, or reach 55 (F). ANY OTHER LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED! You will receive a zero. This exception is not allowed on Essay Four, however, which must be turned in on the due date, or you will receive a zero. ALL FOUR MAJOR ESSAY ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TURNED IN TO PASS THIS CLASS OR TO RECEIVE AN “N”!

--All papers must be typed, double-spaced, printed in black in Times New Roman or a similar font, and formatted in the MLA style. All papers must have a 1” margin at the top, bottom, and both sides. You may have to reset your margins in MS Word to do this.

--As mentioned above, all papers must be submitted in digital form. They should be submitted (THROUGH DESIRE2LEARN’S DROPBOX ONLY!) in MS Word format or .rtf only. DO NOT paste the essay into the body of the dropbox submission. I will NOT accept any other format than MS WORD (.doc or .docx) format, or Rich-Text (.rtf)! If you send me a digital in any other format than these, I will not accept your paper! Also, please send each file with the following title format: Lastname+EssayNumber.doc (ex. Tipton3.doc).

--I will not discuss your essay grades within the first 24 hours after you get them back.

--When we have a peer review or editing session in class, you must bring the required copies of your essay and peer review letters and discuss the papers of others to receive full participation credit for that day, no exceptions.

--I will do my best to return your essays to you within a week of receiving them. You will always receive your graded essay back at least one class period before the next essay is due. Essay Four will be returned to you during our scheduled final exam time.

--Please ask me if you have ANY questions! If you are having problems, please tell me, and I will help you!

Other Information

-- The Writing Center is located in PH 325 and on the web at www.mtsu.edu/~uwcenter for students to receive valuable one-on-one assistance with their writing. Conferences are available by appointment only (904-8237); don’t wait until the last minute to seek their help! Online writing assistance is also available. For hours, please visit the website. Hours are also available online and at the Ezell branch of the Writing Center.

In order to receive three points extra credit (per visit) for attending the University Writing Center or Speaking and Writing Center, you must ask your tutor for a signed form from the center as proof of your visit. I will accept these forms attached to each essay on the day the essay is due. (6 points, or 2 visits max per essay).
-- Scholarships and Student Loans—You are responsible to know and adhere to the terms and conditions of whatever means of financial support you benefit from. In no instance can your instructor be held responsible for any neglect of your duties. This applies in particular to the Hope scholarships that are lottery funded.

Students receiving the lottery scholarships must earn a 2.75 GPA after attempting 24 credit hours and maintain the 2.75 GPA until they have attempted 72 credit hours. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA while attempting 72 credit hours through 120 hours when scholarship eligibility expires. If a student drops below a 3.0 between 72 and 120 hours, he/she will regain eligibility if the 3.0 GPA is reached again. Students who drop below full-time status (12 hours) during the first 14 days of the semester will have their awards adjusted and will owe money to the University. Students who drop after the 14th day of class will have their future lottery scholarships suspended unless the drop was approved in advance by the Office of Financial Aid. Students may appeal the suspension if the drop is due to documented personal illness, illness or death of immediate family member, extreme financial hardship, military service, or other extraordinary circumstances beyond their control. The lottery appeal form may be obtained at <http://mtsu32.mtsu.edu:11447/Forms/TELSAppealForm.pdf>. Failure to attend classes may also result in the loss of lottery scholarship eligibility. Scholarship recipients must continue to attend classes through the end of the semester to maintain his or her enrollment status.

For more lottery information please see <http://www.collegepaystn.com/mon_college/lottery_scholars.htm>. You can also find up to date information at <http://mtsu32.mtsu.edu:11447/telsprogram.htm>.

--This syllabus is a contract. By staying in this class, you are agreeing to follow all of the guidelines above and be responsible for your own actions. If you are unable to comply with ANY part of the above, please drop this class.