ENGL 1101: Composition I

SYLLABUS

Instructor: Jason Kesler

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ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Accessibility Services: Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given. For more information, please contact Accessibility Services.

Center for Academic Success: The Center for Academic Success provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6280 or cas@westga.edu

University Writing Center: The University Writing Center assists students with all areas of the writing process. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6513 or writing@westga.edu

UWG Email Policy

University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is the student’s responsibility to check his or her email.

Credit Hour Policy

The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in-class or other direct faculty instruction AND
two hours of student work outside of class per week for approximately fifteen weeks. For each course, the course syllabus will document the amount of in-class (or other direct faculty instruction) and out-of-class work required to earn the credit hour(s) assigned to the course. Out-of-class work will include all forms of credit-bearing activity, including but not limited to assignments, readings, observations, and musical practice. Where available, the university grants academic credit for students who verify via competency-based testing, that they have accomplished the learning outcomes associated with a course that would normally meet the requirements outlined above (e.g. AP credit, CLEP, and departmental exams).

**University of West Georgia Honor Code**

At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.

The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing. Updated April 19, 2013

Additionally, you are responsible for safeguarding your computer account. Your account and network connection are for your individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. You are responsible for all actions originating through your account or network connection. You must not impersonate others or misrepresent or conceal your identity in electronic messages and actions.

**HB 280 (Campus Carry)**

UWG follows University System of Georgia (USG) guidance: [http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information#](http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information#)

You may also visit our website for help with USG Guidance: [https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php](https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php)

**Course Description and Learning Outcomes**

A composition course focusing on skills required for both effective writing for various rhetorical situations and critical reading of texts. In writing, students must demonstrate competency in argumentation, and writing that is strengthened by the use of multiple textual sources.

By the end of this course, students should have learned:
-- to read, understand and interpret a broad range of written and visual texts from a variety of genres, including but not limited to nonfiction, fiction, poetry, drama, and film.

-- to develop facility with the whole writing process from invention to revision.

-- to understand and employ a variety of rhetorical modes and techniques of persuasion.

-- to acquire reasonable mastery of conventions of college-level prose writing.

-- to develop skills in all the tools necessary for effective argumentation.

-- to enhance the understanding of literary principles and the use of basic terms important to critical writing and reading.

-- to incorporate and document additional textual material to strengthen and support objectives.

**Required Material**


**Plagiarism & Academic Dishonesty**

The Department of English and Philosophy defines plagiarism as taking personal credit for the words and ideas of others as they are presented in electronic, print, and verbal sources. The Department expects that students will accurately credit sources in all assignments. An equally dishonest practice is fabricating sources or facts; it is another form of misrepresenting the truth. Plagiarism is grounds for failing the course.

The University policies for handling Academic Dishonesty are found in the following documents:

*The Faculty Handbook*, sections 207 and 208.0401

[http://www.westga.edu/~vpaa/handrev/](http://www.westga.edu/~vpaa/handrev/)

*Student Uncatalogue: "Rights and Responsibilities"*; Appendix J.

[http://www.westga.edu/handbook/](http://www.westga.edu/handbook/)

**Excessive Collaboration**

By the end of the term, students should demonstrate the ability to produce *independent writing* (writing without collaborative assistance of peers, writing tutors, or professionals in the field) that shows a level of competency in both ENGL 1101 and 1102. Although classroom activities and out-of-class assignments may highlight collaborative learning and collaborative research, *excessive collaboration* (collaboration that results in the loss of a student's voice/style and original claims to course-related work) is considered another form of academic dishonesty and therefore will not be permitted.
Role of the Writing Center
The role of the Writing Center is to offer consultation in which tutors question, respond to, offer choices, and encourage revision in student essays. Tutors do not evaluate or prescribe solutions to problematic areas in student essays, and tutors are specifically trained to avoid appropriating the student's work.

For more information, visit the Writing Center online

The University Writing Center works with students and other members of the UWG community to improve writing skills.

What We Do:
- Discuss ideas, read drafts, and work through revisions of essays; we do not proofread
- Regents’ Test Preparation (both the reading and essay sections)
- Creative Writing Consultations
- MLA, APA, Chicago/Turabian, and other citation formats

Policies:
- Please make appointments in advance. We accept walk-ins, but we cannot guarantee that a tutor will be available.
- If you cannot keep your appointment, you must call or email us 24 hours in advance to cancel. If you do not notify us 24 hours in advance, you will be counted as a No Show.
- Please arrive at your appointment on time. If you are 10 minutes late or more, you will be counted as a No Show and will not be able to have your appointment.
- If you have 3 No Shows in one semester, you will not be able to have any more appointments for that semester.

Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10:00am-7:00pm
Thursday 10:00am-3:00pm
Friday 10:00am-12:00pm

Attendance Policy
Students’ final grades may be adversely affected by failing to attend class on a regular basis. In classes that meet three times a week, a student is allowed four absences. Upon the fifth absence, the student may lose a letter grade. For each subsequent absence, an additional letter grade will be subtracted from the final grade. In classes that meet twice a week, a student is allowed three absences. Upon the fourth absence, the student may lose a letter grade. For each subsequent absence, an additional letter grade will be subtracted from the final grade. Be aware that no distinction exists between excused and unexcused absences.

Disruptive Behavior Policy
Students will be asked to leave class for exhibiting behavior that disrupts the learning environment of others. Such behavior includes — but is not limited to — arriving late for
class, allowing cell phones to ring, speaking disrespectfully to the instructor and/or to other students, checking email or surfing the web, and using personal audio or video devices. **Each dismissal of this kind will count as an absence and will be applied toward the attendance policy above. (Department Policy)**

**Grading Policy**

All essay assignments must be completed in order to pass this course. NOTE: You must earn a letter grade of C or better to pass the class.

- Reader Response Essay — 20%
- Argumentative Essay One — 20%
- Argumentative Essay Two — 20%
- Revised Essay — 15%
- In-Class Essay — 15%
- Miscellany (Class work, exercises, quizzes, etc.) — 10%

**Grading Summary**

In-Class Essay: 4=95%; 4/3=92%; 3/4=88%; 3=85%; 3/2=82%; 2/3=78%; 2=75%; 2/1=72%; 1/2=68%; 1=65%; 1/0=62%; 0=50%

Out-of-Class Essay: A+=98%; A=95%; A-=92%; B+=88%; B=85%; B-=82%; C+=78%; C=75%; C-=72%; D+=68%; D=65%; D-=62%; F=50%

**MLA Documentation Style**

The Department expects that students learn to cite sources accurately in the MLA style for documentation. All papers must be written using MLA documentation style.

**Late Work Policy**

Class work and exercises will not be accepted late. Papers turned in late will be penalized a full letter grade for each day they are passed due. Students must notify the
instructor ahead of time if they will not be able to be in class for any of the in-class essays. In-class essays may be rescheduled only with a valid reason for missing class, such as a death in the family, serious illness, and the like.

**Revision Policy**
Paper revision will be handled as a separate assignment at the end of the semester.

**Extra Credit Policy**
None.

**Course Outline** (subject to change)

Aug. 10: Intro to Composition

15: Common grammar and punctuation mistakes; Sentence Exercise

17: Intro: Reader Response Essay

22: The Declaration of Independence

24: Reader Response Essay topics and Essay Guidelines; Intro: Prewriting (Purdue OWL)

29: Prewriting Questions and Creating a Thesis Statement (Purdue OWL)

31: Outlining, Introductory Paragraph

Sept. 5: Outlining, Response and Conclusion Paragraphs

7: Class Cancelled

12: Reader Response Q&A
14: Reader Response Essay Due; Intro: Argument papers (Purdue OWL)

19: Draft of The Declaration of Independence, Re-Read The Declaration of Independence

21: The Declaration of Sentiments; MLA In-Text Citations and Works Cited Pages (Purdue OWL)

26: Argumentative Essay One topics; Establishing Arguments, Strong Thesis Statements

28: Paragraphs and Paragraphing

(29: Last Day to Withdraw with a Grade of W)

Oct. 3: Conclusion paragraphs, Citations; Argumentative Essay One Q&A

5: Fall Break (No Class)

10: Argumentative Essay One due; Intro: Argumentative Essay Two

12: Student Topics

17: Student Topics (cont.)

19: Argumentative Essay Two topics; Proofreading (Purdue OWL)

24: Proofing Intro paragraph

26: Proofing Analytical paragraphs
31: Peer Review Workshop

Nov. 2: Argumentative Essay Two due; Revision Information

7: Revising (Purdue OWL)

9: Revision discussion

14: Peer Review Workshop

16: In-Class Essay Discussion

21: Thanksgiving Recess (No Class)

23: Thanksgiving Recess (No Class)

28: In-Class Essay Q&A

30: In-Class Essay

Dec. 2-8: Finals Week (No Final Exam!!!)