ENGLISH 280 – Spring 2015

The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand. - Vince Lombardi

Class: Sec. 1 – 8:00 - 8:50, MWF, SI 319/315
Sec. 7 – 9:00 – 9:50, MWF, SI 319/315
Instructor: Kathleen O’Donnell-Brown
Office: Simpkins 316/317
Office Hours: 10-12 MWF or by appointment
Office Phone: 298-1426
E-mail: k-odonnell-brown@wiu.edu – Contact me by this method, please.
Texts: From Critical Thinking to Argument – 4th Ed. – Barnet and Bedau

Course Objectives:

English 280 is “A second course in college writing, to be taken during sophomore year. Emphasis on the interaction between writer and reader. Prerequisites: English 180 and 24 s.h. earned.” (From the College Catalog.) Additionally, a minimum grade of “C” must have been earned in 180 or its transferred equivalent.

In addition to meeting the objectives established by the Department of English, we will concentrate on critical reading and writing skills. Students will practice reading, summary, and analysis skills in connection with the writings of others. Students will learn skills connected with in-depth research of a topic. The research gained will be compiled into a written paper showing mastery of writing conventions including documentation of outside sources. Argument structure and writing will also be studied.

Attendance/participation:

Students are expected to be present and prepared at all class meetings. Much of our classwork will involve cooperative learning exercises and in-class discussions pertaining to the assignments, which makes attendance doubly important. Students who are habitually tardy will be denied admittance to class. Please do not schedule classes back-to-back if you will be unable to get to this class on time. I take attendance but do not have a punitive attendance policy. Students not in class may complete assignments but those assignments will only earn 50% of the total points possible. Late essays will be docked 10% of total points earned; ANY ESSAY NOT SUBMITTED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CLASS PERIOD IS LATE. Assignments are accepted ONLY by those students attending class or through pre-arrangement. Absences are excused only for those with documented cases involving severe illness, the death of a close relative, or through school sanctioned activities.

NOTE: Documents for this course will be posted on WesternOnline along with some writing assignments and discussions. No one but enrolled students should have access to this course site. DO NOT give access information to anyone, please. If parents or others wish to see the syllabus, assignments or your grades, they may be downloaded and transmitted.
Important Dates:
1/26 – Open Enrollment Ends; 4/5 – Last Day to Drop 16 week Classes:
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, 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. The instructor and Director will NOT be available on 4/5, as it is a Sunday. Ask before Thursday at noon (if not before) to be sure of a decision before the drop date.

Plagiarism:
Please re-read the section on academic dishonesty on the departmental information sheet. Any student caught in plagiarism will receive a zero on that assignment, making it difficult to pass the course. Plagiarism includes, among other things, using materials without proper citation, representing copied papers as your own, reusing papers without permission, lending papers to others, etc. Please also access the University policy defining all academic dishonesty and explaining penalties and procedures http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php
Information on academic integrity along with other information on student rights and responsibilities can be found at http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students.php

Course Grade:
All completed assignments in this class will receive points which will be totaled at the end of the semester to calculate your grade. Points earned divided by points possible will result in a percentage and a corresponding grade. A grade of at least a “C” (73% minimum) is necessary in order to receive credit for English 280. Students earning 60-72% will be given a “U”, which means repeating the class. A “U” does NOT affect your GPA. Students earning below 60% will receive an “F”. “F” means repeating the class and it DOES affect your GPA.

All grades will be posted on WesternOnline. Please track your grade and let me know if there are errors or omissions. Per the +/- Grading Policy, this will be the grading scale for this semester: A (93-100); A- (90-92); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-82); C+ (77-79); C (73-76); U (60-72); F (0-59). Information on how this translates to your GPA can be found at http://www.wiu.edu/Registrar/plusminus.php.

Assignments this semester will include the following:
Essay # 1 – Discourse Communities 50 pts.
Essay #2 - Analysis 50 pts.
In-Class Mid-Term Essay 30 pts.
Essay #3 – Interview/Research Question 70 pts.
Annotated Bibliography 25 pts.
Essay #4 – Multimodal Argument 120 pts.
Final Portfolio 50 pts.
Summaries/responses to articles 60 pts.
Short writings/quizzes/exercises 50-80 pts.
TOTAL (ranges from 500-550)
Some details are attached to this syllabus as an addendum page. Specific instructions and grading criteria will be given for each essay as it is assigned. Late essays will be accepted until one week after the due date and will be docked 10% of total points earned. Any assignment or essay not submitted at the very beginning of class is considered late. No exceptions will be made except in the case of school sanctioned absence, severe illness or bereavement. Further instructions on article summaries will be given on a separate sheet. All in-class exercises and assignments may be submitted by absent students up to one week after the due date for 50% of points. No assignments will be accepted except from students attending class. All assignments will be found on the Western Online website. No assignments are to be submitted through email unless prior permission has been given.

If you miss class, it is your responsibility to consult the class schedule to get the information you have missed and to see what is due the next class period. All material will be posted on Western Online. Do not email and ask me what you missed – check Western Online for the activities you missed and the assignments for the next class. Do email through campus email if you have questions about those activities and assignments. I am available for individual help during office hours or at other agreed upon times. Please take advantage of this opportunity for individual assistance with writing projects. You can visit the Writing Center for help on any writing project.

“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 the Disability Resource Center 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 the Disability Resource Center at 298-2512 for additional services.”
ASSIGNMENT ADDENDUM:

Essay #1 – Discourse Communities – ≈10%
Student will write an essay evaluating and exploring a discourse community they belong to now or in the past.
Length – 3 page minimum (approx. 1000 words)
Evaluated on strength/clarity of information including examples and development. Must be in correct Edited American English.

Essay #2 – Analysis of Articles – ≈10%
Student will write an essay analyzing a published article in a specific field. Areas of analysis to be discussed include discourse community, genre, and rhetorical knowledge.
Length – 3 page minimum (approx. 1000 words)
Evaluated on discussion of analysis areas above including examples and quotes, along with correct conventions of Edited American English.

Essay #3 – Interview – ≈13%
Student will interview a person/persons connected with a specific discourse community, then write about that discourse community including information on genre, discourse community, rhetorical knowledge, etc. The essay will also include secondary sources which will be documented in MLA format.
Length – 4 page minimum (approx. 1500 words)
Evaluated on the analysis of their interview along with correct conventions of Edited American English.

Essay #4 – Argument Essay – ≈24%
Student will write a researched argument concerning writing and using MLA documentation. Students will use primary research, class readings, and secondary research as support.
Length – 6 page minimum (approx. 2000 words)
Evaluated on clarity of argument, use of credible evidence as support, correct MLA documentation form, and correct Edited American English. Students MUST get at least a “D” on this essay in order to pass the course.

Mid-Term In-Class Essay – ≈6%
Student will respond to a choice of questions concerning an article read and discussed in class.
Length – 2 page minimum (500-750 words)
Evaluated on clarity of answer, use of support from readings and personal experience, and use of correct Edited American English.

Final Portfolio – ≈10%
Students will construct a final portfolio involving revision of one of their essays along with an evaluation of their writing process and discourse community.
Evaluated on substance of their revision and completeness of self-evaluation along with the use of correct Edited American English.