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ENGLISH 098: Introduction to College Writing Sec. G003 (2202)

Catalogue Course Description

A composition course focusing on the conventions of academic writing, the composing process, critical thinking, and critical reading. Emphasis will be on reading and writing activities designed to prepare students for successful transition to college-level writing. 3 non-degree credits.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

After taking English 098, students should demonstrate progress in these areas:

- **Rhetorical Knowledge:** Make choices as a writer that are appropriate for the stated demands of a specific writing task and situation
- **Critical Reading:** Identify, analyze, and evaluate the main point(s), key supporting points, and supporting evidence in an assigned nonfiction academic text
- **Academic Writing:** Organize a cohesive academic essay that develops and supports a thesis with specific, relevant evidence from nonfiction course readings
- **Research Skills:** Begin to understand the features that characterize particular kinds of sources and that demonstrate a text's credibility
- **Processes:** Generate multiple drafts of an academic text by adapting process according to the requirements of a specific assignment
- **Composing in Electronic Environments:** Demonstrate a basic competency with the technology and tools needed for composing an academic text and college-level learning
- **Knowledge of Conventions:** Make progress toward following academic writing conventions based on the context, purpose, and level of formality of a college writing assignment

Learning Outcomes for English 098

The learning outcomes are explained in more detail on our course D2L site. Students who successfully complete English 098 and demonstrate a readiness for ENG 101 will achieve most of these learning outcomes.

Placement in Basics of Composition (English 098)

The campus English Department places students into a writing class through the campus placement process. Students receive an English 098 placement when their admission and placement information shows that they would benefit from an introduction to academic writing and critical reading before enrolling in Composition 1 (English 101). English 098 provides students with college-level instruction in writing and reading to prepare them for difficult academic coursework. English 098 is very different from a high school English class; expect to do college-level learning activities in this course.

Required Texts

There is no textbook for our course. All readings will be available through D2L or handed out in class.

Computing Requirement

For this class, you must:

- Check your campus email frequently.
- Use Microsoft Word or a compatible program for all of your written work. Word is available on all campus computers.

Course Website (<https://d2l.uwc.edu/>)

Our class has a website through a program called Desire2Learn (or D2L). Most course materials will be available on D2L (including announcements, schedules, instructions, and handouts). Students will also use D2L to submit assignments and e-mail the instructor and class members.

Grades

Grades are computed as follows:

- Midterm Portfolio: 40%
- Final Portfolio: 45%
- Workshop Activities: 15%

Papers in this course will be written in multiple drafts and read by multiple readers: yourself, your classmates, and your instructor. Because the emphasis is on your development as a writer – something that cannot occur without trial and error – you will write drafts in this course before handing in final papers. For rough drafts, you will receive comments intended to help you improve your writing as you work through and form your ideas. Grades for workshop activities are focused on effort and participation levels in the writing process. Class participation is particularly important in this course due to the focus on collaborative critical thinking, and your workshop grade will be affected by the level of your engagement with general and small-group discussion and with peer review.

The portfolios will collect the essays you will write in this class and will present revised versions of them on D2L for a final grade. The portfolios will be graded on the basis of whether or not they demonstrate successful attainment of the learning outcomes for English 098. The instructions for the portfolios will be gone over in class and will be available on D2L, along with all instructions for individual essay assignments.

Final Exam (Course Portfolio)

Your course portfolio replaces a traditional final exam. The portfolio is due during the officially scheduled final exam time for the class.

Required Instructor Conferences

You will attend required one-on-one instructor conferences during the semester, and you will be able to schedule additional appointments if you need them. Some conferences will take place outside the regular scheduled class period. At each instructor conference, you will receive detailed feedback on your essays, in-class work, course progress, and grade. You will then be able to revise your work and set goals for working on individual learning tasks that will prepare you for English 101. Conferences will also help you identify specific issues to work on in English 099. Students who miss a required conference will not receive detailed feedback on some assignments until they make an instructor appointment.

Grading Scale:

A	93-100	<i>Exceptional proficiency in course learning outcomes</i>
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A-	90-92	
B+ B	87-89 83-86	<i>Above average proficiency in course learning outcomes</i>
B- C+ C	80-82 77-79 73-76	<i>Sufficient proficiency in course learning outcomes</i>
C- D+ D D-	70-72 67-69 63-66 60-62	<i>Insufficient proficiency in learning outcomes; repeat English 098</i>
F	59-0	<i>Failure to complete required assignments and learning activities and/or lack of progress toward meeting course learning outcomes; repeat English 098</i>
R	Below 70	<i>Improving academic skills and completion of required coursework without sufficient progress toward meeting course learning outcomes; repeat English 098</i>

Grades for Non-Degree Courses

English 098 is a non-degree credit course, and your final course grade will not be included in your UW Colleges grade point average (GPA). However, grades in non-degree credit courses will count toward determining whether you are making satisfactory academic progress. You will receive a course grade in PRISM, and it could affect your financial aid status or potentially influence the outcome of any appeals that you might make to the campus if you are suspended.

