

English 280: College Writing II

Section Q1: 12:30 – 3:00 pm on Tuesdays

Session: Spring 2015
Instructor: Dr. Barclay
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Required Texts:

FieldWorking, 4th edition
*Selected online and library sources**

Sunstein and Chiseri-Strater
various authors

Recommended text:

A Pocket Style Manual, 7th edition

Hacker & Sommers

*Most of these readings will be made available online and some will be emailed directly to your WIU email account. You must have access to your Zimbra account and Western Online. If you have issues with either, please call the help desk at 298-2704.

Materials to Be Brought To Class Daily

A notebook and a writing implement for in-class writing, note taking, reader responses, definitions and peer reviewing.

One pocket folder to hold readings, handouts, and quizzes (you will need more pocket folders for turning in your assignments).

A three-ring binder to hold all of your work from this course. **Save all of your work. You will need it for your portfolio at the end of the semester.**

Course Description and Goals:

This course focuses on the further development of the writing skills you learned in ENG 180. Specifically, we will use writing as a way of discovering and clarifying ideas, making informed judgments, and arguing toward conclusions. We will continue to build critical thinking and reading skills while also conducting academic research and writing thoughtful, logical and well-written arguments.

Course Objectives

Our goals for the course include becoming powerful readers and effective researchers. In learning to write more effectively you will:

- Discourse Community Knowledge: Students will analyze the relationship between discipline and the way members of that discipline think, read, and write.
- Writing Process Knowledge: Students will formulate and select flexible strategies for discovering and articulating research questions, for conducting research, and for communicating research findings within specific discourse communities.
- Rhetorical Knowledge: Students will assess rhetorical constraints on writing situations.
- Genre Knowledge: Students will evaluate how genres function within discourse communities.
- Knowledge Domains: Students will practice, in a variety of mediums, the writing knowledge gained by examining the interconnected nature of discourse community, writing process, rhetorical knowledge, and genre knowledge with an emphasis on discourse community and genre.

Prerequisites

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 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.

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.

Course Requirements:

Reading Requirements: One textbooks and a collection of readings posted on Western Online are assigned for this course. Reading according to the calendar and bringing a printed copy to class is mandatory. Reading assignments should be completed before class meets each week.

Web Readings: Some of our reading materials will be available only as “web readings” on our Western Online course site. They are sometimes Word files, PDF files, or links to other web pages and they are all clearly labeled. It is your responsibility to print these out and bring them to class on the day they appear on the calendar. Note that to be counted present in class you must have the assigned reading printed out or on an electronic device in front of you so you can participate fully in class discussions.

Quizzes and Daily assignments: Occasional reading quizzes and daily assignments will be given over the readings that are due that day. These are required and may not be made up.

Essays: There will be four formal essay assignments in this course. Detailed prompts will be distributed closer to the due dates. All essays should be typed, double-spaced and conform to MLA guidelines for format and citation. Sources must be cited correctly both in the text and on a works cited page. Each of the four formal papers will be graded using a holistic rubric. You will have the opportunity to revise your first or second paper for a new grade after you have received your original grade. **Formal writing assignments that do not meet minimum standards for grammar and editing will not receive a passing grade.** I will not discuss assignment grades on the day I return assignments to the class. You must make an appointment with me to discuss a grade.

Papers will be submitted electronically on WesternOnline. Each format sheet will review how to submit the paper. If you are unsure about how to submit your paper, please speak with me well before the due date. Because you will submit papers electronically, you should make sure to save your work in several formats (on a hard drive, on a flash drive, by emailing the paper to yourself, by uploading to Google Docs or Dropbox). Technology problems are not an excuse for submitting a paper late. You will submit your papers as Word files (.doc or .docx); papers submitted in any other file format or corrupted files will be returned to you and considered late until re-submitted as a Word file.

List of formal writing assignments:

Paper 1) Discourse Community Analysis: Students will explain how writing and communication takes place in their field.

Paper 2) Rhetorical Situation Essay: Students will analyze a rhetorical situation.

Paper 3) Genre Research and Analysis Essay: In this essay students will research several of the genres used in their field of study and chosen profession. Students must receive at least a “D” (65/100) on this assignment in order to pass the course.

Paper 4) Portfolio & Final Reflection Essay: Students will explain how they have met the course goals by explaining their development as writers in this class. In lieu of a final exam, you will submit an ePortfolio of your work over the course of the semester. Portfolios will consist of two components: 1) A reflective essay on your writing, and 2) Artifacts you reference in your reflective essay (artifacts may include any of the following: rough drafts, final drafts with my comments; revisions; peer review worksheets; writing reflections; quizzes and freewrites). Note that it is imperative that you keep track of all of the work you do this semester so that you can compile a successful portfolio.

Reflections: After the first three formal essays you will write a short reflection essay (300-600 words) of your writing experience in response to a prompt from your instructor

Rough Drafts: For each of the four formal essays, you must bring a complete typed rough draft that meets the minimum length requirements for the assignment. If you fail to do so, the highest grade the final draft can receive is a C.

Peer Review: Each student will also be required to provide a careful, critical, and significant peer reviews for classmates (usually two) for each paper assignment. These peer reviews will be evaluated for both quantity of comments and, more importantly, quality of comments. These peer reviews must be conducted in class during the peer review session. Failure to conduct peer reviews, will be considered an absence, and the highest grade you may earn on the paper will be a C.

Class Participation: I take your participation in the life of the classroom very seriously. Students are expected to complete the reading assignments ahead of time and to come to class prepared to share insights and observations about the reading assignments. Engage your fellow students on a civil basis and in the spirit of collaboration and mutual respect. All students will be required to post responses to readings and responses to classmate’s posts each week on western online as a part of their class participation grade. Cell phones are not allowed in class. **If you use any electronic device for email, texting, tweeting, or other non-class purpose you will be asked to leave class and you will be considered absent that day. A third violation of this policy may result in an “F” grade for the course.** If you want to carry a cell phone into class you must put it away and the ringer or the power must be turned off.

