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ENG 1000-004: Fundamentals of College Composition

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Eng 1000: Fundamentals of Composition

Fall 2021

Prof. Angela Vietto

Office hours: By appointment, online or in the office: <https://calendly.com/vietto/30min>

Office landline 217-581-2428

Cell 217-549-3203 (feel free to text between 9 am and 9 pm)

Welcome! The goal of this course is to help you develop as a writer, with special attention to academic writing (the kind of writing we do for school). I will coach you as you develop skills and practice analytical reading, planning, drafting, revising, editing, and proofreading your writing.

Everyone can always improve their writing. No one is “just no good at writing.” But some people have had bad experiences with writing in school, which has made them believe that there’s no point in trying to improve. If that has happened to you, it’s my hope that working together, we can change how you feel about writing as your skills improve.

No matter how you feel about writing, and especially academic writing, my hope for you is that you will leave the course with improved writing skills and increased confidence in your academic writing.

Textbooks: Instead of a textbook, I will provide you with readings and other materials in D2L.

What We’ll Be Doing

1. Homework/reading quizzes/online discussions. This is a college course, so we will have homework on a regular basis, in the form of reading, reading quizzes, and online discussion or other writing. This is part of the practice that is essential to becoming a great writer.

2. In-class writing. Because practice is so important, we will do a fair amount of writing in class most days. There are several reasons to write in class instead of alone: staying on task and focused, having the ability to ask an instructor questions while you work, getting your work done when (I hope) you are awake (rather than late at night). The writing we do in class will, I hope, make it easy for you to produce more writing than you might be used to.

3. Exploratory essays. During the early part of the class, we will write several essays quickly to explore a variety of topics for further writing.

4. Polished essays. After generating several exploratory essays, you will choose topics that interest you enough to want to learn more through a solid research process and create four well-developed, well-organized, carefully edited and correctly documented essays.

5. Reflection. At the end of the course, you will look back over your writing from the semester and reflect on your development as a writer in a reflective essay.

Attendance: Coming to class regularly is important. However, if you are sick or quarantined, of course, you should not come to class. In that case, it is your responsibility—unless you are too sick to do so—to look in D2L to see what you need to do to make up the writing and other activities you missed, and to contact me for assistance if you need it.

Grading & Assignments

Homework/reading quizzes/online discussions	30%
In-class writing and exploratory essays	20%
Polished essays (4)*	40%
Reflective essay*	10%

Final Grading Scale

A	90–100%
B	80–89.99%
C	70–79.99%
NC	60% and below

****You must complete all four of the polished final essays and the reflective essay to pass the course.***

Keys to Success

My best advice for you to succeed in this class is: (a) come to class every class session unless you are sick or quarantined, (b) check in on D2L any time you miss class and make up what you missed without waiting to be told to do that, and (c) do your best to complete all assignments on time.

Student Disability Services: If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact Student Disability Services (SDS). All accommodations must be approved through SDS. Please stop by McAfee Gym, room 1210 or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

Academic integrity: Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards

The Student Success Center: Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to McAfee Gym, Room 1301.

The Electronic Writing Portfolio: Any written project of 750 words or longer written for this class would be suitable for submission to the EWP. Submissions must be made by the last day

of finals week at the end of the semester. Earlier deadlines apply for graduating seniors. *Note: The EWP requirement applies to undergraduate students only.*

The English Department Statement on Plagiarism: Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—"The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's own original work" (*Random House Dictionary of the English Language*)—has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignments of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Office of Student Standards. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources.

And my statement on plagiarism: We will study together how to incorporate information, ideas, and quotations you find in sources into your own writing, while giving appropriate credit to the author(s) whose work you are relying on. So you don't need to be afraid of accidentally plagiarizing. Once you are sure you understand how to avoid plagiarism, it's up to you to resist the temptation, not just in this class but in all your writing for the rest of your life. Much plagiarism happens because students don't feel confident in their own writing or don't value their own words and ideas. So one more reason to give this course your full effort.

Writing Center: I encourage you to use EIU's Writing Center located at 3110 Coleman Hall, this semester offering consultations both in-person and by video conference. This free service provides one-to-one conferences with writing center consultants who can help you with brainstorming, organizing, developing support, documenting your papers, and working with sentence-level concerns. Up-to-date scheduling information is available in D2L in the Writing Center widget on the front of our course page.

- Weeks 1-4 Aug 23 – Sept 19
Exploratory essays
 We will have daily homework and in-class writing that will lead you through a process to produce several essays in which you gather some preliminary information, practice organization and development of ideas, and consider possibilities for future research.
- Week 5 Sept 20 – 26
Audience
 This week, we will consider what it means to write for a specific audience. We will compare “teacher” as audience with other kinds of audiences, and you will select the topic for your first full essay.
- Week 6 Sept 27 – Oct 3
Brainstorming, research, drafting, and research
 This week we will talk about the value of seeing brainstorming, research and drafting as interconnected; do additional research and drafting/revision on formal essay 1. You’ll have a complete draft of Essay 1 by the end of this week.
- Week 7 Oct 4 – 10
Revision
 This week we will talk about and practice revision for global writing issues, and you will finish revising Essay 1.
- Week 8 Oct 11 – 17
Editing
 This week we will work together on editing and proofreading Essay 1, and choose topics for Essay 2. **Final essay 1 is due Oct. 18.**
- Weeks 9–10 Oct 18 – 31
Essay 2 (final due Nov. 1)
 In Essay 2, we will go through the same stages as Essay 1, but at a slightly faster pace. We will do Essays 3 and 4 in about the same way.
- Weeks 11–12 Nov 1 – 14
Essay 3 (final due Nov. 15)
- Weeks 13–14 Nov 15 – Dec 5 (Thanksgiving is in between weeks 13 & 14)
Essay 4 (final due Dec. 6)
- Thanksgiving Nov 22 – 28
- Week 15 & Dec 6 - 16
 Finals week **Reflective Essay: Due on the first day of finals week**