

Professor Christine E. Iwanicki  
ENG 180  
Spring 2017

## **Syllabus** **ENG 180: College Writing I**

(Please Note: This syllabus is meant to be a general “road map” for our class this semester; some due dates and assignments may be subject to change.)

**Office:** Simpkins Hall 219. **Office Phone:** 298- 2505

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays: 1:30-3:30; Wednesdays 2:50-3:50; Thursdays: 1:30-2:30; and by appt.

**English Dept. Main Office:** 298-1103 or 298-2813 (leave messages with one of the secretaries)

**E-mail:** C-Iwanicki@wiu.edu

### **Required Text:**

Robertson, Alice. *Writing from Private Places to Public Spaces* ((Kendall Hunt Publishing Co, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2009). ISBN: 978-0-7575-6871-8.

**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.

**Course Goals and Overview:** Writing well is essential for success in college course work and professional careers after graduation. WIU promises its students that they will have the opportunity to develop all of these necessary writing abilities during their college careers here. ENG 180 is the first of several courses designed to do just that. This is a course in which you will use personal writing and interests as a way into public academic writing. You will choose paper topics based on your interests and concerns and then develop organized, effective pieces of writing in a number of specific formats: personal essays, persuasive essays or arguments, and report writing and research. Each assignment is based on the previous one and each is more difficult than the one before. You will never be asked to write another paper until you have received the previous assignment returned with my evaluation and suggestions.

**Workload:** You will write a total of 6 (six) papers in ENG 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 for this class saved on a computerized storage device of your choice. Keep hard copies of your work (drafts, notes, etc.) in a folder. Back-up your work in as many different ways as possible. We all know that technology can sometimes fail, so anticipate ways of saving your work so that you don't lose all your work due to a technical glitch. If this happens, you will have to start from scratch and re-submit your work. It is in your interest to protect your work in as many different ways as possible by having a back-up system in place.

### **Class Policies and Procedures**

**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 three absences during the semester for which I will not require documentation, nor apply a penalty toward your final grade. **Any absences above and beyond three, 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 a total of 8 days in the class. The first three absences do not count against you, but the next five 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 five classes you missed without documentation.  $5 \times -3 \text{ points} = -15 \text{ points}$ . If your average at the end of the course is, for example, 100, it will become an average of 85. ( $100 - 15 = 85$ .) This is how undocumented absences will affect your grade. Each class missed after the first three classes will result in a flat deduction of -3 points per missed class, to be subtracted from your final average at the end of the semester.**

If you produce a documented, legitimate excuse for your absence, I will not hold any absences against you. On the other hand, if your situation results in your 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. Any student who falls into a pattern of unjustified, undocumented, unexcused absenteeism (above and beyond the 3 days you are allowed) will find his or her final grade adversely affected by the numerical penalties described above.

***Class Participation and Involvement:*** This course will be a mixture of lab work and class work. Participation in class discussions and sincere involvement in classwork are also basic requirements for this course. There is a direct correlation between the quality of our collective classroom experience, and **the quality of your attendance, participation, and preparation for lab work and our class meetings.**

**Books:** Bring the required text to each class, regardless of whether we are in the lab or in the classroom.

**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.

**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.

**Special Statement about Students with Disabilities:** 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 398-2512 for additional services.

**University Policy on Student Rights and Responsibilities.** This policy can be found at [www.wiu.edu/provost/students.php](http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students.php). It is VERY MUCH in your interest to review this policy.

**Academic Integrity Policy:** Students who engage in plagiarism or other forms of cheating in this class will be prosecuted to the fullest extent possible, resulting in a grade of F, other penalties, and/or expulsion from the university. The policy on Academic Integrity can be found at [HYPERLINK "http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php" www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php](http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php).

**For Students Force-Enrolled in ENG 180:** If you were force-enrolled in this course, you will need my permission and the permission of the Director of Writing, Dr. Magdelyn Helwig in order to drop. If you decide to drop this course, you will need to speak to me first, and I will forward your request to the Director of Writing for consideration (permission to drop is not granted automatically). Because you need permission to drop, you should begin the drop process early.

### **Requirements and Course Policies**

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 will 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.

**Keep all hard copies of your work in a file.** This is in addition to whatever you save on your computer storage device. In this case, "hard copies" refer to drafts done in the lab, drafts you do at home on your own time, and final graded papers, etc.) In short: don't discard anything. Preserve all of your work in hard copy format—even the scraps and fragments, the incomplete rough drafts, etc—in a file. You will be required to submit this file at the end of the semester for my review.

Formal and informal papers are due on the date assigned at the beginning of class.

All writing assignments are to be word processed and double-spaced with standard one inch margins on all sides and 12 point font.

