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## ENG 5007-001: Composition Theory and Pedagogy

Rachael Ryerson

*Eastern Illinois University*

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# ENG 5007-001: Composition Pedagogies

**Instructor:** Dr. Rachael Ryerson

**Email:** [raryerson@eiu.edu](mailto:raryerson@eiu.edu)

**Physical Office:** Coleman 3040

**Class Meetings:** Coleman 3159, Tuesdays, 3:30-6:00

**Office Hours** (held both physically and virtually):

- ◇ Tuesdays, 1 pm-2 pm,
- ◇ Wednesdays, 2 pm-4 pm &
- ◇ Thursdays, 3:15 pm-4:15 pm, or by appt

**Virtual Office Hours Zoom Link:**

<https://eiu.zoom.us/j/4764509986>

Meeting ID: 476 450 9986

## Course Description

*ENG 5007: Composition Pedagogies* will prepare you to teach college writing through both theory and praxis. This course will cover best practices for teaching writing in the college classroom, and help you apply what you learn to the teaching of writing courses. In addition to designing your own lesson plans and researching a writing studies issue/topic, you will also engage with writing studies topics and concerns, like responding to and assessing student writing, facilitating class discussions, as well as the *why* and *how* of crafting class activities and assignments.

## Course Objectives

- ◇ Demonstrate breadth and depth of knowledge about the history, theories, and movements within Rhetoric and Composition
- ◇ Analyze and synthesize diverse composition theories
- ◇ Demonstrate preparation to apply composition theories and pedagogies to one's own teaching
- ◇ Demonstrate effective oral and written communication through leading discussions and formal presentations
- ◇ Demonstrate the ability to produce a research article that could lead to presentation or publication

## Required Materials

- ◇ Bean, John C and Dan Metzger. *Engaging Ideas: The Professor's Guide to Integrating Writing, Critical Thinking, and Active Learning in the Classroom*. 3rd ed., Josey-Bass, 2021.
- ◇ Adler-Kassler, Linda, and Elizabeth Wardle. *Naming What We Know: Threshold Concepts of the Writing Classroom*. Classroom Edition. Utah State UP, 2016.
- ◇ Reliable access to the internet and D2L.
- ◇ Reliable access to a working computer with Microsoft Word, which you can get for free through Office 365.
- ◇ A flash drive on which to back up your work, or Cloud storage.

## Office Hours

My office hours will take place both physically and virtually this semester. Office hours are a chance for you to get help on coursework; go over material covered in class; talk about connections between class material and your other academic work; and so on. **I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this time.** If you would like to stop by and chat face-to-face, you can find me in **Coleman 3040**. If you would prefer to chat online, follow the Zoom information provided at the top of this syllabus.

## Course Work

Major Course Projects	Project #1: Composition Theorist Review	Project #2: Lesson Plan Design
	Project #3: Research Annotated Bibliography + Synthesis	Project #4: Teaching Philosophy
Additional Coursework	<p><b>Discussion Board:</b> You will post at least once a week on the discussion board and <b>posts are due Sundays, by midnight</b>. Discussion board posts will be in response to the readings assigned for a given week. You will also be expected to <b>post 2 peer responses per week, and these are due on Tuesdays, before class (3:30 pm)</b>. Discussion board prompts will be included with the weekly module in which they are assigned. See the Discussion Board Assignment Sheet on D2L for more details.</p>	
	<p><b>Lead Discussion:</b> For one class period, you will lead discussion on the readings assigned for the day. You do not have to plan out activities for the entire class period, but should be prepared to facilitate discussion during a large portion of class. See the Lead Discussion Assignment Sheet on D2L for more details and for a link to the sign-up sheet.</p>	
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Participate in class activities and contribute to discussions, both in class and online</li> <li>➤ Give your best effort for all work</li> <li>➤ Contribute to group work and always respect all members of the class.</li> </ul>	

## Grading System

Assignments are graded on a **point system**. Your final grade will be based on 1000 points, which are broken down as follows:

