

ENG 280 – COLLEGE WRITING II (FALL 2016)

Section 036, T, TH 2:00-3:15 p.m., Simpkins 313

Instructor: Dr. Richard Ness

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Office Hours: M 3:15-4:15 p.m.; Tu 3:30-4:30 p.m.; W 2-4:15 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITES:

280 College Writing II. (3) (General Education/ Communication Skills) A second course in college writing, to be taken during sophomore year. Emphasis on the interaction between writer and reader. Prerequisites: ENG 180 and at least 24 s.h. earned.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

A Pocket Style Manual (7th Ed.) by Hacker and Sommers

A notebook and writing utensils for in-class notes and work

A flash drive for saving and backing up written work (it is recommended that students have at least two, since losing or damaging your flash drive will not be considered justification for not turning in an assignment)

Folders for readings, responses, and course-work

A binder for submitting your final portfolio

Critical essays and writing examples will be assigned throughout the semester and made available on-line and/or through the Malpass Library's E-reserve system

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To expand on the writing skills acquired in ENG 180 and apply them to a number of writing situations by preparing and executing effective and well-constructed essays
- To develop and demonstrate good research skills, including the ability to evaluate sources, formulate research questions, prepare a literature review, and utilize sources appropriately in your work
- To demonstrate an ability to formulate, articulate, and defend an argument using appropriate supporting materials
- To analyze the ways that writing communicates to readers and the different ways in which audiences receive and respond to written work
- To develop strong analytical skills in determining what makes effective writing through revision of your work, peer reviews, and critical analysis of selected works
- To achieve an understanding of theoretical concepts and terminology and their application to effective writing, including discourse communities, genre, rhetoric, and critical thinking

GROUND RULES:

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY – Assignments submitted after the specified due date WILL NOT BE GRADED. Comments and feedback may be provided, but the score will be recorded as a zero. Students anticipating a problem meeting a deadline or attending a class session when an assignment is due must contact the instructor IN ADVANCE to make arrangements. No exceptions will be made to this policy. NOTE: Completed

assignments WILL NOT be accepted if submitted via email, unless specific arrangements have been made with the instructor prior to the due date (also note that if permission is given for an email submission it must be sent in Microsoft Word format).

ATTENDANCE – Since a major component of this course is in-class work and evaluation of each other's writing, attendance for all class sessions is mandatory. Missing a class period will seriously undermine a student's ability to pass the class. Because this class only meets twice a week, students having more than three absences will be asked to drop the class. If you must miss a class period, you should notify the instructor in advance and make arrangements to complete any assigned work. An absence does not constitute grounds for missing a due date, so students are expected to turn in work on time even if it is necessary to miss a class period. Arriving late to class also will be grounds for marking a student absent. Students who repeatedly come late to class will be asked to drop the course.

Students with prolonged or repeated absences should also contact the Student Development Office at

http://www.wiu.edu/student_services/student_development_office

For more information visit the full policy at

<http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/stuabsc.php>

NOTE THAT THIS CLASS IS DESIGNATED A NO CELLPHONE ZONE. If you must bring cell phones, iPods, iPads, MP3 players or other electronic devices into the classroom they **NEED TO BE TURNED OFF AND PUT AWAY DURING ALL CLASS SESSIONS**, unless the instructor has indicated that such devices can be used as part of in-class work. Use of electronic devices during class periods (such as text messaging, answering email, game playing, etc.) **WILL BE GROUNDS FOR STUDENTS RECEIVING A FAILING GRADE FOR THE COURSE.**

PAPERS – Papers must be typed/computer-printed and should reflect accepted standards for university research papers. Assignments should demonstrate a degree of research on the part of the student, combined with careful consideration of the student's own ideas. These assignments often will require that students support their conclusions with specific evidence from the assigned readings as well as from works viewed for the course, so students should get in the habit of taking notes during screenings.

