

**Eastern Kentucky University
Honors Program**

Syllabus for HON 102: Honors Rhetoric, 6 credit hours

Section 5 – CRN 12760 - MWF 11:15-12:05, TR 12:30-1:45

Section 6 – CRN 12761 - MWF 12:20-1:10, TR 2:00-3:15

University Building 233

Fall 2016

Professors:

Dr. Tom Butler

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Office Hours: MWF 1:30-3:00 and by appointment

Catalog Description: Honors 102, Honors Rhetoric (6) I. Prerequisite: Admission to the Honors Program or instructor approval. Co-requisite: HON 103. Designed, with HON 103, to improve skills in writing, reasoning, oral presentation, and research. Each student will do a research paper that requires both significant use of library resources and the development of a cogent line of argument. Gen. Ed. IA and IB.

Course Description and Objectives: The overall course goal is to develop skills in reading (carefully and analytically), writing (clearly and coherently), reasoning (self-consciously and cogently), and speaking (interestingly and persuasively). We will do this primarily by reading, discussing, and writing about philosophical and literary texts that speak to our course theme, “The Good Life.” This will be very good preparation for other Honors Program courses and for college work in general.

Special Note: This may be a new type of course for you, and the work will be steady and challenging. At times, you may feel confused or frustrated. If that happens, let us know! If you want to talk about the course, your performance, or receive guidance on a particular assignment, you can drop in during our office hours, schedule a conference, or email us. We can help; that's our job. The Honors Program is a community of intellectual colleagues, both students and faculty, who help each other and work together.

General Education Goals for HON 102

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Communicate effectively by applying skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening, and through the appropriate use of information technology. (GE Goal 1)
2. Use appropriate methods of critical thinking to examine issues in philosophy, literature, and history, and identify solutions. (GE Goal 2)
3. Integrate knowledge that will deepen their understanding of and inform their own choices about issues of personal and public importance. (GE Goal 8)

Student Learning Outcomes for HON 102

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Discover different ideas and perspectives on a piece of information.
2. Recognize the audience, set a relevant tone, and engage that audience effectively.
3. Engage ideas and perspectives that may be different from their own.
4. Evaluate ideas and information through critical reasoning.
5. Synthesize information from various sources.
6. Organize information in a clear and logical fashion.
7. Employ writing that is clear, accurate, and precise.
8. Use accurate and relevant vocabulary.
9. Accurately use punctuation, capitalization, and grammar.
10. Communicate through speaking and writing persuasively the results of their research, evaluation, and synthesis.
11. Utilize skills of productive collaboration with peers and faculty.
12. Use sources effectively and ethically with appropriate attribution.
13. Exercise information literacy.

Required Texts:

Aeschylus, *Oresteia* (Hackett, 978-0872203907)

Charters, Ann, ed., *The Story and Its Writer*, 9th ed. (Bedford, 978-1457664618)

Guignon, Charles, ed., *The Good Life* (Hackett, 978-0872204386)

Harjo, *Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings* (Norton, 978-0393248500)

Hacker, Diana, and Nancy Sommers, *A Pocket Style Manual*, 6th ed. (Bedford, 978-1457642326)

Lear, Jonathan, *Radical Hope* (Harvard, 978-0674027466)

Plato, *Five Dialogues* (Hackett, 978-0872206335)

Sophocles, *Antigone* (Hackett, 978-0872205710)

Online Component: Course materials and assignments will be available on, and often only on, Blackboard. Be sure to check daily for assignments and announcements. You will be required to submit all formal papers through Safe Assignment.

Attendance Policy: Attendance at every class is a basic expectation. Missing more than 10% of the classes (eight meetings) is likely to result in a failing grade. However, in case of serious and extended illness or other extenuating circumstances, we will try to make special arrangements about attendance. Tardiness will be counted as $\frac{1}{2}$ an absence, and may result in a zero (see below) on a DA. Sometimes absences are unavoidable; let us know in advance when you have to be absent. If that is not possible, check with us immediately afterwards.

Paper Submission Policies: All formal papers must be submitted in hard copy to the instructor on the due date as well as to Safe Assignment through Blackboard. Late papers will lose 5 points per class period. This penalty may be waived at the discretion of the instructor if there is a valid extenuating circumstance. A student who fails to submit the first version of a paper before the conference date will forfeit all points on that part of the assignment.

Instructor Contact and Email Protocol: You will see your instructors frequently in class, although, due to teacher rotation, perhaps not in every class. We are readily available to talk with you outside of class during our office hours (in person or by phone) or by appointment. You can also reach us via our EKU email. We will do our best to reply as soon as we can, but please understand that we may not have the

opportunity to do so as instantaneously as one might hope. Our email communications with you will be sent to your official EKU email address.

Classroom Etiquette and Expectations:

- Purchase all required texts and materials for this course and bring assigned texts to class.
- Come to class prepared and ready to work.
- If you must be absent, check Blackboard for assignments and come to the next class prepared and ready to work.
- Practice respect and courtesy toward all. Active listening is the key to respect and courtesy, and that generally means one person talking at a time. Please give your full attention to the person speaking.
- Please turn off cell phones before class begins and put them away for the entire class period.
- Please note that multi-page assignments will not be accepted unless they are secured with a staple.

