

**Department of English & Journalism**  
**ENG 280, Section 13: College Writing II**  
**Spring 2015**

Meeting Time: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:00-10:50 a.m.

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

Instructor: Dr. Jose Fernandez

Office: Simpkins Hall 09

Office Phone: 309-298-1042

Office Hours: Monday 2:00-4:00 p.m., Wednesday and Friday 2:00-3:00 p.m., and by appointment.

E-mail: jo-fernandez@wiu.edu

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 continue practicing and improving your writing and analytical skills. This class will take the form of a writing workshop. College Writing II involves reading, analyzing, and reflecting on the argumentative strategies of other writers, so you can become a better and more confident writer. The theme for the first half 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. During the second half of the semester, we will take a similar approach to a topic selected by students. 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 and arguments made 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 writing process and revision of papers;
- Learn and practice MLA (Modern Language Association) 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*. 4th. ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2010. (ISBN: 9781457649950).

**Assignments and Evaluations:**

Class Participation & Activities	150 points
Writing Exercises	200 points
Visual Analysis & Presentation	100 points
Interview Narrative	150 points
Research Proposal & Annotated Bibliography	150 points
Argument Paper	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 exercises, activities, short online posts, responses to posts, and short and extended group discussions 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, textbook, a flash drive, and the appropriate material to each class.
- **Writing Exercises:** 10-12 short writing exercises worth 15-20 points each. In most cases, writing exercises will either ask you to answer questions, write a reaction, response, or analysis from an assigned reading. Most writing exercises will help you to brainstorm, prewrite, formulate ideas, or write a short draft for one of the class's larger writing assignments. The posts will be submitted electronically via WesternOnline before the beginning of class. LATE posts will be accepted, but you will lose five points for each class the post is late. INCOMPLETE posts will not receive full credit.
- **Visual Analysis & Presentation:** Students will analyze and write an argument (900-1200 words) about a TV advertisement related to food using visual evidence. Students will present their ideas, claims, and arguments in a short group presentation.
- **Interview Narrative:** You will conduct a field interview with a food or nutrition "expert" and write about your findings and experience in a paper (900-1200 words) that will combine parts of your interview with a detailed narrative or description of the interview.
- **Research Proposal and Annotated Bibliography:** In this paper (1200-1500 words), you will select a subtopic to write your final term paper (the "Argument Paper"). The proposal will also include an explanation for selecting your subtopic, a draft thesis statement, and an annotated list of the sources you plan to use in the next Argument Paper.
- **Argument Paper:** A research-based paper (2100-2400 words) based on your Research Proposal and Annotated Bibliography. This paper will required you to take a position, make an argument based on your selected subtopic, and use sources to back up your argument. Note: students must receive a passing grade on the Argument Paper in order to pass the class.

### **General Guidelines for Paper Submissions:**

I will post an instructions sheet with an evaluation criteria on WesternOnline for each of the four major papers. All your draft and revised papers will be submitted electronically as a Microsoft Word document in the “dropbox” section of 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, read the “Guidelines for Papers in MLA Format” sheet posted on WesternOnline. You will get feedback on most draft papers before you receive a paper’s final grade. Make sure you 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 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 FIVE excused or unexcused absences without penalty, but you are still responsible for meeting writing exercises and papers’ deadlines (students, however, will NOT be able to make up for missing work that occurs during class). **Beginning with your sixth absence, you will lose 15 points from your class participation grade for each subsequent absence.** Attend class on time; every time a student accumulates two “late” attendances (5 minutes after class begins), they will be counted as ONE absence. **Keep in mind that if you accumulate more than eight absences, you will NOT receive a passing grade in this course.**

### **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 (texting, social media, checking email, etc.). **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 in advance.** 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. **You may receive a warning, but every time you do not comply with these expectations, it may automatically affect your class participation grade (with or without a warning).**

### **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 when I will be available to work with you individually on any of the class assignments.

### **Individual Conferences:**

We will have two individual conferences during the semester where we will discuss and work on your draft papers that will be submitted in the “dropbox” section of WesternOnline before our meeting. Attending your conference will be part of the paper’s final grade and missing your conference will also count as an absence. Note: if you visit me during office hours or arrange an

individual conference while finding sources or writing your Research Proposal and Annotated Bibliography, you will receive five extra credit points.

### **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 writing exercise or 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:**

Monday, January 26: Last day of open registration.

Monday, February 2: Last day of restricted registration.

