**INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY**

**ENG 120 Research Writing**

**TTH--Fall 2021**

**Instructor:** Melissa Winters **Office:** Elder Hall 220-D

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**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Class Days/Time:** ENG 120-82B TTH 12:05-1:30 ELDR 245

ENG 120-82D TTH 1:40-3:05 ELDR 245

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**“The most important thing that influences a writer’s growth is believing that he or she can learn to write well.” --Bruce Ballenger**

**Course Description:**

This course develops skills in various methods of writing. Students will write expressive and expository essays using processes of pre-writing, drafting, revising, and editing. They will evaluate and synthesize data, sources, and ideas to develop a research essay. Completion of ENG-120 with a grade of “C” or better will fulfill the writing competency requirement. Credits cannot be applied to an English or Writing major or minor. Prerequisite: Adequate SAT/ACT verbal scores or completion of ENG-119 with a grade of “C” or higher.

**Required Texts:**

*The Norton Field Guide to Writing with Readings*, 5th edition, by Bullock and Goggin

*The Little Seagull Handbook with Exercises,* 4th edition, by Bullock, Brody and Weinberg

**Other Materials:**

Pocket folders for essay submissions (4 recommended)

1” 3-ring binder with dividers for the portfolio

A notebook or loose-leaf paper for in class work

Access to a computer

Some method for saving/backing up materials

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, students should:

* Examine and employ many rhetorical strategies and organizational principles of narrative,

expository, and persuasive writing.

* Employ techniques of paragraph development, transitional elements, and stylistic devices.
* Demonstrate competence in each stage of the composing process: planning, writing, and rewriting.
* Evaluate and synthesize data, sources, and ideas to develop an argument or idea through research.
* Evaluate your own work and identify areas for improvement.
* Write competently in standard written English.

**Credit Hour Standards:**

ENG 120 is a 3 credit hour course. Federal credit hour guidelines suggest that a three-hour course should involve approximately 42 hours in the classroom and 84 hours outside the classroom in order to legitimately earn three credit hours. In this course, you will spend approximately 42 hours in the classroom; and it is estimated that to earn an average grade you will need to spend approximately 84 to complete the various assignments. More details on the breakdown of those 84 hours are available upon request.

**Course Requirements:**

1. **Bring text,** **paper, and access to both your journal and draft of your current essay** when appropriate. You may bring a computer to class provided that you use it only for course-related activities.

2. **Read** the assigned selections prior to class and be prepared for discussion and interaction with the text through activities, or in-class writing. A close reading of the assigned material is necessary for

your success and for the class itself. Impromptu in-class writing may be assigned based on the readings, and your engagement of the texts (or lack thereof) will be readily revealed. Come prepared.

3. **Write essays, short reflections, and a research paper.** In each writing assignment, you should aim to produce polished, concise, and organized work. Keeping this goal in sight, remember that writing

is a process, and we will be practicing that process throughout most of these assignments.

Additionally, you will follow the MLA style for each writing; thus, **all papers must:**

* Be typed and double-spaced, printed on white paper, and in 12 point Times New Roman font with one-inch margins.
* Include your name, course number and section letter (ie., ENG 120-82Z), my name (Prof. Melissa Winters), assignment, and due date single-spaced in that order in the upper left-hand corner of the first page only. (Title pages are a waste of trees.)
* Include page numbers on all papers that are two or more pages. The page number should be located in the upper right-hand corner with the author’s last name on pages after the first page.
* Have a title to introduce your work. The title must appear centered above the first line of text and in the same style and font as the rest of the paper (i.e., no italics, underlining, bold, or larger font).
* Be submitted on time (see the Assignment Policy below).

4. **Submit all final drafts in hard copy (print). Final drafts must also be submitted electronically via Turn It In on Brightspace.** Turn It In checks your paper against millions of sources and other papers to help you improve your use of sources and to guard against plagiarism. It is a great tool for checking yourself for accidental plagiarism because you can see the report. We will discuss accidental and intentional plagiarism during this course. Barring Brightspace problems, I will not comment on or grade your paper until it is submitted to Turn It In. Essays not submitted on time will receive a grade deduction (see Assignment Policy below). Note: Turn It In accepts .doc files. Depending on your word processing program, you may need to convert your files before submitting online.

