

WR 135 College Writing II

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Goals

The primary goal of this course is to help you communicate in ways that actually get something to happen, influencing people's actions, beliefs, understanding. More specifically, the course is intended to improve your ability to:

- Communicate with a variety of real audiences that will actually depend on and **use** what you have written
- Achieve a variety of purposes (evaluating, recommending, etc.)
- Assess your own work and the work of classmates

Attendance

Be here. For one thing, "attendance and participation" counts for 10% of your grade. Second, it is highly unlikely that you will be able to do well on the assignments if you don't show up. To that end, you are allowed to miss class twice without an excuse. After two unexcused absences, I will subtract five points from your final grade for each additional absence.

Cell Phones

Don't use your phone during class. **Text messaging during class is extremely rude so DON'T**

Academic Integrity

Don't plagiarize. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is grounds for a no-grade (F) and referral to the Student Conduct Committee. For more information on academic integrity, see <http://www.wou.edu/las/humanities/plagiarism.php>.

Disabilities

If you have special needs please see Disability Services (<http://www.wou.edu/student/disability/>). I will do everything I can to accommodate your needs, but they must be documented.

The Work

Your grade for the course will be based on submission of a portfolio of three discrete papers. The first paper will be a narrative in which you describe your experience as a student of writing. The final draft of this paper should be somewhere in the neighborhood of five pages.

The second paper will explore and evaluate an issue of your choice. Here you'll make and justify an evaluation of the issue. You'll address a particular audience that is interested in the issue but has not yet decided what they think about the issue. This assignment will require not only clear explanation but also the use of appropriate criteria to justify your evaluation. You should plan to spend some time in the library where you will be able to find resources that will help you discover the issue that you want to discuss and find resources that will help you come to a conclusion regarding your evaluation. Here are some things to consider. What is the issue? Who identified the issue as an "issue?" Who are the key people who have debated the issue? What have these people used in order to justify their stances regarding the issue? Who do you think has the stronger argument? Why does the person you chose have the stronger argument? The final draft of this paper should be in the neighborhood of five to ten pages.

The third paper will be a reflective essay in which you provide an analysis of the process/procedure that you underwent in order to complete the first two papers.

Tell the story of writing the other two papers. How has your thinking about writing changed after taking on this portfolio project? What have you noticed about the way the various materials you have found were written? How have you incorporated points of style from these materials into your own writing? What would you do differently if you were to start over? What would you do the same? Do you find something particularly confusing about writing and researching – finding materials, coming to conclusions about the materials you have found? What can you do to make the process more effective? This paper should be in the neighborhood of five to ten pages.

Throughout the term, we will be discussing, in depth, the various strategies that you can use in order to complete the portfolio. You also have access to our librarians, who can help you find, evaluate, and utilize source material, and the Writing Center, where you can get help with all sorts of writing problems such as brainstorming, drafting, revising, editing, and citing sources.

Further, as the term progresses, I will expect you to present drafts of the three papers (see schedule) both to your colleagues (peer review) and to me. At the end of the term you will turn in all of the drafts for each of the three papers.

Your grade will be a function the amount and quality of the work you turn in. As far as amount goes, I expect that each paper will go through at least two drafts (ideally, there would be more, but we are limited by time): a first draft and a final draft. Though the suggested page lengths given above are not set in stone, papers that are considerably under the suggested page length will likely not go into enough depth to merit a decent grade. You might also consider including notes, outlines, and other materials that you generated throughout the process of writing the three papers.

As far as quality goes, your portfolio should demonstrate considerable effort in gaining command of conventions (spelling, grammar, mechanics), sentence fluency, organizational clarity (a clear purpose/thesis, clear points that support or elaborate on the purpose/thesis, clear transitions from one point to the next), critical thinking (identifying underlying issues that might not be apparent at first glance), and argumentation (making and supporting a claim).

The portfolio will be worth 90% of your final grade (30% for each of the three papers, including their drafts and other materials). Two drafts of each paper at the minimum page length, with reasonable attention to detail (see the paragraph on “quality” above) will merit at least a C. Attendance and participation will be worth 10% of your final grade. Show up and participate and you will get full credit for this. Note well, it is unlikely that you could do better than a B in the course without showing up and participating (and getting a B in that case would be very difficult). I will always be available to help as will the Writing Center and the Library.

Schedule (subject to change)

Week 3

T Topic Workshop

R Workshop continued (as necessary)

Week 5

T Peer review

R First draft of paper 1 due to me

Week 6

T Topic Workshop

R T Workshop continued (as necessary)

Week 7

T Peer review

R First Draft of Paper 2 due to me

Week 8

T Topic workshop

R Workshop continued (as necessary)

Week 9

T Peer Review

Week 10

Conferencing - bring draft of paper 3

Conferencing - bring draft of paper 3

Final Exam Week: portfolio Due