ENG 180: College Writing I
Prof. Christine E. Iwanicki
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Writing means sharing. It's part of the human condition to want to share things--thoughts, ideas, opinions
Paulo Coelho

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Required Text:

University Catalog Description of This Course: ENG 180--College Writing I. Introduction to college writing, with an emphasis on the writing process, reflective writing, and critical thinking. All sections taught with word processors. Graded: A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, U, F. I. A final grade of C-, D+, D, or D- IS NOT AVAILABLE IN ENG 180, although I will use those grades to score individual papers per each assignment throughout the semester. You cannot receive a C-, D+, D, or D- as a final grade in ENG 180.

Course Overview: The ability to communicate in writing is essential for success in college course work and professional careers after graduation. Through this course, students will have opportunities inside and out of class to develop foundational composition skills and to study and enhance their ability to communicate across disciplinary and other contexts. The overriding goal of the course is for students to develop a baseline ability to communicate within different genres, using different writing styles and while adhering to standard grammatical rules. ENG 180 is the first in a course sequence designed to prepare students to write across disciplines and modalities. The course is designed to allow students to use personal writing and their own interests as a way into public academic writing. Students will choose paper topics based on their interests and concerns, and then work independently and collectively to develop organized, effective compositions in specific genres, including: a personal essay, a persuasive argument, an informative report, and a research essay. Assignments designed for the course will address organization, sentence and paragraph development, genre, grammar, and citation. Each assignment builds on the previous one and each is more difficult than the one before, which allows students to practice writing techniques thoroughly and comprehensively throughout the semester.
**Course Objectives:** In English 180, the following objectives will be explored through lectures, in-class activities, and at-home writing assignments:

- **Discourse Community Knowledge:** You will analyze the relationships among discourse communities;
- **Writing Process Knowledge:** You will practice writing and revision processes in writing lab environment, and will have the opportunity to analyze the relationships between the writing process and rhetorical situations;
- **Rhetorical Knowledge:** You will develop strategies that allow you to practice adaptability in reading, analysis, evaluation, and text-driven discourse for a variety of purposes and through a variety of rhetorical situations;
- **Genre Knowledge:** You will develop a working knowledge of genre by paying attention to research standards and writing conventions; and
- **Knowledge Domains:** You will assert writing knowledge through and have firsthand experience writing within various mediums, in order to understand the concepts of 'discourse communities', 'writing processes', 'rhetoric', and 'genre knowledge'.

For a complete list of the standard objectives for English 180, see the Writing Program's handout, provided in .pdf form here: [http://www.wiu.edu/cas/english_and_journalism/writing.php](http://www.wiu.edu/cas/english_and_journalism/writing.php)

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).

**Workload:** English 180 is writing intensive. You will write a total of six papers in English 180. In some cases, submitting rough drafts, along with the finished product, will be required parts of the assignment process. Keep all the work that you do in this course saved on a portable computerized storage device of your choice. Don’t save your work to the computer in the writing lab (Simpkins 319), because those machines are periodically “swept clean.” Any work that you think you are saving to the computer in the lab will eventually be erased and lost in a short amount of time. Back-up your work in as many different ways as possible. We all know that technology can sometimes fail, so devise different ways of saving your work. Work lost due to inadequate storage will require you to start from scratch and to re-submit your work. Save time by having a back-up system in place.

