

**Department of English & Journalism**  
**ENG 280, Section 20: College Writing II**  
**Fall 2013**

Meeting Time: Tuesday & Thursday 11:00-12:15 p.m.

Place: Simpkins 315 (Classroom) & Simpkins 319 (Computer Lab)

Instructor: Dr. Jose Fernandez

Office Address: Simpkins 09

Office Phone: 309-298-1042

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 12:30-1:30 p.m. & 3:30-4:00 p.m., Wed. 1:00-2:00 p.m., and by appointment.

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Course URL: <https://westernonline.wiu.edu>

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**Course Description:**

A second course in college writing to be taken during sophomore year with an emphasis on the interaction between writer and reader. A complete list of the standard objectives for English 280 can be found at ([http://www.wiu.edu/cas/english\\_and\\_journalism/writing/280-handoutSp12.pdf](http://www.wiu.edu/cas/english_and_journalism/writing/280-handoutSp12.pdf)).

**Course Overview:**

The primary goal of this course is to help you to improve your analytical and writing skills. This class will take the form of a writing workshop. College Writing II involves reading, analyzing, and studying the argumentative strategies of other writers in order to incorporate some of those techniques into your own writing. The theme of this course is food. As a class, we will concentrate on topics such as the production, advertisement, and consumption of food. We will explore, discuss, and write about these current issues that affect you not only as an individual but also as a member of a larger community. Also, we will analyze and evaluate what others have argued about various food subtopics in different formats as a way to enter a larger conversation. Most of you have opinions and things to say and this course is an opportunity to express some of your thoughts and ideas through writing.

**Course Goals and Objectives:**

- Continue to improve your writing, reading, and analytical skills;
- Analyze rhetorical strategies used in visual and written arguments;
- Practice college-level writing, analysis, and argumentation;
- Further recognize, improve, and develop your writing process;
- Become a more reflective writer through the revision of papers;
- Learn and practice MLA documentation in academic writing.

**Course Prerequisite:**

Completion of English 180 (or a first semester writing course accepted for transfer) with a grade of C or better, and completion of a minimum of 24 hours of college credit. Note: If you were force-enrolled in this course, you will need the permission of the instructor and the Director of Writing in order to drop. If you wish to drop this course you will need to speak with me first, and I will forward your request to the Director for consideration (permission is not granted automatically). Because you need permission to drop, you should begin the drop process early.

**Required Texts:**

Barnet, Sylvan and Hugo Bedau. *From Critical Thinking to Argument*. 3rd ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2010. (ISBN: 9780312601614).  
Pollan, Michael. *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*. New York: Penguin, 2006. (ISBN: 9780143038580).

**Assignments and Evaluations:**

Class Participation & Activities	150 points
Writing Exercises	200 points
Visual Analysis & Presentation	100 points
Interview Narrative	150 points
Project Proposal & Annotated Bibliography	150 points
Argument Paper & Project Presentation	250 points
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Total	1000 points

**Grading Scale:**

A = 930-1000; A- = 900-929; B+ = 860-899; B = 830-859; B- = 800-829; C+ = 760-799; C = 730-759; U (unsatisfactory) = 600-729; F = 599 or below.

**Short Breakdown of Assignments and Evaluations:**

- **Class Participation & Activities:** Your active class participation will be necessary to fulfill the goals and objectives of the course. Class activities will include working individually or in groups on writing activities, discussions, short online posts, responses to posts, and short and extended presentations on a regular basis. Attend class prepared by reading the assigned material before class according to the schedule of readings. Students are required to bring their syllabus, textbooks, and the appropriate material to each class.
- **Writing Exercises:** Approximately 10-12 short writing exercises worth 15-20 points each. Writing exercises will help you to formulate ideas, arguments, reactions, and answers based on the assigned readings. The posts will be submitted electronically via WesternOnline before the beginning of class. LATE posts will be accepted, but you will lose points for each class the post is late.
- **Visual Analysis:** Students will analyze and write an argument about a TV advertisement related to food using visual evidence (3-4 double-spaced pages or 900-1200 words).
- **Interview Narrative:** You will conduct a field interview with a food or nutrition "expert" and write about your findings and experience in a narrative form (3-4 double-spaced pages or 900-1200 words).
- **Project Proposal and Annotated Bibliography:** Students will begin to do research on their selected food subtopic, develop a thesis statement, and talk about their secondary sources (4-5 double-spaced pages or 1200-1500 words). This paper will form the basis for your final argument paper.
- **Argument Paper & Project Presentation:** A sustained argument based on your project proposal and annotated bibliography (8-10 double-spaced pages or 2400-3000 words). Students will present their arguments, findings, and conclusions during a 10-minute presentation at the end of the semester. Note: students must receive a passing grade on the Argument Paper in order to pass the class.

