

**English 376**  
**Professional Development Workshop**  
**Fall 2016 Section 001, W 3:00-4:15**  
**Simpkins 214**

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**Introduction:** This course is designed to help you do something interesting with your degree after you graduate. It's been a long time since that was simple or easy for anyone—especially English majors from a regional state school. As English majors, one of the things we will have spent much of our time talking about is how other English majors have invented careers for themselves that take advantage of their skills and readers and writers and also reflect the unique set of values and ambitions that comes with an education devoted to reading and criticism. Hence our diversity of readings and assignments. Hence the frank discussions we will have about our changing economy and how English majors can fit in to these new realities. Together, we will create strategies you can use to build networks and make the most of your education.

We can put those goals in more academic language:

1. Discover the role research plays in professional development.
2. Articulate professional goals and build a portfolio which will help achieve them.
3. Explore opportunities for post-graduation work, education, and/or service.
4. Learn a little about the shape of the discipline of English studies.
5. Meet professionals who can help with these and related tasks.

No matter how satisfied or unsatisfied you are with English studies, or with WIU, I want you to exit this class with a clearer idea of the ways your studies might help you on the long term.

**Readings:** There are no assigned books. I will share some articles and web pages with you via email and on a web site. Please print them, read them carefully, and bring them to class.

**Major assignments:** Percentage of final grade is indicated for each assignment. See the detailed assignment sheets for specifics, including the breakdown of each assignment into milestones reviewed by me.

A) Participation (10%): Attend class, discuss readings, prepare questions for guests, participate in workshops, and contribute to peer review or other collaborative work.

B) Interview (30%): Prepare for and conduct an interview with a professional who has a position you desire or appeals to you; write a short report of your interview.

C) Professional portfolio (60%): Prepare documents appropriate for your career goals and your time-to-degree, an essay which outlines your goals and values, and a collection of papers you have written as an English major.

**Attendance:** This course emphasizes class participation and interaction. To do well, consistent attendance is crucial.

- The total percentage of class you miss will be deducted from your final grade. (For instance, let's say the class meets 30 times. If you miss four class periods, that's 13.4% of the class. If you have an A in the course, deducting 13.4% from 100% leaves you with 86.6, just missing the B+ and resulting in a B for the course). Your attendance will be calculated against days the class actually meets.
- Coming to class without the required texts will be considered an absence and you may be asked to leave class.
- Texts including our primary books, course pack readings, and web readings must be printed on paper. You cannot read these on any digital device and be considered present in class. Coming to class without printed copies on paper will result in an absence for the day.
- Cellphones must be turned off during class. If your cellphone rings in class, it will result in an absence for the day. Anyone texting or otherwise using a cellphone in class will be asked to leave and will receive an absence for the day.

**Deadlines:** The course schedule includes the deadlines for every assignment. All papers are due in class, printed on paper. If for some reason you have to miss class on the day an assignment is due, make arrangements with another class member to turn in the printed hard copy of your work on time for you. Deadlines are not negotiable, and late work will not be accepted. If you find yourself in the hands of angry gods, speak to me as soon as possible.

**Workshop drafts:** For almost every paper, you will be required to create a workshop draft. If you do not submit a complete draft that meets the minimum length of the paper in class on the day of a workshop, the highest grade you can receive for the final draft will be a D.

**Participation and conduct:** The success of this course depends not only on individual assignments, but also on the class working together. In order to create a productive and challenging class we must treat one another with respect at all times. A productive and interesting class emerges through our conflicts, disagreements, and debates, but in order to learn from one another we must always work within an ethic of care and mutual respect.

**Academic honesty:** Ethical use of others' ideas is a critical part of English studies. Plagiarism (use of another's ideas, data, and statements with little or no acknowledgment), collusion (unauthorized or undocumented collaboration), or re-submission (presenting an assignment previously completed for course credit) are not permissible. If you are unsure how to document sources or quote another writer, and your question isn't answered by your *MLA Handbook*, please ask me. Academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the assignment in question, possibly a failing grade for the entire class, and will be reported in accordance with WIU's Academic Dishonesty Policy.

**Students with differences:** I would like to hear from anyone who has a difference that may require some modification in seating, testing, or other class requirements so that appropriate arrangements may be made. Please speak with me after class or make an appointment. See below for an official announcement from WIU on this topic.

**Problems:** If you experience any difficulties or frustrations with any aspect of the course, I urge you to speak with me either during office hours or by appointment. I always shape courses through student suggestions.

**Agreement:** By remaining in this section of ENG 376, you agree to accept the policies articulated in this syllabus.

**WIU brings you the following announcements:** 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. 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 should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow in such an emergency. Contact Disability Support Services at 298-2515 for additional services.

It is the responsibility of the student to comply with the prerequisites/corequisites for a course that he/she plans to take. Instructors who place the appropriate information on the syllabus and emphasize it during the first three class periods may exclude a student from the class who does not meet the prerequisites/corequisites by sending a note to the student with a copy to the registrar within the first two weeks of the term.