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

HHH: *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 and use the discussion board feature for Peer Review. 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 rubric when determining your grade for each essay. I will grade your essay 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Class Proficiency Essay</td>
<td>0% (P)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay One (Research in World Pop Culture)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay Two (Issues in South Park: Bigger, Longer &amp; Uncut)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay Three (Yes/No to Issues in Pop Culture)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay Four (Critical Analysis of Literature)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Response Papers</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Review Response Letters</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 two times without penalty. Each absence 
after the second will result in five percentage points taken off your final course grade.** The only 
extinction 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.** I take 
attendance the first time at the start of class. As this is a three hour class, we will take a break during class. I 
will take attendance after the break, and if you have left class early, this will count as an absence for the 
class session.

--5% of your final grade is for participation. Each day, if you complete all in-class work, in-class journals, 
and participate in class, you will accumulate 100 points, or 5% of your grade at the end of the semester. I 
will deduct 5 points from your participation grade when you break class rules regarding conduct or do not 
participate in the class activities. I will precede any deductions with a warning about your behavior.

--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.

--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 and post on the D2L Discussion Board three Peer Review Response letters 
of at least 250 words for each essay assignment, one for each of your group members. This equals a total of 
duice Peer Review 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 receive a participation grade deduction. 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.

-We are in a computer lab classroom. I expect all members of the class to follow directions regarding use of these computers, including turning off monitors/not using computers when instructed. Not following directions in regards to computers, or being engaged in non-class related activities (MySpace, Facebook, Match.com, whatever) will result in Participation deductions. Do not plan on printing anything in our classroom—if you are required to bring printed copies, you must print them before you get to class.

--Please don’t eat during 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 only read and respond to student email during the day—do not expect emails sent at 2 a.m. to be answered until the next day! During the weekends I only check email a few times a day. However, if you have a serious emergency situation, please contact me by any of the above methods! 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, January 27th. 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 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 1020. 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 posted 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. You are required to post each rough draft on the appropriate D2L discussion board by the START of class on the day rough drafts are due! 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 final drafts of papers, legibly printed and stapled, are due to me when class begins. You must ALSO 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.

--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 University Writing Center is located in PH 325, in Ezell Hall 119, and 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 and 494-8616). For hours, please visit the website. Don’t wait until the last minute to seek their help!

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.