Attendance is required and poor attendance will negatively affect your overall grade. In-class quizzes, activities & assignments are required and **cannot not be made up**. Some of these in-class assignments will require preparation before class or after class on the student’s own time and schedule. For each absence after two (2), your final grade for the course will be lowered one full letter grade. Three tardies will count as one absence.

- **Coming to class without the required reading texts or drafts of papers will be considered an absence.**
- This attendance policy is intended to accommodate students who have a legitimate reason for missing class such as illness, personal emergency, or approved University activity such as a class field trip or participation on WIU athletic teams. You may not miss class for any of these reasons and then expect to receive seven more excused absences. Each student gets only two.

Grading

The course grade will be weighted as follows:

Class participation, quizzes & daily assignments	10%
Discourse Community Essay	15%
Position Essay	25%
Research Essay	30%
Reflections	5%
<u>Portfolio Reflection Essay</u>	<u>15%</u>
TOTAL	100%

Note: Skipping an essay assignment results in a failing grade for the course. Poor attendance and/or the loss of class participation points also usually results in earning a failing grade for the course.

Grading Policy:

A and A- = Superior grasp of the course requirements (90% and above)

B+, B, and B- = Exceeds course requirements (80% and above)

C+ and C = Meets course requirements (73% and above)

D/U/F = Fails to meet course requirements (72% and below).

Grading Scale

- A = 92-100%
- A- = 90-92%
- B+ = 87-89%
- B = 83-86%
- B- = 80-82%
- C+ = 77-79%
- C = 73-76% Students must receive a 73 or above in order to pass ENG 280
- U = 72% and below

The University Writing Center

Anybody can go to the Writing Center. In fact, one of the characteristics of successful writers is that they seek out feedback from experienced writers on a regular basis. Here is a description of the services available at WIU's 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 University 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 in Malpass Library (3rd floor, west side). Call for an appointment (298-2815) and be sure to bring a copy of your assignment."

The unsuccessful "U" paper

If you earn a grade of "U" on a paper, **you must meet with me** to discuss how to improve your performance and I strongly recommend that you **go to the writing center for help with your writing.**

Participation and Punctuality:

Class participation is an essential component of the course. Attending class and arriving on time are necessary first steps toward participation. If you are absent from class you are responsible for

contacting a classmate to find out what you have missed and you are responsible for being prepared for the next class.

Daily activities in this course will be a mixture of lecture, discussion, and writing. I expect students to not only come to class having read the assignment but also prepared to discuss it. Students are required to participate in discussion regularly by answering questions, posing questions, and making analytical comments. I will generally rely on voluntary participation but I also will call on students to contribute. Therefore, it is a good idea to be prepared for every class session. Participation will be evaluated using the following general criteria:

A: Student contributes *daily* and *significantly* and is always actively focusing on class discussion.

B: Student contributes *regularly* and is always actively focusing on class discussion.

C: Student contributes *sporadically* and/or is always actively focusing on class discussion.

D: Student contributes *rarely* and/or frequently does not stay actively focused on the discussion.

F: Student does not contribute and does not stay actively focused on the discussion.

I do not expect or require students to have the “right” answer or to provide ground-breaking analysis but merely to engage in the process of discussing and analyzing the course materials. Remember that the *quality* of your contribution is more important than the *quantity* of the contributions that you make, but some participation is better than no participation at all.

I also reserve the right to give unannounced reading quizzes to ensure students are keeping up with the readings and are preparing to come to class ready to participate.

Class Policies

- All formal writing assignments must be handed in to pass the course.
- Late assignments will not be accepted unless you have made prior arrangements with me before the due date. I urge you to contact me if you are having trouble with an assignment.
- No incompletes will be given except on the basis of physician certification that you are unable to complete the course or other demonstrable catastrophe.

WIU Policies

- **ADA:** 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 309-298-2512 for additional services.
- **Student Rights and Responsibilities:** <http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students.php>
- **Academic Integrity Policy:** <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php>

Academic Honesty:

You are responsible for understanding the University’s rules regarding academic honesty.

Plagiarism, even if accidental, is a very serious offense; **it can result in your failing the course** and in further action by the University. If you have any questions about what constitutes

plagiarism, I will be happy to answer them. You may also consult the University's "Academic Integrity Policy" that appears in the previous section.

Course Schedule for Modual #1: "The Concept of Discourse Communities"

Week 1

January 20: "What is a discourse community"

Discuss syllabus & course requirements, portfolios, writing sample, introductions, introduction to discourse communities

Post on WO: topic TBA

Week 2

January 27) **Read** A, B, and C

A) through "Box 2" (until about page 15) in chapter #1 of *Fieldworking*

B) "The Question of University Writing Instruction" by Anne Beaufort (WO PDF)

C) "Beaufort Reading Guide" (WO Word document)

D) pp. 471-473, section 2.3 "A Conceptualization of Discourse Community" in "The Concept of Discourse Community" by John Swales (WO PDF)

<http://eng1301-knous.wikispaces.com/file/view/Swales-11.pdf>

Post on WO: topic TBA

Week 3

February 3) **Read** finish chapter #1 in *Fieldworking*; finish Swales reading
Organizing and developing a paper

Post on WO: topic TBA

Week 4

February 10) **Read** chapter #2 in *Fieldworking*

Peer Review day: your rough draft of paper #1 is due in class

Post on WO: topic TBA

Week 5

February 17) **Read** chapter #3 in *Fieldworking*

First Paper Due in class and on western online by 11:59 pm

Post on WO: topic TBA