

# *ENG 370 Rhetorical Grammar*

Section 01  
Spring 2017

Professor Margaret Sinex

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Class meetings: Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 2:00 – 2:50 in Simpkins 027.

**Office hours:** Tuesday 3 – 4, Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1- 2.

Your successful completion of this course depends on the crucial information in this syllabus. If you lose your copy, print a replacement from our Western Online site.

## **Course Description**

**Description:** ENG 370 is designed for both English majors and English Education majors. Participants will gain confidence in their own mastery of English grammar; they will also improve their ability to analyze it and to communicate their analysis clearly to others.

**Aims:** The competence you gain will empower you as a writer and significantly improve your work. A portion of class time will be devoted to studying your own essays, those of your classmates and selected passages from professionals. Bill Bryson is one of those professionals and his *Made in America: an Informal History of the English Language in the United States* will serve as a model and inspiration. His book will also introduce topics such as dialects and lexicon and provide an account of how historical events shaped Standard American Written English. Students should expect to work on exercises from *Rhetorical Grammar* in class and as homework.

## **Catalog Description:**

**ENG 370 Rhetorical Grammar. (3)** Use a rhetorical framework to study grammatical and discourse structures and apply them to students' own writing. *Prerequisites:* ENG 180 and ENG 280, or permission of instructor.

**Teaching Method:** Discussion, lecture

## **Required Texts:**

Bryson, Bill. *Made in America: an Informal History of the English Language in the United States*. William Morrow, 2001. ISBN 0380713810.

Hacker, Diana and Nancy Sommers. *A Pocket Style Manual – 2016 MLA Updated*. New York: Bedford / St. Martin's, 2015.

Kolln, Martha and Loretta Gray. *Rhetorical Grammar: Grammatical Choices, Rhetorical Effects*. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Pearson, 2017.

**Course Requirements:**

**Evaluation**

1 Essay	20%
4 Tests	20% (each)

**Scale**

	89 – 87 = B+	79 – 77 = C+	69 – 67 = D+
100 – 95 = A	86 – 83 = B	76 – 73 = C	66 – 63 = D
94 – 90 = A-	82 – 80 = B-	72 – 70 = C-	62 – 60 = D-

**Course Policies:**

Failure to comply with the following policies will lower your grade.

**Required Class Attendance** Your regular, punctual attendance in class is mandatory. You have three “unexplained” absences. Use them intelligently for ordinary difficulties (a bad cold, flat tire on commute, late night visit to the ER with a friend, traffic court.) After that, each class missed will result in two points off your final grade for the course. Following these three “unexplained” absences I will accept an absence for the following three reasons only if you provide appropriate documentation. They are: University-sanctioned activities, death of a close relative, or prolonged illness. WIU can help you accommodate serious issues like these that prevent your attendance or severely affect your performance in the classroom. Contact your Advisor right away. (See Student Absence Clarification Policy at [www.wiu.edu/policies/stuabsc.php](http://www.wiu.edu/policies/stuabsc.php))

Students must provide documentation in advance for required competitions and conferences (University-sanctioned activities).

**Tardiness:** Do not schedule classes back-to-back if you are unable to come to this class on time. Tardiness is recorded in writing. Habitual tardiness is regarded as disruptive behavior.

Persistently leaving the classroom during the period. This distracts your classmates. Take care of your business before entering the room.

**Participation** in the class discussion is essential to forming a reading community in this course; consequently, participation is an integral part of your final grade. If you are present in body but never speak or fail to read the assignment you are not participating. **Assigned reading** must be completed in its entirety for the classing meetings as noted in the Course Schedule.

The **Essay** is due on the assigned date at the beginning of class. Phone me or email me **before** the due date if you have a legitimate reason for being unable to meet the deadline and we **may** be able to accommodate you. **I do not accept essays by email.** The Essay is graded out of 100 points. **If it is late** it will lose 3 points for every day (not class period) it is late.