Research and material drawn from outside sources must be properly credited. **PLAGIARISM IS AN INEXCUSABLE OFFENSE AND WILL BE GROUNDS FOR AUTOMATIC FAILURE IN THIS COURSE.** If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, consult the university's policy statement or the instructor prior to submitting an assignment. Any time you quote or paraphrase someone else's work, you must give her/him credit. This includes material from print, audio/video and computer-mediated/Internet sources. The instructor reserves the right to fail any student who does not meet the requirements of the assignments, so any deviations from the guidelines should be discussed well in advance. Also note that even if you share information or discuss the readings with other students in the class, you need to make sure that you each

submit your own individual work for the assignments. Duplication of writing in work submitted by two or more students will be considered grounds for charges of plagiarism. <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php>

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 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. 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>

GRADING -- Assignments will be graded on a point system, with grades determined by a straight percentage. The following is the breakdown for assignments:

Personal Response Essay	-- 125 points
Critical Analysis Essay	-- 125 points
Research/Argumentative Essay, including Annotated Bibliography	-- 150 points
Final Portfolio, including Reflection Paper	-- 50 points
In/Outside Class exercises	-- 50 points

This course will make use of the plus-minus grading system required by the university. The following is the scale that will be used to determine final grades in the class, based on the percentage of total points earned:

100-93 = A
92-90 = A-
89-87 = B+
86-83 = B
82-80 = B-
79-77 = C+
76-73 = C
72-70 = C-
69-67 = D+
66-63 = D
62-60 = D-
59 and below = F

Specific descriptions of the major assignments and in-class exercises will be provided separately. In order to receive a passing grade for this class, students must complete all required assignments. All assignments are evaluated carefully before a grade is given and every effort is made to provide appropriate feedback for the student. Occasionally a student will have an objection to a grade. In such cases, the instructor will reevaluate the assignment and determine if there is justification for a grade change. NOTE: If a student asks for a reconsideration of a grade, the instructor reserves the right to assign a lower, as well as a higher, grade. ALL DISCUSSION OF GRADES MUST BE DONE WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF THE GRADE BEING RECEIVED. THIS INCLUDES THE FINAL GRADE FOR THE COURSE. REEVALUATION OF GRADES WILL NOT BE DONE AFTER THAT TIME.

PLEASE NOTE that this syllabus may be subject to change based on unforeseen or unavoidable circumstances. Students will be notified of any necessary changes.

ENG 280

Welcome to Western's Writing Program. We recognize writing as influenced by complex intuitive, cognitive, rhetorical, social, and ecological processes that develop through social acquisition, training, and reflective practice. Our curriculum is built around five Guiding Principles: Language is social—and so is writing; Writing is work that involves play; Thinking, reading, and writing are intimately connected to each other and to identity; Writing concepts and practices are transferrable; Community is important to the process of writing. Please visit our [website](#) for more on our Guiding Principles.

Catalog Description

280 College Writing II. (3) (General Education/ Communication Skills) A second course in college writing, to be taken during sophomore year. Emphasis on the interaction between writer and reader. Prerequisites: ENG 180 and at least 24 s.h. earned. Designated sections taught with word processors. Graded A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, U, F. IAI: C1 901R.

Course Goals and Objectives

English 280 is the second in a series of required writing courses at Western Illinois University. In English 280, you will continue to learn about writing as a social activity with the goal of approaching inquiry as disciplinary.

Writing Process

- You will acquire flexible strategies to articulate research questions, to conduct primary and secondary research, and to communicate research findings within specific discourse communities.

Discourse Community

- You will identify and describe different discourse communities, with a special emphasis on assessing how community shapes writing, especially in disciplinary and professional contexts.

Rhetoric

- You will analyze and interpret the rhetorical situation (exigence, audience, and context) as a social construct, with special emphasis on assessing how discourse community shapes rhetoric.

Genre

- You will assess how genre sets and systems function in discourse communities, with special emphasis on disciplinary and professional contexts.

Critical Thinking, Reading, and Research

- You will use critical thinking, reading, and research strategies to compose texts that participate in disciplinary and professional conversations, with special emphasis on conducting primary research, selecting secondary sources, and integrating information from these sources with your ideas.