**Guidelines for Paper Submissions:**

I will post on WesternOnline an instructions sheet with an evaluation criteria for each of the four major papers. All your draft and revised papers will be submitted electronically as a Microsoft Word document via WesternOnline before the beginning of class when the paper is due (see schedule of writing assignments). **Late papers will be accepted, but you will lose 15 points for each class the paper is late.** For specific formatting details and requirements for all four writing assignments, make sure to read the “Format for Writing Assignments” sheet posted on WesternOnline. You will get feedback on most draft papers before you receive a paper’s final grade. Make sure to SAVE all your work on your computer or a flash drive. Computer issues are not an excuse for submitting incomplete or late work.

**Attendance Policy:**

Since this course will rely on students’ active participation through writing activities, group work, and class discussions, attendance and punctuality are required. If you miss class due to illness, personal emergency, or any other reason, notify me via email before or after an absence occurs. You may have three excused or unexcused absences without penalty, but you are still responsible for meeting the assignments’ deadlines (students will NOT be able to make up for missing class work). **Beginning with your fourth absence, you will lose 15 points from your class participation grade for each subsequent absence.** Habitual tardiness may negatively affect your grade as well. **Keep in mind that if you accumulate more than eight absences, you will NOT receive a passing grade in this course.**

**Outside Class Communication:**

The best way to reach me outside class is by email. I will respond to your emails promptly (within 48 hours). You are also responsible for checking your WIU email account and WesternOnline on a regular basis. Please feel free to stop by any time during my office hours or email me to make an appointment outside office hours to discuss any aspect of the course such as your writing, a particular grade, or your overall performance in this course. Think about office hours as a time where I will be available to work with you individually on any of the class assignments. We will have two individual conferences during the semester where we will discuss and work on your draft papers. Note: if you visit me during office hours or arrange an individual conference while finding sources or writing your Project Proposal and Annotated Bibliography, you will receive 15 extra credit points.

**Classroom Etiquette:**

Students should turn off all their electronic devices before the beginning of class and should not be engaged in any other activity that is not related to the class. Please do not leave the classroom abruptly; if you need to excuse yourself for an important reason while the class is in session, please let me know before the class begins. Similarly, when working on the computer lab or small groups, students are expected to work on the assigned task. You are also expected to show civility and respect for other students’ ideas, opinions, and beliefs expressed in writing or during class discussion. **Failure to comply with these expectations will negatively affect your class participation grade.**

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism occurs when students present a short or long piece of a work that was created by another individual or was taken from a source without properly acknowledging it. Plagiarism is a serious offense. **If you plagiarize any section of a formal assignment during this course, it may result in failure of the assignment and failure of the entire course.** If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, ask me or read the Western Illinois University's Student Academic Integrity Policy (<http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/acintegrity.php>).

**University Writing Center**

The University Writing Center is available to assist you with general and specific questions on writing assigned in any discipline and at any academic level. The one-on-one assistance available at the Writing Center is valuable for generating ideas, talking about global-level issues such as organization, and even working through grammatical problems. The University Writing Center is located at the Malpass Library, 3rd Floor, West Side. For more information, visit the University Writing Center website ([http://www.wiu.edu/university\\_writing\\_center/](http://www.wiu.edu/university_writing_center/)).

**Student Rights and Responsibilities**

A complete list of your rights and responsibilities as a Western Illinois University student is available at (<http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students.php>).

**Accommodations:**

“In accordance with University policy and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. For the instructor to provide the proper accommodation(s) you must obtain documentation of the need for an accommodation through Disability Support Services and provide it to the instructor. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention, as he/she is not legally permitted to inquire about such particular needs of students. Students who may require special assistance in emergency evacuations (i.e. fire, tornado, etc.) should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow in such an emergency. Contact Disability Support Services at 298-2512 for additional services.”  
Source: Official University Policy Manual (<http://www.wiu.edu/policies/syllabus.php>).

**Important Dates:**

Friday, August 23: Last day of open registration.

Friday, August 30: Last day of restricted registration.

Sunday, October 27: Last day to drop course and last day for a total university withdrawal.

### Schedule of Activities, Readings, and Assignments:

This schedule is subject to change. If any of this information changes, I will inform you during class and post an updated version on WesternOnline.

#### Abbreviations:

WO = WesternOnline

CTA = *From Critical Thinking to Argument*

Class = Simpkins 315 & Lab = Simpkins 139

**Important Note:** reading assignments are due by the date marked in the left column. Unless changes are announced, writing exercises, draft papers, and revised papers should be posted or uploaded electronically on WesternOnline (WO) before class by the day they are due.