**Attendance:** Attendance at all classes is required, and absenteeism is unacceptable. At the same time, we are all human, and sometimes unexpected things (personal illness, a family emergency, etc.) can occur. In some cases, you may have an ongoing medical condition that necessitates treatment, etc. For these reasons, you will be permitted up to SIX (6) absences during the semester
for which I will not require documentation nor apply a penalty toward your final grade. Any absences above and beyond 6, however, will require documentation. Your final average grade in the class will be penalized with a deduction of -3 points per undocumented absence. Thus, let’s say you are absent for a total of 8 days in the class. The first six absences do not count against you, but the next two (2) do---unless you have provided documentation of a legitimate reason for missing class. But if you have not provided adequate documentation, your final grade will be subject to a penalty of –3 points for each of the additional 2 classes you missed without documentation. 2 x –3 points = a deduction of 6 points. If your average at the end of the course is, for example, 100, it will become an average of 94 (100 – 6 = 94). If your average at the end of the semester is a 70, the penalty of -6 points will result in a final grade of 64, which is the equivalent of a grade of D. The D GRADE IS NOT AVAILABLE IN ENG 180. THE LOWEST GRADE YOU CAN ACHIEVE IN ORDER TO PASS ENG 180 IS A GRADE OF C. I will have to issue either a grade of F or U to those who do not achieve at least a final grade of C in the class.

**Documented, legitimate reasons for absence will not be held against you.** But, if you end up missing a significant amount of class time and you DO NOT provide legitimate documentation, your final grade will be affected. All situations will be handled on an individual, case-by-case basis. I will take attendance at each class, and any student who falls into a pattern of unjustified, undocumented, unexcused absenteeism (above and beyond the 6 days you are allowed) will find his or her final grade adversely affected by the numerical penalties described above.

Tardiness to class will be penalized on a case-by-case basis. If you are tardy more than 5 times, expect your final grade to be dropped by ***at least*** one full letter grade beyond what you would have received if you had not been tardy. Tardiness means arriving more than 5 minutes late to any given class. If you cannot arrive at class on time, then drop this section of ENG 180. Do not blame the campus bus, the location/duration of your previous class, or the weather for your inability to arrive at class on time.

**Class Participation and Involvement:** This course will involve both lab work and class work. Participation in class discussions and productivity in all parts of the course (esp. lab sessions) are basic requirements for passing this course. You are expected to share your rough drafts, your questions, and your ideas on a regular basis with the rest of the class. There is a direct correlation between the quality of our collective classroom experience, and the quality of your attendance, participation, and preparation for lab and class meetings.

**Cell Phones:** Please make sure that your cell phone is OFF during class. If you step outside the classroom to place or receive a call, you will be considered absent and not permitted to return to class. Do not let this happen.
Bathroom, Water fountain, etc.: Please take care of your personal needs before class. Walking out of class for these purposes is disruptive.

Conferences: During the semester, at times you will be expected to meet with me during writing lab periods to discuss your progress on individual writing assignments. You will be informed of these opportunities in advance.

Writing Center: The Western Illinois University Writing Center is available to all students, providing assistance with any aspect of the writing process. It is in your best interest to utilize this valuable resource.

Academic Integrity: We will discuss academic integrity throughout the course, as it is an integral part of our campus community. Acts of plagiarism and cheating may result in failure in the course and referral for academic discipline, as described here: http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php.

Office Hours: My office hours are indicated at the top of this syllabus. If these hours are not convenient for you, you may make an appointment to meet with me at a time that is more convenient. You may also send me any questions you have about the course via e-mail: C-Iwanicki@wiu.edu.

Notification of Extended Absence: If you develop a personal situation (illness, family problem, etc.) that will result in your missing class beyond one week, you need to inform the Office of Student Development (298-1884). This office will notify ALL of your professors about your situation. It is in your interest to work with this office. And, of course, you should also make sure that you talk to me and keep me informed about your situation. It is your responsibility to keep the lines of communication open. Without appropriate documentation and communication, your situation will be perceived as a case of reckless absenteeism and will be treated as such.

Disability Resource Center: 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. For more info., contact the Disability Resource Ctr at 298-2512 or its website: http://www.wiu.edu/student_services/disability_resource_center/.

Please review your “Student Rights and Responsibilities” at http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students and see me with any questions.
SPECIAL STATEMENT FROM WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY: “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 this to the Title IX Coordinator at 309-2981977, 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.

Requirements

• There will be 6 formal papers of varying lengths. Keep in mind that each assignment builds upon the previous assignment, so you need to keep up with all the assignments and not fall behind. I reserve the right to penalize late papers at my discretion by at least a full letter grade.

