MMW 15: The Twentieth Century and Beyond
Professor Biess, Track C
Section C01 and C02

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"Lucky I’m sane after all I've been through. [...] I can’t complain, but sometimes I still do."
--Joe Walsh (1947-)

Purpose of Section:
The purpose of section is to improve your understanding of and engagement with the course content by giving you an opportunity to exercise critical thinking, writing, reading, studying, listening, and speaking skills in a small, supportive group led by a knowledgeable guide.

Section will help you to:
• Interpret and analyze course material in its historical context, developing ideas in dialogue with course readings and lectures
• Conduct academic research and use library resources
• Write coherent academic argument essays that address a significant issue; ask a specific, open-ended, arguable question; answer the question by making a claim and backing it up with sufficient, relevant, specific, compelling evidence; consider and rebut counterarguments; demonstrate significance of the argument; and accurately cite sources in MLA format
• Know the difference between primary and secondary sources and how to use them in academic writing
• Engage in substantive and respectful discussion of course concepts with peers

Letter Grade Requirement: You must take MMW courses for a letter grade. If you have selected Pass/No Pass as a grading option for MMW 15, you should immediately change your option to letter grade, or you will not fulfill the ERC General Education Requirement and will have to take MMW 15 again.

Attendance, Participation, and Section Requirements:
Regular attendance and participation in section is mandatory. Students who miss 3 sections—excused or unexcused—will fail section. Students who miss 4 sections—excused or unexcused—will fail the course. Any absence can lower your grade.

You must arrive on time and be prepared to discuss and write about course material. Class begins on the hour and consistent tardiness will lower your grade. If there is a good reason (by my definition) that you think you might be late for a particular class, please alert me in advance so that I can anticipate it, and it will not count against you. Also come speak to me if you believe you have a good reason that you might be late habitually (like having a class immediately beforehand on the other side of campus – we’ve all been there) so that I am aware of the issue
and we can work it out. By the same token, class ends at ten minutes to the hour and not before. What constitutes “ten minutes to the hour” is determined by my clock, not the one on the wall that is almost certainly wildly inaccurate. Packing up early is disrespectful and disruptive not only for me, but for your peers as well and will not be tolerated. **Anyone packing up early will subject the entire class to an extra homework assignment to be turned in the following section.** Again, as above, if there is a good reason that you must leave or pack up early for any particular section, or in general, please contact me before class so that we can discuss the issue and make arrangements that will not disrupt the section (or assign it extra homework!).

**Grading:** Section counts for 10% of the overall class grade. This will come from regular attendance and participation, which will not only help your course grade but also ensure your overall success in MMW. Attendance and participation are not just physical concept either; they entail active mental and psychological engagement with section activities and sincere attention to any and all individuals who are contributing to class discussion.

**Writing Assignments and Late Policy:** All papers must be turned in directly as a **hard copy** to me in section, lecture, or office hours, in addition to an electronic copy uploaded to www.turnitin.com. Papers left in my mailbox or the MMW office **will not be graded.** You will lose one-third of a letter grade for each day a paper is late (including weekends). If you are unable to attend section the day the paper is due, you must make other arrangements to submit your work. In addition to taking the mid-term and final exams and attending section regularly, you must submit **ALL** writing assignments (both as a hard copy to me and to turnitin.com) **in order to pass the course.**

**Classroom Environment:**
There are but two simple rules by which you must abide in section:

1. The number one rule in my section is “show respect”, both for me and your peers. You and I have a lot in common and, in fact, I sat exactly where you were many years ago; I therefore understand better than you might think what you are going through and how difficult it can be at times. I am not here to make that process any worse; in fact, if anything, I wanted to use my experience to help make it easier. Your classmates have even more in common with you, and thus it is essential to treat them as peers and co-professionals. Dialogue and even disagreement are encouraged, but it must be done in a respectful fashion.

2. Laptops, tablets, e-readers, cell phones, and all other manner of electronic devices that are not literally essential for your survival are prohibited from class, as they are in lecture. They will not be needed in section, where we will be undertaking engaging activities that will require your attention and interaction with your peers. Electronic devices are not only distracting to those who are trying to pay attention, but their inappropriate use is disrespectful to both my time and that of your peers. If you must bring them for other classes, obligations, etc., then they must remain stowed for the duration of section. Any general exceptions to this rule will be announced in advance. If there is a personal or emergency reason that requires you to have such a device available during class time, please talk to me beforehand so that we can make arrangements.
Failure to abide by either of these rules will negatively impact your section grade. That second one implies, by the way, that in order to participate successfully, you will need to be prepared. You won’t have the internet or a computing device to rely upon as crutch. Sections will be focused more on critical thinking rather than getting the “correct” answer.

Communicating with Me/Office Hours/Email:
Communication will be done regularly through email and students will be expected to check their email accounts daily for course communication. In exchange, I will extend the same courtesy to you and reply to any email sent within 24 hours, unless I require information that I cannot obtain within that time period (i.e. if I have to email someone else to answer your question and they do not reply in a timely fashion). If circumstances will leave you without access to or otherwise unable to check your email for an extended period of time (i.e. more than 24 hours), please let me know in advance. I will try to limit weekend emails, because we all have personal lives and they are probably pretty awesome.

In terms of seeing me in person, office hours will be held from 11-12 on and 1-2 on Thursdays in the MMW TA Suite. I have a fairly flexible schedule and will do my best to meet with you if you are unable to make those times or if there is an urgent matter that must be discussed in person, but I am not available on Mondays or Fridays. Please do not hesitate to come to me with any issues; taking some time out to address what may seem like a small or insignificant problem is far preferable to encountering it as a larger problem down the road when it may affect your grade. I also know of many campus resources that can help with more unusual problems, particularly those that might be affecting your academic work, and can help guide you in the correct direction.

Academic Integrity: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. This includes plagiarism, cheating, fabrication of sources, and unauthorized collaboration. If you would like to review UCSD definitions and procedures concerning academic integrity at any time, please visit http://senate.ucsd.edu/manual/Appendices/Appendix2.pdf. Please also pay close attention to the Style Sheet for guidelines for your paper assignments.