Class work, in the form of participation in small groups and discussion by the whole class, are essential parts of your overall course grade. Come to class prepared and expect that you will be required to talk. 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.

Plagiarism and all other forms of cheating are unacceptable. Anyone guilty of either can fail that assignment and/or the course itself. All incidents of plagiarism and academic dishonesty will be reported to CAGAS (College of Arts and Sciences Grading and Standards). Western Illinois University's complete academic integrity policy can be found at [www.wiu.edu/provost](http://www.wiu.edu/provost).

## **Grading Criteria**

All six papers will be weighted equally, so don't skip any assignments or prepare a 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 3 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 Mini-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 semester. Length: approx. 5-6 pages/1250-1500 words.

**Final Exam Week Schedule:** The campus-wide schedule can be found at  
HYPERLINK "http://www.wiu.edu/registrar/exams.php" <http://www.wiu.edu/registrar/exams.php>.  
While we will not take a formal final exam in this class, we WILL meet during finals week for the purpose of doing assignment #5, which will be a timed essay of 50 minutes. The topics and readings for this particular assignment will be distributed to you toward the end of the semester.

## Syllabus

**Week 1: (W) Jan. 18; (F) Jan. 20**

**Wed: January 20: First Day of Class: Opening Considerations**

Introduction and Part One in Robertson, pp. vii-6; pp. 7-28

Guidelines for Assignment #1 distributed: The Personal Narrative  
Exploration of relationships between "public" and "private" writing

**Week 2: (M) Jan. 23; (W) Jan. 25; (F) Jan. 27**

Above re: The Personal Narrative Assignment continued

Robertson: pp. 7-28 (continued)

**Week 3: (M) Jan. 30 (W) Feb. 1 (F) Feb. 3**

Development of paper #1 continues

**Paper #1 due Monday, Feb. 6**

Begin preparation for paper #2, the Reflection Paper

Robertson, pp. 29-46

**Week 4: (M) Feb. 6; (W) Feb. 8; (F) Feb. 10**

Above con't; continue work on paper #2

**Week 5: (M) Feb.13 NO CLASS—LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY (University Closed); (W) Feb. 15; (F) Feb. 17**

**Paper #2 due: Friday, Feb. 17**

Begin preparation of paper #3; Robertson, pp. 47-60.

**Week 6: (M) Feb. 20; (W) Feb. 22; (F) Feb. 24**

Controversial Issues Segment: Preparation of paper 3 continues  
Robertson, pp. 47-60 con't.

**Week 7: (M) Feb. 27; (W) March 1; (F) March 3: Paper #3 due**

Above con't

**Week 8: (M) March 6; (W) March 8; (F) March 10**

Develop transition between Paper #3 and Paper #4

***SPRING BREAK: Monday, March 13 to Friday, March 17***

***Classes Resume: Monday, March 20***

**Week 9:** (M) March 20; (W) March 22; (F) March 24: Begin preparation of paper #4, the mini-research paper; Robertson, pp. 61-93.

**Week 10: (M) March 27; (W) March 29; (F) March 31:** continue with paper #4, the mini-research paper; Robertson, pp. 61-93.

**Week 11: (M) April 3; (W) April 5; (F) April 7:** drafting of paper 4 continues

**Week 12: continue with above: (M) April 10, (W) April 12, (F) April 14**

\*\*\*\*Rough draft of Paper 4 due on Friday, April 15\*\*\*\*

**Week 13: (M) April 17; (W) April 19; (F) April 21**

Final draft of Paper #4 due on Friday, April 22; Begin working on Paper #6, The "Case Study of Yourself as a Writer"

**Week 14: (M) April 24; (W) April 26; (F) April 28**

**Week 15: (M) May 1; (W) May 3; (F) May 5**

Above continued; **Readings and Instructions for Assignment #5 (The 50-Minute Essay) to be distributed and discussed;** Preparation for The "Case Study of Yourself as a Writer" (paper #6) continues, along with the discussion of readings in connection with the "50-Minute" essay assignment (paper #5).

**Week 16: Final Exam Week: (Mon.-May 8 to Fri., May 12).** Instructions for our procedures during finals week will be given to you as we approach the end of the semester in late April and early May. Make sure that you plan to meet for ENG 180 during finals week. You will be doing Assignment #5 at that time (More explanation about this will be given to you as the date nears.)

**Final Exam Week Meeting Time:** <http://www.wiu.edu/registrar/exams.php>

We will meet in Simpkins 319 (the computer lab).

**Paper 6 Is Due When We Meet During Finals Week at Our Officially Scheduled Time. More detailed instructions will be given as the date approaches.**