Major Assessment Methods for Learning Outcomes

Daily Assignments (DAs)

There will be many of these, taking several forms such as written assignments due in hard copy at the beginning of class, in-class exercises and quizzes, or Blackboard postings. You need to be present to get DA credit because daily assignments are designed to help you prepare for class that day.

Therefore, no make-ups are allowed, and late or early DAs are not accepted (unless there are very special circumstances, such as extended illness). Out-of-class assignments will be posted to Blackboard a few days in advance. You will be allowed to drop your four lowest DA grades, which will include grades for DAs missed due to absence.

Formal Papers 1 and 2 (4-5 pages)

All papers must be argumentative, which means that there must be a clear, interesting, and non-trivial thesis that is well-supported in the body of the paper. Paper 1 will involve relating Plato's ideas about justice to one of the plays we will have read. Paper 2 will develop a connection between a literary work and a philosophical work that deals in some way with the course theme "The Good Life." Further details will be provided in class.

Research Project, Paper 3 (7-10 pages)

This paper must involve significant research and must accurately and effectively incorporate outside research from scholarly books or articles. It must offer a viable counter-argument, objection, or alternative to the thesis. The topic should directly relate to the course content and themes. There is some flexibility, within limits, for you to pursue your own interests, so as soon as you have an idea for your Paper 3 topic, you should check with us about its suitability.

Due Dates of Major Assignments:

Late submission of papers subject to grade reduction at the discretion of the instructor.

Paper 1	Friday, September 23
Paper 1 rewrite	Friday, September 30
Paper 2	Monday, October 31
Paper 2 rewrite	Monday, November 7
Research Paper	Friday, December 9

Be sure to keep all of your written work throughout the semester. You may need to submit earlier assignments in a writing portfolio.

Evaluation Methods:

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

- 40%: Daily Assignments
- 15%: Paper 1 (30% first version, 70% rewrite)
- 20%: Paper 2 (50% first version, 50% rewrite)
- 25%: Paper 3

Numerical grade guidelines: A, 90-100; B, 80-89; C, 70-79; D, 60-69; F, 0-59.

General Grading Standards for Papers:

- A-level work engages the complexity of the topic, is highly coherent and well organized, shows in-depth understanding of issues and relevant texts, shows no significant misunderstanding of issues and texts, fully supports points with good and relevant reasons, has very few mechanical errors or omissions (grammar, punctuation, documentation, etc.).
- B-level work is overall quite good but has a few flaws in 1 or 2 of the 6 areas above.
- C-level work is adequate but has some significant flaws or omissions.
- D-level work is unsatisfactory but may show a minimal grasp of some key points or issues.

If you have problems with mechanics, use of quotations, overall organization, and so forth, be sure to see us as soon as you are aware of a problem. You can also receive help on everything from writing to making oral presentations at the new Noel Studio, located in the library: <http://www.studio.eku.edu/>

Withdrawal Policies and Student Progress:

- The last day to add or drop a class for a full refund is August 28, 2016.
- The last day to go online (EKU Direct) and withdraw without incurring a drop/withdrawal fee is September 18, 2016. The last day to withdraw with a drop/withdrawal fee of \$50 per credit hour is November 13, 2016.
- For other information, including policies on withdrawing from a course, applicable fees and instructor permissions, consult the Colonel's Compass:
<http://colonelscompass.eku.edu/fall-2016-deadlines-adddrop-refunds>
- Mid-term grades will be reported through EKU Direct by October 10, 2016.

Disability Accommodation Statement:

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you are registered with the EKU Center for Student Accessibility (CSA), please obtain your accommodation letters from the CSA, present them to the course instructor, and discuss the accommodations needed. If you believe you need an accommodation and are not registered with the CSA, please contact the office in 361 Whitlock Building by email at disserv@eku.edu or by telephone at (859) 622-2933. Upon individual request, this syllabus can be made available in an alternative format.

A student with a "disability" may be an individual with a physical or psychological impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, to include, but not limited to: seeing, hearing, communicating, interacting with others, learning, thinking, concentrating, sitting, standing, lifting,

performing manual tasks, working. Additionally, pregnancy accompanied by a medical condition(s), which causes a similar substantial limitation, may also be considered under the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA).

Academic Integrity Statement:

Students are advised that EKU's Academic Integrity Policy will strictly be enforced in this course. The Academic Integrity policy is available at: <http://www.academicintegrity.eku.edu/>

This statement is applicable to all EKU students in all courses regardless of whether it appears in the class syllabus. Questions regarding the policy may be directed to the Office of Academic Integrity.

We will be covering documentation in the course and discussing the appropriate use of outside sources. In most cases documentation requirements will be clear, but in some cases, you will need to make a judgment call. If you are ever uncertain about what constitutes academic dishonesty, you should consult your instructor for clarification.