5. **Share ideas and papers with classmates.** In the effort to become better writers, all students will participate in peer workshops. During these sessions, you will have the opportunity to

provide feedback and constructive criticism to your classmates on their writing. You will want

to consider how *your* writing will affect others; while I want you to find and use your own

voice, please bear in mind that your classmates are your audience.

6. **Develop your research abilities.** Research is a crucial skill for the academic work you will accomplish while studying at the university level. Therefore, research will be a key component for each of the essays you will write for this course.

7. **Compile a final portfolio.** The course uses portfolio assessment which gives you the opportunity

to revise your work during the semester and submit a collection of your best work at the end of the

course for a grade. More information on this project will follow.

8. **Utilize The Inkwell.**  Our campus writing center is a great resource for you. The Inkwell’s

trained writing consultants will assist you with any stage of the writing process. *You will be required to go to the Inkwell at least twice during this course*. More information regarding this requirement will be given in the coming weeks.

**Assignment Descriptions**

**1. Essays**

You will submit these essays throughout the semester for an initial evaluation so that you can keep track of your progress. You will then resubmit revised versions of the essays in your final portfolio for an additional grade.

* Essay #1—Memoir—(3 pages) You will write a personal essay that explores some aspect of a significant event or place in your life.
* Essay #2—Profile—(3 pages) You will conduct an interview and write a profile of someone.
* Essay #3—Persuasive Research Essay—(5-7 pages) You will research a significant, debatable topic and write a persuasive research essay. You will include at least 6-8 sources.
* Essay #4—Review—(3-4 pages) You will evaluate a film and write a review, focusing on specific elements and criteria of film criticism.
* Essay#5—Personal Writing Analysis—(2-3 pages) You will write an analysis of your strengths and weaknesses as a writer and plans for continued growth. This will be worked on throughout the semester and submitted in the portfolio.

When you submit these essays for grading, you may be required to include **all** prewriting, drafts, peer review forms, and the final draft in order to be eligible for the entire point value. These requirements will be discussed in class prior to each essay’s due date. *Essays that do not meet*

*the minimum page requirement will not receive above a C- grade.* All essays must be submitted electronically to Turn It In by class time on the due date. A paper copy must also be submitted in class.

**2. Journal**

During the semester, you will be assigned 2-3 journal prompts every week. The prompts will relate to readings that you should complete for class or essays that you will be writing; they are not “busy” work. Completion of the prompts will help prepare you for the work required in this class. Each entry should be at least 200 words in length and should be typed, with each entry clearly labeled with the prompt number. Your journal will be submitted twice for a grade—at midterm and at the end of the semester.

**3. *Norton* *Field Guide* and *Little Seagull* activities**

Over the course of the semester, you will complete various assigned exercises from *The Norton Field Guide to Writing* and *The Little Seagull Handbook.*

**4. Participation**

Your participation grade will be earned in two specific ways. First, the quality of your feedback during the workshop sessions is extremely important and will carry the bulk of this grade.

Second, on workshop days, you must bring a typed copy of your draft that meets the required number of pages for the assignment. (See Course Policies below)

**5. Final Portfolio**

ENG 120 uses portfolio assessment which gives students the opportunity to revise their work during the semester and submit a collection of their best work at the end of the course for a grade.

You will need your original graded drafts and evaluation sheets for your portfolio. More detailed information will be given as we approach the portfolio due date.

**Note:** An incomplete portfolio and/or improperly compiled portfolio will suffer a grade reduction. The number of points deducted will be determined by the degree of incompleteness or improper compilation. For example, a few points may be deducted per peer review form missing, but the portfolio will fail if an essay is missing. Essays with no significant revision will receive a **0** for the paper in the portfolio.

**Grading:**

**Participation and Completion 100 points**

Various Completion & Participation Grades 50 points

Writing Center Visits (25 points x 2) 50 points

**Essays 450 total points**

* Memoir 100 points
* Profile Essay 100 points
* Persuasive Research Essay 150 points
* Review Essay 100 points

**Journal** (50 points x 2) **100 points**

**Final Portfolio (w/ Personal Writing Analysis) 300 points**

**Final Exam 50 points**

**Total Points** **1000 points**

**Grading Scale**

940-1000 A 800-839 B- 670-699 D+

900-939 A- 770-799 C+ 600-669 D

870-899 B+ 740-769 C 0-599 F

840-869 B 700-739 C-

**Course Policies:**

**On Attendance:** Attendance is an important component of this course. If you are well, your physical

presence is expected. **If you must miss class due to illness, quarantine, or an excused**