Major Projects (pts include process work)	
Project #1: Composition Theorist Review	125 pts
Project #2: Lesson Plan Design	125 pts
Project #3: Annotated Bib + Synthesis	200 pts
Project #4: Teaching Philosophy	100 pts
Additional Coursework	
Discussion Board Posts (x14)	280 pts (20 pts each)
Peer Responses (14 x 2 = 28 total)	140 pts (5 pts each, x2 each week)
Leading Class Discussion	30 pts
Totals	
Major Assignments	550 pts
Additional Coursework	450 pts
Total	1000 pts

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## Late Work

All work or drafts must be turned in electronically on the date due as specified on the course schedule. Use double-spaced, Times New Roman or Garamond 12 pt font, and MLA formatting for your projects. Any work submitted late **will not be accepted** and will receive a zero.

Because circumstances sometimes prohibit the timely completion of work, **each student is allowed one (1) late pass per semester without consequences to your grade**. If you are having trouble with an assignment or struggling to meet a deadline, do not hesitate to contact me or chat with me during my office hours to determine a date you can complete the assignment.

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## Attendance

You are allowed a maximum of **two (2) absences this semester** before your overall grade is negatively impacted. Starting with the third absence, your final grade will be impacted for each additional absence. If there are extenuating circumstances that will affect your attendance, it is your responsibility to discuss these with me in advance of the absence to determine a plan to make-up class work, or to request an extension.

## D2L & Zoom

We will be a Learning Management System—Desire to Learn (D2L)—to make the most of our class experience. You are expected to access to D2L, and there you will find all course materials, aside from your textbooks. You will also turn in all assignments through D2L.

We will use Zoom for one of our classes later in the semester, November 8<sup>th</sup> (see the special note below the Course schedule heading), and here is the link for that class: <https://eiu.zoom.us/j/4764509986>. Likewise, you will use the same Zoom link if you would like to attend my office hours virtually.

## General Course Policies

- **Email/LMS:** You have the responsibility check your school email and your D2L account regularly for important course communication.
- **Communication:** It is your responsibility to communicate with me when you have questions or concerns. Communication with me should be timely and respectful. I am available in-person and digitally—use communication with me as a resource.
- **Public writing:** Submit work that you are comfortable with peers reading. All major essays are public.
- **Tracking:** Track your missed work and major/minor obligations. It is your responsibility to understand the grading system and to keep up with the course schedule. Ask early and often if something is unclear about this.
- **Self-advocacy:** It is up to you to advocate for your needs. You have the responsibility to identify barriers prohibiting your full classroom participation and engage productively with me and the other members of the classroom to remedy the issue.

## Optional Masking Policy

Masking is optional for all students, regardless of vaccination status. Students may sit in any classroom seat where they are most comfortable. All reasonable efforts will be made to provide modifications to classroom seating arrangements if needed; however, this may not be possible in all situations. Students should not attend class if they are ill and should consult the student health clinic if they have any COVID-19-like symptoms. To view the latest EIU COVID-19 related information and any policy updates, please visit <https://www.eiu.edu/covid/>.

## Expectations & Classroom Conduct

Participate in the class with an open mind and understanding that each person brings unique experiences, cultures, values, etc. to class. Remain respectful to one another, for each individual and every idea, especially as we connect and communicate online. We will often have the opportunity to share our opinions and beliefs, but no racist, sexist, homophobic, ableist or any other negative communication harmful to an individual or group will be tolerated. Whether something is offensive or not will be determined by the people whom it might offend or their advocates. Furthermore, I expect none of you to remain bystanders in the classroom; if something offensive is said, address it. Classroom incivility will not be tolerated on any level.

## Accommodations & Inclusive Learning

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

Your success in this class is important to me. We will all need accommodations because we all learn differently. If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we'll develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. I encourage you to visit the Student Disability Services office to determine how you could improve your learning as well. If you need official accommodations, you have a right to have these met.

