Welcome to Composition II Online!

THE INSTRUCTOR

My name is Cheyenne Marco, and I will be your instructor this semester. I received my Bachelor’s in Creative Writing and Literature from Southwest Minnesota State and my Master’s of Arts in English from the University of South Dakota. I’m scheduled to graduate in 2018 with my PhD in English. In addition to my studies, I work on the South Dakota Review and do outreach for Friends of the Big Sioux River. These endeavors have taught me what skills are necessary in the workplace, and these are skills I’m happy to pass on to you.

THE COURSE

English 201 Composition II is a theme-based intensive writing course focusing on advanced research and argumentation. In this section, we will be focusing on the function of conspiracy theory as an argument. Aliens, the Loch Ness monster, big foot. What makes people believe in the unbelievable? Was 9/11 an inside job? Did Wall Street sink the Titanic? Are selfies and Facebook really NSA plots? Though we tend to look at conspiracy theory and myth as evidence of paranoid minds, every day we are posed with the question of what is real and what is not. Is global warming real? Which is the myth: Creation or evolution? How did Hitler create the myth that the Jews were ruining Germany? Why did we go to war in Iraq: to fight terror or steal oil? I want to believe. But what do I believe? When we look at these questions, we often ask ourselves "how can someone believe that?" The answer is easy: someone made a good argument. The assertion was based on evidence (real or fabricated). It felt right. It came from someone who appeared knowledgeable. These are the skills of a master persuader. 201 is about enhancing these skills and giving you the tools to make people believe your argument--whether you're asserting that illegal aliens should be granted citizenship or extraterrestrial aliens are responsible for the Kennedy assassination.

Required Texts:


Reliable access to the internet, email, and Desire2Learn.

NOTE: You will need the Hodapp & Von Kannon Conspiracy Theories and Secret Societies for Dummies textbook right away in order to complete the first week’s assignments.
TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Please visit https://youtu.be/gnwkjsQB8p0 to view a short tutorial on accessing our course.

The University of South Dakota has established minimum technology requirements for participation in online courses. These are outlined under the “Technology Support and Requirements” section in the CDE Online Orientation Packet which you can find on the CDE website and in the Getting Started widget in D2L.

All students should have access to Microsoft Word 2003 or later to use to compose all formal writing assignments, as the instructor will use the comment and proofing features in Word to provide feedback. A student version of Microsoft Word can be purchased through Microsoft or at various retailers. To prevent compatibility issues, documents should be saved as .doc or .docx (no .pages or .odt).

GETTING STARTED

First, you will want to read the syllabus which is available www.usd.edu/usd-online/courses/summer-2017/online-courses-a-g#engl Next, you should also familiarize yourself with the CDE Online Orientation which is also available through this link and will also be posted in the “Getting Started” widget on the course homepage in Desire2Learn. If you’ve never used Desire2Learn, you should review the helpful Desire2Learn Login Demo. If you’re new to USD, you might also find the Step by Step: Access to Your Online Course guide helpful. Both of these resources are found at the above link.

On the first day of class, you should access the course in Desire2Learn (D2L). This can be done via the student portal, or directly via https://d2l.sdbor.edu. **NOTE:** Access to the course will not begin until the first day of class.

Once you’re logged into the course through D2L, you should do the following:

- Review the syllabus and course schedule through the links in the “Getting Started” widget on the course homepage.
- Familiarize yourself with the course components (News, Content, Discuss, Quizzes, etc.).
- Look over the assignments that will be due by the end of the first week.
- Email me if you have any questions or concerns about the course.

**NOTE:** Anyone who does not post something to the discussion board by midnight on Friday, May 22, may be dropped from the course for non-participation.

CONTACTING ME

The best way to contact me is via email. I will do my best to respond to emails within twenty-four (24) hours during the week or forty-eight (48) hours on the weekend. **NOTE:** Please do not use the pager tool in D2L to contact me.

GRADING

All feedback will be posted in the D2L gradebook. Grades and comments will be made available one week after the due date, unless the assignment is turned in late.