For more information on these objectives, please see [Western Writing Program Objectives](#).

Prerequisites and Timely Completion

There are two prerequisites for English 280: 1) Completion of English 180 (or a first semester writing course accepted for transfer) with a grade of C (73) or better. If you did not earn C or better in 180, you must repeat the course before taking 280; 2) Completion of a minimum of 24 hours of college credit.

When students have not completed English 280 before they are classified as juniors, they are automatically blocked and cannot withdraw from the course without the permission of the Director of Writing. The Director can unblock students if

ENG 280

their instructors certify in writing that those students have made a good faith effort to pass the class that semester. Once students are unblocked they must still withdraw from the class on their own.

Computers in English 280

Even though many sections of 280 will not meet in computer classrooms, you will be required to write with a word processing program, use the Internet for research, and use E-mail and Western Online. Your student fees give you access to computer labs in various locations on campus.

University Writing Center

The University Writing Center offers students at any academic level collaborative, one-on-one consultation on writing projects from any discipline at any point in the writing process. For more information, visit the [University Writing Center website](#).

Grades

In English 280 you can earn a grade of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, U, or F. If you receive a U or an F in 280, you must repeat the course in order to fulfill the Communication Skills requirement. Instructors determine the grading scales used to assign grades; you must earn at least a 73 (C) in order to pass the class. The Western Writing Program has established the following guidelines for U and F grades:

U Grades: If you are not performing satisfactory work but are making a good faith effort to pass a course, you can earn a U (unsatisfactory) grade. You will earn no grade points or credits for a grade of U. However, the U grade is not a penalizing grade because it is not calculated in grade point average (GPA). We consider a good faith effort to include all of the following: 1) attending and participating in class; 2) completing and submitting all components of major papers (bibliographies, drafts, and other materials required by instructors); and 3) completing assigned reading and other assignments in a timely fashion. If you meet requirements but are still not writing at a C or better level at the end of the term, you should receive a U grade for the course. The U grade reinforces our belief that writing is a process that requires considerable time and effort. We believe students who attempt to do the work but fail to meet our standards should not be penalized, but should be permitted to retake the course and continue to improve their writing abilities.

F Grades: If you are not making a good faith effort, you should earn an F (failing) grade. You will earn no grade points or credits for a grade of F. Because the F grade is a penalizing grade, which negatively affects GPA, it is reserved for students whose effort is unsatisfactory for one or more reasons: poor attendance and participation; failure to complete and submit all components of major papers (bibliographies, drafts, and other materials required by instructors); or academic dishonesty. If you choose not to complete course assignments and/or disregard course requirements, you should receive an F grade for the course.

An I (incomplete) grade may be given only when you fail to complete course requirements due to documented circumstances beyond your control. The mere failure to complete an assignment does not justify the recording of an incomplete, unless illness or other emergency is the cause. Incomplete grades are given at the discretion of the instructor.

Academic Dishonesty

Dishonesty of any kind with respect to examinations, course assignments, alteration of records, or illegal possession of examinations is considered cheating. It is your responsibility not only to abstain from cheating but also to avoid making it possible for others to cheat. Any student who knowingly helps another student to cheat is as guilty of cheating as the student he or she assists. The submission of the work of someone else as one's own constitutes plagiarism. Academic honesty requires that ideas or materials taken from another source for use in a course paper or project be fully acknowledged. Multiple submissions, "when one intentionally or knowingly submits substantial portions of the same academic work (including oral reports) for credit more than once without the explicit authorization of both instructors," are also a violation of the [academic integrity policy](#).

ENG 280

Final Examinations

The final examination is considered one of a course's scheduled meeting periods. A course in which a final is not given must still meet during this time. Please see the WIU [final exam schedule](#).

Attendance

The Department of English supports the right of individual faculty members to penalize you for attendance problems, provided the policy and penalties are described in the course syllabus.

This handout, along with your instructor's syllabus, has been prepared to help you understand what you'll be doing in your ENG 280 class. You should read both carefully, ask questions about any points you don't understand, and keep both for future reference.