Wk	Date & Place	Class Topic & Readings Due before Class	Writing Exercises & Papers Due before Class
1	Tue., Aug. 20 Class	Introductions & Academic Interests Introduction to Course Theme	
	Thu., Aug. 22 Lab	Course Overview, Goals and Objectives	
2	Tue., Aug. 27 Class	Topic: Argumentation & Rhetorical Appeals (Ethos, Logos, & Pathos) Read: CTA 51-87 (Ethos, Logos, & Pathos) Read: CTA 86 (Checklist for Analyzing Arguments)	Syllabus Questionnaire Due
	Thu., Aug. 29 Lab	Topic: Visual Rhetoric Read: CTA 96-116 (Visual Rhetoric)	Writing Exercise 1 Due (Rhetorical Analysis of a Food TV Ad)
3	Tue., Sept. 3 Class		Writing Exercise 2 Due (TV Ad for Analysis and Proposal)
	Thu., Sept. 5 Lab	Visual Analysis Workshop Read: CTA 143 (Checklist for Writing an Analysis)	Visual Analysis Draft Due
4	Tue., Sept. 10 Class		
	Thu., Sept. 12 Lab	Visual Analysis Presentations	Visual Analysis Due
5	Tue., Sept. 17 Class	Topic: Critical Thinking; Conducting Interviews; & Reporting Information Read: CTA 3-20 (Critical Thinking) Read: <i>Omnivore's Dilemma</i> (Intro; Chapters 1 & 2)	Writing Exercise 3 Due (Pollan & Ways of Thinking about Food)
	Thu., Sept. 19 Lab	Read: <i>Omnivore's Dilemma</i> (Chapters 4 & 6) Read: CTA 198-199 (Interviewing Experts)	Writing Exercise 4 Due (Pollan's Mixing of Narrative & Interviews)
6	Tue. Sept. 24 Class	Topic: Asking Questions & Understanding Arguments Read: CTA 146-155 (Finding an Argument and Asking Questions) Read: <i>Omnivore's Dilemma</i> (Chapters 7 & 8)	Writing Exercise 5 Due (Pollan's Use of Detail & Images)
	Thu., Sept. 26 Lab	Read: <i>Omnivore's Dilemma</i> (Chapters 9 & 10)	Writing Exercise 6 Due (Drafting Questions for Field Interview)
7	Tue., Oct. 1 Class	Read: <i>Omnivore's Dilemma</i> (Chapters 12 & 14)	Writing Exercise 7 Due (Pollan on Grass Fed Animals)

	Thu., Oct. 3 Lab	Read: <i>Omnivore's Dilemma</i> (Chapters 15 & 17)	Writing Exercise 8 Due ("The Ethics of Eating Animals")
8	Tue., Oct. 8 Class	No Class: Individual Conferences	Interview Transcripts & Narrative Draft Due before Conference
	Thu., Oct. 10 Lab	No Class: Work on Interview Narrative	
9	Tue., Oct. 15 Class	Read: <i>Omnivore's Dilemma</i> (Chapters 18 & 20)	Writing Exercise 9 Due (Pollan & "The Perfect Meal")
	Thu., Oct. 17 Lab	Topic: Selecting a Subtopic, Finding & Evaluating Sources, & Drafting a Thesis Statement Read: CTA: 188-206 (Finding and Evaluating Sources)	Interview Narrative Due
10	Tue., Oct. 22 Library	Library Day: Malpass Library, 3rd Floor, Room: LCC3	
	Thu., Oct. 24 Lab	Read: CTA 204 (Checklist for Evaluating Online Sources) Read: CTA: 155-156 (Writing a Thesis Statement)	
11	Tue. Oct. 29 Class	Topic: Summarizing Sources; Annotated Bibliography; & MLA Documentation Read: CTA 31-42 (Writing Summaries) Read: CTA 209-211 (Annotated Bibliography) Read: CTA: 227-240 (MLA Documentation)	Writing Exercise 10 Due (Subtopic, Draft Thesis Statement, and Four Sources)
	Thu. Oct. 31 Lab	Topic: Analyzing and Responding to Arguments Read: CTA: 127-133 (Analyzing an Argument) Read: CTA 133 (Checklist for Analyzing a Text) Read: Articles Posted on WO "Readings Folder" under "Readings for Week 11"	
12	Tue., Nov. 5 Class		
	Thu., Nov. 7 Lab	Read: Articles Posted on WO "Readings Folder" under "Readings for Week 12"	Project Proposal & Annotated Bibliography Due
13	Tue., Nov. 12 Class	Topic: Drafting the Argument Paper Read: CTA 161-177 (Drafting an Argument) Read: CTA 206-209 (Note on Plagiarism)	
	Thu., Nov. 14 Lab	Topic: Use of Quotes & In-Text Citations Following MLA Format Read: CTA: 214-227 (Quoting from Sources Using MLA Documentation) Read: CTA 247-262 (Sample MLA Paper)	Writing Exercise 11 Due (Taking a Position among Competing Views)
14	Nov. 19 & Nov. 21	No Class: Individual Conferences	Paper Outline, Revised Thesis Statement, & Argument Paper Draft (3+ Pages) Due
15	Nov. 26 & Nov. 28	Thanksgiving Break: No Class	
16	Tue., Dec. 3 Class	Class Evaluations	
	Thu., Dec. 5 Lab	Argument Paper Workshop Read: CTA 179 (Checklist for Drafting an Argument) Read: CTA 245 (Checklist for Drafting a Paper)	Argument Paper Draft (5+ pages) Due
17	Thu., Dec. 12 Lab	Project Presentations Starting at 10 a.m.	Argument Paper Due