**commitment, you must contact me before or on the day of your absence via email**. If you fail

to notify me, I am not obligated to excuse the absence or accept assignmentsdue on that date. If

you miss a class because of an unexcused absence, I will not excuse the absence and will not be

obligated to accept assignments due on that date. **Each unexcused absence will result in a 5**

**point deduction from your final grade.**

If you are absent, you are responsible for finding out what you missed, and you are still responsible for submitting any assignments on time. There may be exceptions to this, which I will determine on a case by case basis. **Please communicate with me regarding any absences.**

Arriving late tends to disrupt the class, which diminishes the overall quality of discussion; thus **3 late arrivals will equal one unexcused absence**. If you arrive late to class, it is your responsibility to come to me after class and ensure that I mark you “late but present.”

**On Participation:** Your active participation in class is a portion of your course grade. “Active participation” includes (but is not limited to) staying awake and alert, taking notes, asking questions, responding to questions, and participating in group activities. Arriving to class on time, having required drafts and other work prepared before class, handing work in on time, and offering constructive help to your writing group are all part of class participation. **Failure to participate can result in an absence for the day.** Because the environment will be somewhat informal, respect is absolutely essential: respect for me as your professor and respect for your peers.

**On Assignments:**

All assigned work (including all drafts) must be turned in at the **beginning of class** on the due

date. **A late assignment drops one letter grade for every 24 hours it is late.** For example, an

assignment due on Tuesday at 12:00pm received any time between 12:15pm Tuesday and 12:00pm

Wednesday will incur a one letter grade penalty (10%). **Drafts more than 2 calendar days late**

**will not be accepted without proof of extenuating circumstances**.

**Workshop days are very important. Failure to bring a typed, printed draft (with the**

**minimum page requirement) to workshop will result in a 10% grade reduction on the final**

**draft.**

***Final drafts must demonstrate revision if you wish to get credit for them.***

Note: Any essay that does not meet the minimum length requirement will not receive any grade

higher than a C-. Also portfolios that do not meet the minimum requirement will not receive a grade higher than a C-.

**On Academic Honesty:**

For this course, students are expected to submit fresh, original work. **Submitting an essay that you have written for another school, class or semester is not acceptable.** Doing so will result in failure of the assignment. Submitting work for evaluation that is not your own is considered cheating. Plagiarism in research writing is also considered cheating. Plagiarism is defined by the *MLA Handbook* as ‘the act of using another person’s ideas or expressions in writing without acknowledging the source…to repeat as your own someone else’s sentences, more or less verbatim.’ Give credit when borrowing, quoting, or paraphrasing, using appropriate citations. The penalties for cheating are outlined in the catalog and will be followed.

**On Correspondence:**

Each IWU student in the College of Arts and Sciences is given an IWU email address. This is the address that I will use to communicate with you. Email communication is an “official” form of communication, and you will be responsible for information communicated through email, just as you would for information sent in a written document through campus or US mail.

**On Technology:**

You may use your computer or phone for course-related activities only.

**On Food and Drink:**

Please do not eat in class. You may bring a drink to class as long as you drink it quietly and clean

up after yourself.

**On Respect:**

Be respectful of me, your classmates, and any guest speakers by speaking and being quiet at

appropriate times. Offensive language and comments will not be tolerated.

**Note: I reserve the right to make changes in either the syllabus or the tentative schedule as the need arises.**

**Tentative Due Dates for Essays:**

Memoir Essay

Rough Draft: Sept. 16 Final Copy: Sept. 21

Profile Essay

Rough Draft: Oct. 5 Final Copy: Oct. 12

Persuasive Research Essay

Rough Draft: Nov. 9 Final Copy: Nov. 11

Review Essay

Rough Draft: Nov. 23 Final Copy: Nov. 30

**Journal Due Dates**: Midterm: Oct. 20 Final: Dec. 9

**Portfolio Due Date:** Thursday, Dec. 9

Note: Detailed daily assignment schedules will be available on Brightspace under the Assignment Schedules tab.

**Final Exam:**

Sect. B 10:00-11:50 Wednesday, Dec. 15

Sect. D 1:00-2:50 Wednesday, Dec. 15