• Occasionally there might be group work in class. People who work in groups need to be prepared and responsible, because the group’s success will be determined by each individual’s contributions. It is unacceptable for one person in the group to carry the burden of doing work that should be performed by all members of the group.

• Save all copies of your work in a reliable way. Devise a dependable, PORTABLE system that will give you access to your work. This applies to work you do during your own time at home, as well as any work you do in the ENG 180 computer lab. You will need access to all of your work from the semester when you write your final paper at the end of the course.

• All assignments are due on the date assigned at the beginning of class. You must bring a hard copy of your paper with you to class on the due date. You must make the print-out on your own time outside of class. We will have neither the time nor the resources for you to make print-outs of your final versions of homework in the computer lab.

• All writing assignments are to be word processed and double-spaced with standard 1-inch margins and printed in 12-point font. Times New Roman and Helvetica are preferred fonts.

• Class work, in the form of participation, cooperative behavior, and adequate preparation, also has an impact on your overall course grade. Come to class prepared. Respect each other and me. Everyone has the right to express their ideas about every topic we discuss, and you are encouraged to do so at each class.
Grading Criteria

All six papers will be weighted equally, so don't skip any assignments or prepare a shorter paper haphazardly just because it's a short assignment. At the end of the semester, I will determine your final grade by computing the average of your six formal papers. You can enhance your grade through regular participation in class discussions, coming to class/lab prepared to work, and having regular attendance. Remember, that there will be flat point deductions taken from your final class average grade for excessive, undocumented absences above and beyond the 6 classes you may miss without a penalty.

Grading Scale for ENG 180:

A: 93-100
A-: 90-92
B+: 87-89
B: 83-86
B-: 80-82
C+: 77-79
C: 73-76

In ENG 180, C is the lowest possible grade for passing the course. You must receive a C or better to pass the course. I will calculate grades below C according to the scale below, but please don't put yourself in that position.

D/U: 60-72
F: 59 and below
ENG 180: Outline of Major Paper Assignments

Please note how each paper builds on the previous one. For this reason, you will want to make careful choices about the topics you select for each assignment.

Paper 1: The Personal Narrative: This paper tells a general story about you, based on a significant event in your life. Length: 500-750 words/2-3 pages.

Paper 2: The Reflection Paper: This assignment is an analysis of the experience you recorded in your personal narrative. It is a transformation of the experience you wrote about in your first paper, in which you will now explore the larger meaning of the experience discussed in paper 1. Length: 750 words / 3 pages.

Paper 3: The Opinion Paper: For this assignment, you will choose and define a controversial issue, decide whether you are for or against that issue, and give reasons both for your choice of the issue and position on the issue. Length: 3 pages: 750 words. The topic you select for this assignment will be the topic you will continue to explore in paper 4.

Paper 4: The Research Position Paper: This paper explores the same topic you addressed in paper 3, but now you will consult secondary sources (books, journals, newspapers, reliable & substantive web sites, government documents, etc.) in order to discover how other perspectives contribute to a deeper and wider understanding of the topic you covered in paper 3. Your paper will include a list of “Works Cited,” in which you list, in proper bibliographic format, all sources consulted for this assignment. This list, along with the inclusion of the information from the secondary sources, will be prepared according to Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines. Length: 4-6 pages: 1000-1500 words.

Paper 5: Timed, In-Class 50-minute Essay (to be done during our meeting during Finals Week). In preparation for this assignment, you will be given a packet of articles to read. You may bring the articles with you and you may consult them as you write your essay. Length: minimum of 500 words/ 2 pages. You will report to a location TBA in order to do this assignment, on the date/time reserved for us according to the final exam schedule. More information forthcoming as we approach the end of the semester.

