

English 376
Professional Development Workshop
Spring 2017 Section 001, M 3:00-4:15
Simpkins 214

Dr. Banash
129 Simpkins
Office Hours: TBA
Mailbox: 124 Simpkins
d-banash@wiu.edu

Introduction: This course is designed to help you define your professional goals, articulate your personal values, and reflect on the meaning of your education. One of the things we will spend much of our time talking about is how alumni of Western's English department have invented lives and careers for themselves. Their examples reflect the unique set of values and ambitions that come with an education devoted to the practice of reading, the craft of writing, and the deep self-awareness that comes from applying literary theory and criticism. Together, we will create strategies you can use to build networks and make the most of your education professionally and personally.

We can put those goals in more academic language:

1. Discover the role research plays in professional development.
2. Articulate professional goals and build a portfolio that will help achieve them.
3. Write an essay about how your education shapes your personal values.
3. Explore opportunities for post-graduation work, education, and service.
5. Meet professionals who can help you define and achieve your goals.

The goal of 376 is to help you develop a clearer idea of the meaning of your education and the myriad ways you can use it to open doors to the future.

Required Texts: Many of our texts will be provided through electronic reserve. It is your responsibility to download, print, read, and bring printed copies of these texts to class. In addition, you must purchase a copy of Jeffrey Selingo's book, *There Is Life After College*, available at the Union bookstore.

Major assignments: Percentage of final grade is indicated for each assignment.

Interview (30%): Prepare for and conduct an interview with a professional who has a position you desire or appeals to you; write a report of your interview.

Reflective Essay (10%): Outline your professional goals, explain your personal values, and reflect on how your education has shaped you and how you see the world.

Professional Portfolio (60%): Prepare professional documents, develop an online professional presence appropriate for your career goals and your time-to-degree, and collect a selection of the papers you have written as an English major.

Attendance: This course emphasizes class participation and interaction. To do well, consistent attendance is crucial.

- The total percentage of class you miss will be deducted from your final grade. (For instance, let's say the class meets 30 times. If you miss four class periods, that's 13.4% of the class. If you have an A in the course, deducting 13.4% from 100% leaves you with 86.6, just missing the B+ and resulting in a B for the course). Your attendance will be calculated against days the class actually meets.
- Coming to class without the required texts will be considered an absence and you may be asked to leave class.
- Texts including our primary books, course pack readings, and web readings must be printed on paper. You cannot read these on any digital device and be considered present in class. Coming to class without printed copies on paper will result in an absence for the day.
- Cellphones must be turned off during class. If your cellphone rings in class, it will result in an absence for the day. Anyone texting or otherwise using a cellphone in class will be asked to leave and will receive an absence for the day.

Deadlines: The course schedule includes the deadlines for every assignment. All papers are due in class, printed on paper. If for some reason you have to miss class on the day an assignment is due, make arrangements with another class member to turn in the printed hard copy of your work on time for you. Deadlines are not negotiable, and late work will not be accepted. If you find yourself in the hands of angry gods, speak to me as soon as possible.

Workshop drafts: For almost every paper, you will be required to create a workshop draft. If you do not submit a complete draft that meets the minimum length of the paper in class on the day of a workshop, the highest grade you can receive for the final draft will be a D.

Participation and conduct: The success of this course depends not only on individual assignments, but also on the class working together. In order to create a productive and challenging class we must treat one another with respect at all times. A productive and interesting class emerges through our conflicts, disagreements, and debates, but in order to learn from one another we must always work within an ethic of care and mutual respect.

Academic honesty: Ethical use of others' ideas is a critical part of English studies. Plagiarism (use of another's ideas, data, and statements with little or no acknowledgment), collusion (unauthorized or undocumented collaboration), or re-submission (presenting an assignment previously completed for course credit) are not permissible. If you are unsure how to document sources or quote another writer, and your question isn't answered by your *MLA Handbook*, please ask me. Academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the assignment in question, possibly a failing grade for the entire class, and will be reported in accordance with WIU's Academic Dishonesty Policy.

Students with differences: I would like to hear from anyone who has a difference that may require some modification in seating, testing, or other class requirements so that appropriate arrangements may be made. Please speak with me after class or make an appointment. See below for an official announcement from WIU on this topic.

Problems: If you experience any difficulties or frustrations with any aspect of the course, I urge you to speak with me either during office hours or by appointment. I always shape courses through student suggestions.

Agreement: By remaining in this section of ENG 376, you agree to accept the policies articulated in this syllabus.

WIU brings you the following announcements: 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. 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 should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow in such an emergency. Contact Disability Support Services at 298-2515 for additional services.

It is the responsibility of the student to comply with the prerequisites/corequisites for a course that he/she plans to take. Instructors who place the appropriate information on the syllabus and emphasize it during the first three class periods may exclude a student from the class who does not meet the prerequisites/corequisites by sending a note to the student with a copy to the registrar within the first two weeks of the term.

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*Note that readings will be added or modified throughout the semester.
Spring 2017

Week 1	Jan. 23
Introduction:	Introduction
Week 2	Jan. 30
Week 3	Feb. 6
Aspirations and Role Models: Finding your interview	Buchanan, “Oral History”; Sunstein, “Researching People”; Selingo, “Telling Your Career Story”
Week 4	Feb. 13
Week 5	Feb. 20
Inventing Lives—Tuning In, Dropping Out, Moving On	Questlove, from <i>Mo’ Meta Blues</i> ; Smith, from <i>Just Kids</i> ; Selingo, “What the Economy Needs, What Employers Want” Interview proposal due
Week 6	Feb. 27

Week 7 Presenting Yourself on Paper and Online	Mar. 6 The Resume and Cover Letter. Selingo, “How Employers Hire”
Week 8 Spring Break	Mar. 13
Week 9 Applying to Graduate School	Mar. 20 Introducing the World of Graduate Schools—humanities, technical, law, and more. Resume, cover letters, and LinkedIn and other online presence all due
Week 10	Mar. 27
Week 11 The Meanings of Education	Apr. 3 Wallace, “This Is Water”; Draft of Essay Due
Week 12	Apr. 10
Week 13 Workshop	Apr. 17 Portfolio Workshop –Job Ads, Resume, and Letter. Interview Report due
Week 14	Apr. 24
Week 15 Workshop	May. 1 Portfolio Workshop II All job materials and complete draft of your essay due
Week 16 Completing the Portfolio	May. 8 Portfolio due by 4:00 PM, 129 Simpkins
Week 17	May. 15 Finals Week