**Week 1**

*January*

Wednesday 18 Syllabus and Introduction

Friday 20 *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 1 (On Western Online)

**Week 2**

Monday 23 *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 1

Wednesday 25 *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 2. Sentence patterns favored by writers of English.

Friday 27 *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 2

**Week 3**

Monday 30 Bryson's *Made in America* Chapter 11 What's Cooking?: Eating in America.  
*Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 2 continued.

*February*

Wednesday 1 “

Friday 3 “

**Week 4**

Monday 6 *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 3

Wednesday 8 “

Friday 10 “

**Week 5**

Monday 13 **No Class. Lincoln's Birthday observed.**

Wednesday 15 Bryson. Chapter 14 The Hard Sell: Advertising in America.  
*Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 3 continued.

Friday 17 *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 3 continued.

**Week 6**

Monday 20 **Test #1 (Chapters 1 – 3).**

Wednesday 22 *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 4

Friday 24 *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 4 continued.

**Week 7**

Monday 27 “

*March*

Wednesday 1 *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 5. **Discussion of Essay for class.**

Friday 3 *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 5 continued.

**Week 8**

Monday 6 Bryson Chapter 15 The Movies. *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 6.

Wednesday 8 *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 6 continued.  
Friday 10 “

### **Week 9**

Monday 13 **March Break. YES!**  
Wednesday 15  
Friday 17

### **Week 10**

Monday 20 *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 7  
Wednesday 22 **Test # 2 (Chapters 4-6)**  
Friday 24 *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 7 continued.

### **Week 11**

Monday 27 **Paper Due.** *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 7 continued.  
Wednesday 29 *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 8: Stylistic Variations: repetition, word order, ellipsis, antithesis, fragments.  
Friday 31 “

### **Week 12**

*April*

Monday 3 Bryson Chapter 18 Sex and Other Distractions. *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 9. Cohesion: Is it awkward? inversion of sentences, when are passive verbs effective? when repetition is not redundant.  
Wednesday 5 *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 9  
Friday 7 *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 9 continued.

### **Week 13**

Monday 10 **Test # 3 (Chapters 7 – 9).**  
Wednesday 12 *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 10 Sentence rhythm.  
Friday 14 *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 10 continued.

### **Week 14**

Monday 17 Bryson Chapter 1 The *Mayflower* and Before. *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 11. Writer's voice: tone, diction, degree of formality, use of contractions.  
Wednesday 19 *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 11 continued.  
Friday 21 “

### **Week 15**

Monday 24 *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 12. Some traditional terms for what you already know.  
Wednesday 26 *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 12 continued.  
Friday 28 “

### **Week 16**

*May*

Monday 1 Bryson Chapter 2 Becoming Americans. *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 13.

How punctuation can serve your own rhetorical purposes.

Wednesday 3 *Rhetorical Grammar* Chapter 13 continued.

Friday 5 “

### **Exam Week**

**Monday Test # 4 (Chapters 10 – 13) 3 PM.**

**Academic dishonesty** Academic dishonesty, including but not limited to “plagiarism, fabrication and falsification, [and] cheating” will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with Western Illinois University’s Student Academic Integrity Policy. To learn about infractions and procedures see: [www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php](http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php).

In her *A Pocket Manual of Style* 7<sup>th</sup> ed., Diana Hacker defines plagiarism as “(1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words” (115).

*Students with disabilities:* In accordance with University values and disability law, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations where there are aspects of a course that result in barriers to inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement. To file an official request for disability-related accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center at 309-298-2512, [disability@wiu.edu](mailto:disability@wiu.edu) or in 143 Memorial Hall. Please notify the instructor as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner.

University values, Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at 309-298-1977 or anonymously online at: [http://www.wiu.edu/equal\\_opportunity\\_and\\_access/request\\_form/index.php](http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/request_form/index.php). If you disclose an incident to a faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator. The complete Title IX policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/titleIX.php>.

Web address for student rights and responsibilities: <http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students.php>