Monday, April 6: 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 319

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

Wk	Date & Place	Class Topic & Readings Due before Class	Writing Exercises & Papers Due before Class
1	W, Jan. 21 Class	Introductions & Academic Interests	
	F, Jan. 23 Lab	Course Overview, Goals, and Objectives	
2	M, Jan. 26 Class	Topic: Argumentation & Rhetorical Appeals (Ethos, Logos, & Pathos) Read: CTA 70-73 & 96-108 (Ethos, Logos, & Pathos)	Syllabus Questionnaire Due (reply to post on WO)
	W, Jan. 28 Lab	Topic: Visual Rhetoric Read: CTA 117-135 (Visual Rhetoric)	Writing Exercise 1 Due (reply to post on WO)
	F, Jan. 30 Class	Topic: Audience Read: CTA 179-184	
3	M, Feb. 2 Lab	Read: CTA 135 (Checklist for Analyzing Ads)	Writing Exercise 2 Due
	W, Feb. 4 Class		
	F, Feb. 6 Lab	Visual Analysis Workshop Read: CTA 155 (Checklist for Analyzing a Text)	Draft Visual Analysis Due (upload electronic copy on WO)
4	M, Feb. 9 Class		
	W, Feb. 11 Lab	Visual Analysis Presentations	Visual Analysis Due
	F, Feb. 13	No Class: Writing Program Assessment	
5	M, Feb. 16 Class	Topic: Critical Thinking & Asking Questions Read: CTA 3-23 (Critical Thinking) Read: Articles posted on WO under "Readings Folder"	Writing Exercise 3 Due
	W, Feb. 18 Lab	Topic: Conducting Interviews & Reporting Information Read: CTA 224-226 (Interviewing Experts)	
	F, Feb. 20 Class	Read: Articles posted on WO under "Readings Folder"	Writing Exercise 4 Due
6	M, Feb. 23 Lab	Topic: Using Description and Detail in Narrative	
	W, Feb. 25 Class		Writing Exercise 5 Due

	F, Feb. 27 Lab	Read: Articles posted on WO under “Readings Folder”	
7	M-F Mar 2-6	No Classes: Individual Conferences	Interview Transcripts & Draft Narrative Due before Conference
8	M, Mar. 9 Lab	Read: Articles posted on WO under “Readings Folder”	Writing Exercise 6 Due
	W, Mar. 11 Class		Interview Narrative Due
	F, Mar. 13 Lab	Read: Articles posted on WO under “Readings Folder”	Writing Exercise 7 Due
9	Mar. 16-20	No Classes: Spring Break	
10	M, Mar. 23 Class	Topic: Selecting a Subtopic for Research Proposal	
	W, Mar. 25 Lab	Topic: Finding & Evaluating Sources Read: CTA: 214-232 (Finding and Evaluating Sources) Read: CTA 231 (Checklist for Evaluating Online Sources)	Writing Exercise 8 Due
	F, Mar. 27 Class	Topic: Drafting a Thesis Statement Read: CTA: 178-179 (Writing a Thesis Statement) Topic: MLA Documentation Read: CTA: 253-266 (MLA Documentation)	
11	M, Mar. 30 Lab	Topic: Writing an Annotated Bibliography Read: CTA 236-237 (Annotated Bibliography)	
	W, Apr. 1 Class	Topic: Summarizing Sources Read: CTA 45-54 (Writing Summaries)	Writing Exercise 9 Due
	F, Apr. 3 Lab		
12	M, Apr. 6 Class		
	W, Apr. 8 Lab	Topic: From Research Proposal to Argument Paper Topic: Analyzing and Responding to Arguments Read: CTA: 147-155 (Analyzing an Argument)	Research Proposal & Annotated Bibliography Due
	F, Apr. 10 Class	Read: Articles posted on WO under “Readings Folder”	
13	M, Apr. 13 Lab	Topic: Use of Quotations & In-Text Citations Following MLA Format Read: CTA: 243-253 (Quoting from Sources Using MLA Documentation)	
	W, Apr. 15 Class	Read: Articles posted on WO under “Readings Folder”	Writing Exercise 10 Due
	F, Apr. 17 Lab	Read: CTA 273-280 (Sample MLA Paper) Read: CTA 232-236 (Note on Plagiarism)	
14	M, Apr. 20 Class	Topic: Writing an Outline Read: CTA 194-196 (Writing an Outline)	
	W, Apr. 22 Lab		
	F, Apr. 24 Class	Read: Articles posted on WO under “Readings Folder”	Writing Exercise 11 Due
15	M-F Apr. 27-May 1	No Classes: Individual Conferences	Draft Outline, Revised Thesis Statement, & Draft Argument Paper (3+ Pages) Due

16	M, May 4 Class	Class Evaluations	
	W, May 6 Lab	Argument Paper Workshop/Last Day of Classes Read: CTA 205 (Checklist for Draft Argument) Read: CTA 271 (Checklist for Argument Paper)	Draft Argument Paper (4+ pages) & Draft Works Cited Page Due
	F, May 8 Class	No Class: Optional Individual Conference	
17	M, May 11		Outline & Argument Paper Due by 10:00 a.m.