

**Department of English**  
**ENG 180, Section 30, College Writing I**  
**Spring 2017**

Meeting Time: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 1:00-1:50 p.m.

Place: Simpkins 321

Professor: Dr. Jose Fernandez

Office: Simpkins Hall 08

Office Phone: 309-298-1042

Office Hours: Monday 3:00-4:00 p.m., Wednesday 9:00-10:00 a.m. & 2:00-3:00 p.m.,  
& Friday 9:00-10:00 a.m., and by appointment.

E-mail: jo-fernandez@wiu.edu

Course URL: <https://westernonline.wiu.edu>

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**Course Description:**

Introduction to college writing, with an emphasis on the writing process, reflective writing, and critical thinking. A complete list of the standard objectives for English 180 can be found at <http://www.wiu.edu/cas/english/writing/handouts/F16-ENG-180-Handout.pdf>

**Course Goals and Objectives:**

In English 180, you will be introduced to writing as a social activity with the goal of providing you with the knowledge you need to become a more reflective and better writer. Specifically, we will focus on the following primary objectives:

- **Writing Process:** You will test and adapt writing processes to meet the demands of varying genres and rhetorical situations.
- **Rhetoric:** You will identify and analyze the elements of the rhetorical situation (exigence, audience, and context) and will apply that knowledge to composing your own texts.
- **Genre:** You will analyze how genre functions as a typified response to a recurring situation, with special emphasis on applying conventions rhetorically.
- **Discourse Community:** You will learn to define and identify different discourse communities, with a special emphasis on describing and analyzing how community shapes writing, especially in social and civic contexts.
- **Critical Thinking, Reading, and Research:** You will use critical thinking, reading, and research strategies to compose texts that participate in ongoing conversations, from both academic and extracurricular communities, with special emphasis on integrating your ideas with field research and appropriate secondary sources.

**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 Textbook:**

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	200 points
Writing Exercises	200 points
Literacy Essay	100 points
Visual Essay	100 points
Group PowerPoint Presentation	50 points
Exploration of a Problem Essay	150 points
Reflections	100 points
Final Portfolio	100 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. **Note: you must receive a 730 or above in order to pass this class.**

**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 (check schedule of readings). **Note: bring your textbook and a flash drive to every class** since this will influence your class participation grade.
- **Writing Exercises:** 8 short writing exercises worth 25 points each. In most cases, writing exercises will either ask you to answer questions, write a reaction, or complete an exercise from the assigned reading. Other writing exercises will help you to brainstorm, prewrite, and formulate ideas for the class's papers. These exercises will be submitted electronically via WesternOnline before the beginning of class. LATE submissions will be accepted, but you will lose five points for each class the exercise is late. INCOMPLETE exercises will not receive full credit.
- **Literacy Essay:** students will write an essay of 900 words worth 100 points that reflects on your identity as a writer.
- **Visual Essay:** a visual essay of 900 words with 4-5 photos worth 100 points in which you will share a learning experience combining text and images.
- **Group PowerPoint Presentation:** a group PowerPoint presentation worth 50 points that will identify a discourse community, its genres, and the rhetorical situation.
- **Exploration of a Problem Essay:** students will identify and use research to explore and analyze a problem related to a discourse community of your choice. The length of this paper is 1200 words and is worth 150 points.
- **Reflections:** you will write a 150-word reflection for each of the four major assignments worth 25 points each. Reflections will be submitted electronically via WesternOnline before the beginning of class. LATE reflections will be accepted, but you will lose five

points for each class the reflection is late. INCOMPLETE reflections will not receive full credit.

- **Final Portfolio:** Instead of a final exam, students will submit a final portfolio with an essay that reflects on your writing during the semester using specific examples. This assignment is worth 100 points.

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

I will post an instructions sheet with an evaluation criteria on WesternOnline for each of the major assignments. All your draft and revised papers will be uploaded electronically as a Microsoft Word document in the “assignments” section of WesternOnline before the beginning of class when the paper is due (check schedule of writing assignments). **Draft papers should meet the length requirement and should be uploaded on time to receive all points. Late papers will be accepted, but you will lose 15 points for each class the paper is late.** 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 THREE excused or unexcused absences without penalty, but you are still responsible for meeting writing exercises and papers’ deadlines** (note: students will NOT be able to make up for missing work that occurs during class). **Beginning with your FOURTH 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. Arriving 10 minutes after class may count as an absence. **Keep in mind that if you accumulate more than NINE absences, you will NOT receive a passing grade in this course.** **Note:** Student athletes, students with military obligations, and students with disabilities must meet with me at the beginning of the semester to develop an accommodation plan.

### **Classroom Etiquette:**

**Students should turn off and put away all their electronic devices (including laptops or e-readers unless requested in advance)** 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, homework for other class, etc.). **Please do not leave the classroom abruptly; if you need to excuse yourself for an important reason while the class is in session, let me know in advance.** 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. **If you do not comply with these expectations you may receive a friendly warning, but repeated misbehavior will automatically affect your class participation grade (with or without a warning).**

### **Outside Classroom 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 if you cannot meet during my office hours, email me to make an appointment at a time that works for you.** We can discuss any aspect of the course such as your writing, a particular

grade, or your overall performance in this course. Also 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 two of your papers. The papers will be submitted in the “assignments” section of WesternOnline before our meeting. Attending your conference will be part of the paper’s grade and missing your conference will also count as an absence. Note: if you sign up for an individual conference to talk about your Exploration of a Problem Essay during Week 11, you will receive 15 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 paper 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 WIU’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 University Writing Center is valuable for generating ideas, talking about global-level issues such as organization, and working through grammatical problems. The University Writing Center is located in Malpass Library (3<sup>rd</sup> floor, west side and in satellite centers in Simpkins, Bayliss, and Tanner). 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>

### **Students with Disabilities:**

In accordance with University values and disability law, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations where there are aspects of a course that result in barriers to inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement. To file an official request for disability-related accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center at 309-298-1512, or [disability@wiu.edu](mailto:disability@wiu.edu) or in 143 Memorial Hall. Please notify me as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner.