Paper 6: Case Study of Yourself as a Writer: For this final paper in ENG 180, you will analyze all of your writing from throughout the semester (with the exception of assignment 5. For paper 6, you will consider how you view the place of language and writing in your daily life, and you will consider---among other questions---the features of language use that define you as a writer. A full list of questions and guidelines for this assignment will be distributed as we near the deadline for this assignment. This assignment will be due on the last day of the
Tentative Course Schedule

Week 1: (M) Aug. 21; (W) Aug. 23; (F) Aug. 25
Guidelines for Assignment #1 distributed: The Personal Narrative
Exploration of relationships between “public” and “private” writing
Reading: Palmquist Chapter 1

Week 2: (M) Aug. 28; (W) Aug. 30; (F) Sept. 1
The Personal Narrative Assignment continued
Reading: Palmquist Chapter 2

Week 3: (M) Sept. 4: Labor Day—No Class; (W) Sept. 6 (F) Sept. 8
Development of paper #1 continues
Paper #1 due Monday, Sept. 11
Begin preparation for paper #2, The Reflection Paper

Week 4: (M) Sept. 11; (W) Sept. 13; (F) Sept. 15
Above con’t; continue on Paper #2
Read: Palmquist Chapters 4 and 5

Week 5: (M) Sept. 18; (W) Sept. 20; (F) Sept. 22
Paper #2 due: Monday, Oct. 3
Begin preparation of Paper #3
Read: Palmquist Chapter 3

Week 6: (M) Sept. 25; (W) Sept. 27; (F) Sept. 29
Controversial Issues Segment: Preparation of paper 3 continues
Read: Palmquist Chapters 6 and 7

Week 7: (M) Oct. 2; (W) Oct. 4; (F) Oct. 6
Above con’t.
Read: Palmquist Chapter 10

Week 8: (M) Oct. 9; (W) Oct. 11; (F) Oct. 13
Discourse, rhetoric, and genre
Read: Palmquist Chapters 18 and 13

Week 9: (M) Oct. 16; (W) Oct. 18; (F) Oct. 20: ---FALL BREAK: NO CLASS
Paper 3 due on Oct. 21

Week 10: (M) Oct. 23; (W) Oct. 25; (F) Oct. 27:
Topic: Research
Begin preparation of paper 4, the mini-research paper.
Read: Palmquist Chapters 11 and 12
Week 11: (M) Oct. 30; (W) Nov. 1; (F) Nov. 3:
The drafting of paper 4 continues.
Rough draft of Paper 4 due on Monday, Nov. 6.
Read: Palmquist Chapters 6 and 23

Week 12: (M) Nov. 6, (W) Nov. 8, (F) Nov. 10:
Continue with the drafting of paper #4.
Read: Palmquist Chapters 9 and 21

Week 13: (M) Nov. 13; W-Nov. 15; F-Nov. 17
****Final Draft of Paper 4 due on Wed. Nov. 16***** (see special instructions on your assignment sheet)
Read: Palmquist Chapters 10, 14, and 15

THANKSGIVING BREAK: Monday, Nov. 20 to Friday, Nov. 24

Week 14: (M) Nov. 27; (W) Nov. 29: (F) Dec. 1
Begin working on Paper #6, The Case Study of Yourself as a Writer
Read: Palmquist Chapters 16 and 17

Week 15: (M) Dec. 4; (W) Dec. 6; (F) Dec. 8
Readings and Instructions for Assignment #5
(The 50-Minute Essay) to be distributed and discussed
Read: Palmquist Chapter 20

Week 16: Final Exam Week: (Mon.-Dec. 11 to Fri., Dec. 15). Instructions for our procedures during finals week will be given to you during the week of Dec. 4. Make sure that you plan to meet for ENG 180 during finals week. You will do Assignment #5 at that time (More explanation about this will be given to you as the date nears.) Paper #6 will also be due when we meet for the 50-Minute Essay during Finals Week.

Final Exam: [http://www.wiu.edu/registrar/exams.php](http://www.wiu.edu/registrar/exams.php). Consult this schedule for any questions you may have about the final exam time for any of your classes for the Fall 2017 semester. Please plan to meet during final exams week in the computer lab, according to the scheduled time allotted to your individual section of the course.