

## ENG 280

Welcome to Western's Writing Program. We recognize writing as influenced by complex intuitive, cognitive, rhetorical, social, and ecological processes that develop through social acquisition, training, and reflective practice. Our curriculum is built around five Guiding Principles: Language is social—and so is writing; Writing is work that involves play; Thinking, reading, and writing are intimately connected to each other and to identity; Writing concepts and practices are transferrable; Community is important to the process of writing. Please visit our [website](#) for more on our Guiding Principles.

### Catalog Description

**280 College Writing II. (3) (General Education/ Communication Skills)** Continued, advanced study and practice of writing as a social act with emphasis on disciplinary and professional contexts, rhetorical genre, and discourse community. *Designated sections taught in computer labs.* Prerequisites: ENG 180. Graded A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, U, F. IAI: C1 901R.

### Objectives

In English 280, students will continue to learn about writing as a social activity with the goal of providing them with the knowledge and strategies that will help them succeed as researchers and writers. Specifically focusing on genres and discourse communities, students in English 280 will:

- Practice writing for different discourse communities
  - Learn the role discourse communities play in shaping writing and genres
  - Identify elements of discourse community, including genre conventions and specialized vocabulary
  - Understand why different grammar, mechanics, usage, and citation standards exist in different discourse communities
  - Identify differences between errors and intentional variations from expected conventions
  - Practice different grammar, mechanics, usage, and citation standards
  - Participate in an ongoing academic conversation through writing, choosing appropriate genre and medium for discourse community and rhetorical situation.
- Practice reading and writing texts grounded in research
  - Read and analyze a diverse range of texts, attending to relationships between assertion and evidence, patterns of organization, the interplay between verbal and nonverbal elements, and how these features function for different discourse communities
  - Acquire strategies for formulating and articulating research questions and several methods for primary and secondary research
  - Conduct primary and secondary research, including the use of library resources
  - Evaluate research for credibility, reliability, and relevance
  - Practice synthesizing, integrating, and citing multiple different sources according to various discourse community conventions
  - Choose writing processes and genres appropriate for research-based writing

For more information on these objectives, please see [Western Writing Program Objectives](#).

### Prerequisites and Timely Completion

Completion of English 180 (or a first semester writing course accepted for transfer) with a grade of C (73) or better is a prerequisite of English 280. If you did not earn C or better in 180, you must repeat the course before taking 280.

When students have not completed English 280 before they are classified as juniors, they are automatically blocked and cannot withdraw from the course without the permission of the Director of Writing. The Director can unblock students if their instructors certify in writing that those students have made a good faith effort to pass the class that semester. Once students are unblocked they must still withdraw from the class on their own.

## Computers in English 280

Even though many sections of 280 will not meet in computer classrooms, you will be required to write with a word processing program, use the Internet for research, and use E-mail and Western Online. Your student fees give you access to computer labs in various locations on campus.

## University Writing Center

The University Writing Center offers students at any academic level collaborative, one-on-one consultation on writing projects from any discipline at any point in the writing process. For more information, visit the University Writing Center [website](#).

## Grades

In English 280 you can earn a grade of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, U, or F. If you receive a U or an F in 280, you must repeat the course in order to fulfill the Communication Skills requirement. Instructors determine the grading scales used to assign grades; you must earn at least a 73 (C) in order to pass the class. The Western Writing Program has established the following guidelines for U and F grades:

### U Grades

If you are not performing satisfactory work but are making a good faith effort to pass the course, you can earn a U (unsatisfactory) grade. You will earn no grade points or credits for a grade of U. However, the U grade is not a penalizing grade because it is not calculated in grade point average (GPA).

We consider a good faith effort to include all of the following:

- attending and participating in class,
- completing and submitting all components of major papers (bibliographies, drafts, and other materials required by instructors), and
- completing assigned reading and other assignments in a timely fashion.

If you meet requirements but are still not writing at a C or better level at the end of the term, you should receive a U grade for the course. The U grade reinforces our belief that writing is a process that requires considerable time and effort. We believe students who attempt to do the work but fail to meet our standards should not be penalized, but should be permitted to retake the course and continue to improve their writing abilities.

### F Grades

If you are not making a good faith effort, you should earn an F (failing) grade. You will earn no grade points or credits for a grade of F. Because the F grade is a penalizing grade, which negatively affects GPA, it is reserved for students whose effort is unsatisfactory for one or more reasons:

- poor attendance and participation,
- failure to complete and submit all components of major papers (bibliographies, drafts, and other materials required by instructors), or
- academic dishonesty.

If you choose not to complete course assignments and/or disregard course requirements, you should receive an F grade for the course.

An I (incomplete) grade may be given only when you fail to complete course requirements due to documented circumstances beyond your control. The mere failure to complete an assignment does not justify the recording of an incomplete, unless illness or other emergency is the cause. Incomplete grades are given at the discretion of the instructor.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Dishonesty of any kind with respect to examinations, course assignments, alteration of records, or illegal possession of examinations is considered cheating. It is your responsibility not only to abstain from cheating but also to avoid making it possible for others to cheat. Any student who knowingly helps another student to cheat is as guilty of cheating as the student he or she assists. The submission of the work of someone else as one's own constitutes plagiarism. Academic honesty requires that ideas or materials taken from another source for use in a course paper or project be fully acknowledged. Multiple submissions, "when one intentionally or knowingly submits substantial portions of the same academic work (including oral reports) for credit more than once without the explicit authorization of both instructors," are also a violation of the [academic integrity policy](#).

### **Final Examinations**

The final examination is considered one of a course's scheduled meeting periods. A course in which a final is not given must still meet during this time. Please see the WIU [final exam schedule](#).

### **Attendance**

The Department of English supports the right of individual faculty members to penalize you for attendance problems, provided the policy and penalties are described in the course syllabus.

This handout, along with your instructor's syllabus, has been prepared to help you understand what you'll be doing in your ENG 280 class. You should read both carefully, ask questions about any points you don't understand, and keep both for future reference.