### **Title IX:**

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 report this to the Title IX Coordinator at 309-298-1977 or anonymously online at:

[http://www.wiu.edu/equal\\_opportunity\\_and\\_access/request\\_form/index.php](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>.

### **Important Dates:**

Monday, January 23: Last day of open registration.

Monday, January 30: Last day of restricted registration.

Sunday, April 2: 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* (Textbook)

**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	Mon., Jan. 16	No Classes: Martin Luther King Day	
	Wed., Jan. 18	Introductions & Academic Interests	
	Friday, Jan. 20	Course Overview, Goals, and Objectives	Student Survey Due
2	Mon., Jan. 23	Topic: What Is Writing & Who Are Writers?	
	Wed., Jan. 25	Topic: Reflecting on Your Own Reading & Writing Read: "Learning to Read" by Malcolm X (copy posted on WesternOnline)	Syllabus Questionnaire Due (post on WesternOnline before Class)
	Friday, Jan. 27	Topic: Narrative Techniques Read: "Superman and Me" by Alexie (copy posted on WesternOnline)	Writing Exercise 1 Due (post on WesternOnline before Class)
3	Jan. 30-Feb. 3	No Classes: Individual Conferences in my office (Simpkins 08)	Literacy Essay Due (upload on WesternOnline before Individual Conference)
4	Mon., Feb. 6	Peer Review Session	
	Wed., Feb. 8	Topic: Argumentation & Persuasion Read: CTA 70-73	Writing Exercise 2 Due
	Friday, Feb. 10	Topic: Rhetorical Situation	Revised Literacy Essay and Reflection 1 Due before Class
5	Mon., Feb. 13	No Classes: Lincoln Birthday	
	Wed., Feb. 15	Topic: Ethos, Logos, & Pathos Read: 96-108 (Ethos, Logos, & Pathos)	
	Friday, Feb. 17	Topic: Visual Rhetoric Read: CTA 117-131 (Visual Rhetoric)	Writing Exercise 3 Due
6	Mon., Feb. 20	Topic: Reading a Multimedia Text	

		Read: CTA 131-139 (Multimedia Text)	
	Wed., Feb. 22	Peer Review Session	Visual Essay Due
	Friday, Feb. 24	Topic: Genre & Discourse Community	
7	Mon., Feb. 27	Topic: Rhetorical Analysis of a Nontraditional Text Read: CTA: 371-379 (Rhetorical Analysis)	Revised Visual Essay and Reflection 2 Due
	Wed., Mar. 1	Read: CTA 379-384 (Sample Rhetorical Analysis)	Writing Exercise 4 Due
	Friday, Mar. 3	No Class	
8	Mon., Mar. 6	Group Work Day	
	Wed., Mar. 8	Group Presentations	Group Presentation Due
	Friday, Mar. 10	Group Presentations	Group Presentation Due
	Mar. 13-17	No Classes: Spring Break	
9	Mon., Mar. 20	Topic: Research Strategies Read: CTA 171-178 (Asking Questions)	Reflection 3 Due
	Wed., Mar. 22	Topic: Finding Reliable Sources Read: CTA: 214-226 (Finding Sources)	
	Friday, Mar. 24	Topic: Evaluating Sources Read: CTA 226-232 (Evaluating Sources)	Writing Exercise 5 Due
10	Mon., Mar. 27	Topic: Summarizing Sources Read: CTA 45-54 (Writing Summaries of Sources)	
	Wed., Mar. 29	Topic : MLA Documentation Read : CTA 253-266 (MLA Documentation)	Writing Exercise 6 Due
	Friday, Mar. 31	Topic: Avoiding Plagiarism Read: CTA 232-236 (Note on Plagiarism)	
11	Mon., Apr. 3	Topic: Researching Topics & Problem Read: CTA 178-194 (Drafting a Research Paper)	
	Wed., Apr. 5	No Class: Optional Individual Conferences in my office (Simpkins 08)	
	Friday, Apr. 7	Topic: Analyzing and Responding to Arguments Read: CTA: 147-155 (Analyzing a Text)	Writing Exercise 7 Due
12	Mon., Apr. 10	Topic: Using Sources Effectively	
	Wed., Apr. 12	Topic: Use of Quotations & In-Text Citations Following MLA Format Read: CTA: 243-253 (Quoting from Sources)	Writing Exercise 8 Due

	Friday, Apr. 14	Read: CTA 273-280 (Sample MLA Research Paper)	
13	April 17-21	No Classes: Individual Conferences in my office (Simpkins 08)	Exploration of a Problem Essay Due on WO before Individual Conference
14	Mon, Apr. 24	Topic: Creating a Final Portfolio	
	Wed., Apr. 26	Peer Review Session	
	Friday, Apr. 28	Topic: Writing a Final Reflective Essay	Revised Exploration of a Problem Essay & Reflection 5 Due
15	Mon., May 1	Lab Day	
	Wed., May 3	Class Evaluations	
	Friday, May 5	Lab Day	
16	Wed., May 10	No Final Exam	Final Portfolio Due (on WO by 1:00 p.m.)