Fulfilling the Basic Writing Prerequisite for English 101 (Composition 1)

Your grade in English 098 will determine whether you are able to enroll in degree-credit writing classes and other courses that have composition prerequisites. You must receive a C or better in Introduction to College Writing to enroll in English 101. According to University of Wisconsin policy, students who are placed into non-degree credit composition courses must fulfill the basic writing requirement before completing 30 credits. Therefore, if you receive a grade of C- or lower in this class, you should immediately enroll in English 098 for next semester instead of waiting to retake it later.

Repeat (R) Grade

Some students complete coursework with satisfactory effort but still have difficulty reading and writing at a college level; they will receive an R (repeat) grade instead of a failing grade. An R grade is reserved for students who are making progress but need to enroll in the class again to develop the skills necessary for taking degree-credit courses. To receive an R grade instead of an F, a student must a) complete all essays, exams, and the final portfolio; b) attend class regularly; and c) actively participate during in-class activities.

Failing (F) Grade

This is a learning resource course, and students often work on individual assignments adapted to their needs. Therefore, you will not fail the course if you complete assignments on time, participate in class, and fulfill course requirements (see the above explanation for the R grade). You will, however, receive a failing grade if you don't attend class regularly, don't complete homework, or put minimal effort into assignments. Because students will have multiple opportunities to revise their work and receive instructor help, **students must receive a final grade of 73% or higher on coursework to demonstrate sufficient proficiency and pass the course with a satisfactory grade.**

Attendance Policy

Regular and punctual class attendance is expected. Absences due to illness, serious mitigating circumstances, or official university representation will be accepted, and students will be permitted to make up missed conferences and/or graded assignments in a reasonable manner at a time agreeable to instructor and student. Any work that is missed due to absence must be made up. Excessive absences will have an effect on your course grade. Please contact your instructor in the case of any illness or emergency that causes you to miss two or more class sessions in a row.

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to turn in original work. Dishonesty in academic work, including cheating, academic misconduct, fabrication, or plagiarism is unacceptable. When information from outside sources is used, proper credit must be given to the original source. The *Student Rights and Regulations* handbook outlines the consequences for academic dishonesty.

Plagiarism

You have plagiarized when you represent someone else's words or ideas as your own. Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty. If you plagiarize in this class, your offense will be reported. Consequences may range from failure of the course to expulsion from the university.

Assessment

For the fall semester of the 2018-19 academic year, UW Colleges classes that fulfill outcomes at the Foundation Level of the UWSP [General Education Program](#) (GEP) will be assessed utilizing the GEP assessment portfolio process. The GEP Foundation Level includes courses that fulfill the Oral Communication (OC), Written Communication (WM), Quantitative Literacy (QL), and Wellness (WLN) [category learning outcomes](#). Courses that do not fulfill the Foundation Level category outcomes will be included in future assessments for the A.A.S. degree program, and the specific schedule for assessment of these courses will be determined during the 2018-19 academic year.

Accommodations for a Disability

If you have a UW Colleges accommodation plan for a disability, please meet with me during the first week of class to discuss how to use your plan effectively this semester. You have the right to keep all personal information private. You are also not required to tell instructors about disabilities or other personal issues affecting your ability to complete the course successfully. However, unless you inform me about your needs at the beginning of the semester, I will assume that you will be able to meet course requirements on time without accommodations. For more information on accommodation plans and services for students with disabilities, contact Student Affairs (Student Services).

Statement on Changes to Course Policies

I reserve the right to change the schedule, assignments, course policies, or any part of this syllabus. You will receive notification in class of any changes to the syllabus or schedule. Changes will also be available in the news (announcements) section of the course website.

Due Dates for Major Assignments (Subject to Change if Necessary)

Assignment	Due Date
Position essay and author's note	September 24
Comparative Analysis essay and author's note	October 15
Midterm portfolio and cover letter with a midterm self-assessment	October 26
Analysis essay on course readings	November 12
Synthesis essay on course readings	December 3
Final portfolio and cover letter with a final self-assessment	December 18