

ENGL 101, FALL 2020: Freshman English
GEP Foundation Level: Written Communication
Sec. 23: Online on Canvas

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Student Hours: ZOOM
Mon/Wed 12:30-2 & by appt.

COURSE TEXTS

Rental

Kirszner & Mandell: *Patterns for College Writing*, 14th Ed.

Required Purchase

Hacker & Sommers: *Rules for Writers @ UWSP*, 9th Ed. (used in ENGL 101 & 202)

Additional texts

e-texts: *A Doll House*, by Henrik Ibsen

Sweat, by Lynn Nottage

Required and Supplemental readings on Canvas – See course schedule for titles, authors

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goal of this course is to help you develop the critical reading and effective writing skills you will need to succeed at the college level and in your life after graduation. Throughout the semester, we will examine and employ various reading, writing, and discussion strategies to help you engage thoughtfully and respectfully with the ideas of others and to develop your own well-informed, engaging, and effective written and oral responses to those ideas.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

ENGL 101 is a GEP Foundation Level Written Communication course. Upon completion of the course, students who commit themselves to active learning and engagement with the course content and to completion of course assignments will be able to:

- Read and interpret a variety of texts: written, visual, performance
- Analyze the audience, purpose, message and context of different writing situations
- Develop, draft, revise, and edit essays more effectively
- Improve the ability to express a significant thesis or point of view
- Adapt the content, form, and style of their writing to various audiences
- Recognize and address problems with diction, usage, punctuation, spelling and grammar that can undermine your ability to communicate effectively with different audiences
- Use appropriate formatting for attributing and documenting outside sources

These learning outcomes align with the required GEP Category Learning Outcomes for Foundation Level Written Communication (ENGL 101 & 202). For further information:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/gep/Documents/GEPCategoryLearningOutcomes.pdf>

COURSEWORK

This is an English class, so plan to read and write every week. Writing is a recursive process; you need to do it often to do it well. You will complete three formal graded individual essays. The initial drafts of the formal individual essays will be written in class.

In addition, you will write six journal blog posts (minimum 300 words each) on various assigned topics. Additional blog posts may be assigned as non-graded homework. At the end of the semester, you will

complete a blog audit and revise three earlier posts to be graded. **Late blog posts will receive reduced or no credit!** Plan accordingly.

Coursework will also include reading quizzes and non-graded homework assignments. Detailed instructions for all homework will be posted on Canvas.

CONTRACT GRADING

In this class, we will use what is called contract grading, which means if you meet the minimum terms of the specific grade, you receive that grade - guaranteed. This grading system allows us to focus on learning goals instead of performance goals because the true purpose of this class is to make you a better reader, writer, and critical thinker.

For an extensive explanation of how contract grading works in this class, see "Contract Grading" in Canvas: <https://uwstp.instructure.com/courses/349670/pages/contract-grading>

ASSESSMENT

Detailed guidelines for all graded assignments and an assignment-specific grading rubric will be posted on Canvas.

PROJECTED DUE DATES – MAJOR GRADED ASSIGNMENTS

Wk. 6 – Sunday, 10/11	Essay 1: Close Reading: Summary & Reflection
Wk. 10 – Sunday, 11/8	Essay 2: Film Review
Wk. 15 – Sunday, 12/13	Essay 3: Dramatic Literature Analysis (Scene or Character)
Wk. 16 – Friday, 12/18	Blog Portfolio & Optional Final Revisions

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

See "Contract Grading" on Canvas.

SUBMITTING ESSAYS

All major assignments must be posted to the correct Canvas dropbox. Format your paper using the MLA guidelines in *Rules for Writers 57a (513-16)*.

PARTICIPATION

The class will be most rewarding and lively if we throw ourselves into the material and think of our Canvas interactions as mutual discussions. If you are not accustomed to participating, let me know how we can create inviting conditions for you to share your responses to the material. Consistent, thoughtful contributions will be required to receive full credit for your participation grade and will have a direct effect on your success in the class overall. "Consistent" means meeting the participation requirements outlined for each of our online discussion forums; "thoughtful" (which does not mean "correct") means contributions in which you venture an idea or interpretation. Particularly sharp and engaged contributions could raise your final course grade if it is on a borderline.

Each discussion forum will have specific instructions for your required participation (number of postings, length, etc.). As a general rule, your online discussions should adhere to the following guidelines:

- A minimum of 2 or 3 meaningful posts, on 2 non-consecutive days, each with a minimum word count of 150, starting and ending every Sunday at 10:00 p.m.
- In your first post, respond to the prompt. In your subsequent posts respond to another student in agreement, disagreement, and/or add to the person's perspective or give an alternative one (unless directions state otherwise)
- Title your response in a relevant and clever way that would make someone want to read it!
- Address the person or people you are responding to by first name
- Embed images and videos in your post that enhance your responses
- Show us that you have been reading everyone's posts by incorporating references into your own.

Tip: I strongly encourage you to start your homework early on in the week, so your discussion forums evolve with your understanding of the assignments. Remember, your grade in this area is not only dependent upon doing the minimum but also taking an active role in the class by asking questions, reading and responding respectfully to others' posts, and creating a supportive class environment.

You can expect to hear from me often. We will have discussion forums (that I will initiate) every week (nearly) throughout the semester. I will also stay in regular contact with you through weekly announcements, short lectures, collaborations, and conferences during our time together. I will respond and provide feedback to your assignments in a timely manner. We will also stay in touch individually through email, Canvas inbox, or via Zoom during Student Hours.

Netiquette and Online Course Participation

- Use respectful and appropriate language in your forum discussions.
- Please do not use texting language.
- Emoticons are acceptable ways to show emotion.
- Avoid CAPS as they come across like YOU'RE SCREAMING.
- You are expected to read all forum posts.
- All messages are public, so be careful and courteous when you post.
- Make your posts thorough and your replies as well.
- Complete sentences and thoughts are mandatory for forum posts.
- Use a person's name when you reply to their post.
- Use uwsp.edu email for private communication.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Community Bill of Rights and Responsibilities can be found at <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf>

ADDITIONAL CLASS POLICIES

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Plagiarism and academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If you're having trouble with an assignment, please see me for assistance before you make a decision that you will regret. For further info regarding university policy on plagiarism, see "Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures":

<https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf#page=11>

ACCOMMODATIONS

UWSP is committed to providing reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities and temporary impairments. If you have a disability or acquire a condition during the

semester where you need assistance, please contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center on the 6th floor of Albertson Hall (library) as soon as possible. DATC can be reached at 715-346-3365 or DATC@uwsp.edu.

CONTACTING ME

Email is the best way to reach me. I check my email multiple times during the day between 8:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M. If you have a question regarding an assignment or another concern requiring a quick response, don't wait until the last minute to contact me or I may not see your email until it is too late. I try very hard to answer all emails within 24 hours. I will respond to emails sent over the weekend, but may need a little extra time to do so. Please plan ahead.

Check your UWSP email and CANVAS daily. I will pass along information of interest to the whole class via email and Canvas. The course syllabus, instructions for all major assignments, as well as supplemental reading texts or links will be posted on Canvas.

IMPORTANT: CHANGES TO SYLLABUS

The syllabus and schedule are subject to change based on course needs. Changes will be made to enhance learning outcomes; they will not be made arbitrarily or without explanation. Should any changes be necessary, they will be announced during class and posted on Canvas.