However, even if you don't have "proper" documentation but need an accommodation, please feel free to reach out to me; I know that for a variety of reasons some people avoid documenting their disability/disabilities with Student Disability Services, so I extend this offer to approach me about an accommodation without having documentation. If you want to register your disability with the university and haven't done so, please contact Student Disability Services at 217-581-6583.

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## Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

**EIU Statement:** "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."

**English Department Statement:** "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."

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## Student Success Center

**EIU Statement:** "Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center ([www.eiu.edu/~success](http://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."

## Student Resources

### Writing Center

EIU's writing center can be found at 3110 Coleman Hall, and this fall, they will be offering **face-to-face consulting sessions on weekdays and online sessions evenings and Sundays**. Students will be able to book either a face-to-face or online appointment through the Writing Center website ([www.eiu.edu/writing](http://www.eiu.edu/writing)). I strongly encourage you to use this free resource, as they can help you at any stage of the writing process.

### Health and Counseling Services

Medical Clinic-Eastern Illinois University Human Services Building  
600 Lincoln Avenue  
Charleston, IL 61920  
217-581-3013  
[health@eiu.edu](mailto:health@eiu.edu)

For mental health emergencies, contact the Counseling Clinic at 217-581-3413

### Student Disability Services

McAfee Gym, Room 1210  
217-581-6583  
[studentdisability@eiu.edu](mailto:studentdisability@eiu.edu)

### Authoring Software

Microsoft Office Office 365 ProPlus is available at no charge to EIU students, and if you do not already have this software on the tech you will be using for class, you can find it here:  
<https://www.eiu.edu/panthertech/software.php>

### EIU Campus Technology Support

Student Services Building - 3040  
Phone: (217) 581-4357  
Email: [support@eiu.edu](mailto:support@eiu.edu)

### Support Hours

M-F: 7:00am - 4:30pm

Live Chat can be found in the bottom right-hand corner of their page:

<https://www.eiu.edu/panthertech/index.php>

## Sexual Violence & Misconduct

Eastern Illinois University prohibits sexual misconduct, relationship violence, and stalking in any of its employment situations or educational programs and activities. As indicated here, <https://www.eiu.edu/mandatedinformation/assault.php>, Sexual assault, abuse or other sexual misconduct including domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking is prohibited and will not be tolerated. The University continually endeavors to prevent sexual assault by providing training and educational materials to all students and employees, and by thoroughly investigating complaints of assault.

Sexual assault is a crime and complaints will receive serious and immediate action. Once a complaint is received, the first step taken by the University personnel will be to ensure that the complainant is safe and protected from harm. The University understands that a complainant may need a support person to accompany them on campus and students and employees will be provided with contact information with various on-campus and off-campus resources.

Should you need to file a complaint, you have multiple options, and I have included a few below:

The University Police Department (UPD)

**Location:** 7<sup>th</sup> and Grant (directly east of the University Union)

**Phone:** 581-3212 (911 if an emergency)

**Hours:** Department is open daily until 4:30 p.m.; officers are on duty 24 hours.

The Office of Civil Rights and Diversity - Title IX Coordinator

**Location:** 1011 Old Main

**Phone:** 581-5020

**Hours:** Office is open M-F from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and by appointment.

The Office of Student Standards

**Location:** University Union – Lower Level

**Phone:** 581-3827

**Hours:** Office is open M-F from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Charleston Police Department (CPD)

**Location:** 614 6th Street, Charleston

**Phone:** 348-5221 (911 if an emergency)

**Hours:** Department is open daily until 4:30 p.m.; officers are on duty 24 hours.

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## Course Schedule

**Special note about the schedule:** My 6-year-old son is currently battling terminal brain cancer, and he will be in Seattle for 8 weeks (October and November) to participate in a clinical trial there. I will travel out there with him and my husband in early October, and you'll have a guest teacher on October 4<sup>th</sup> (Dr. Terri Fredrick). I will fly back and be here throughout October, but I will be in Seattle throughout November. While I'm in Seattle in November, we will hold one class over Zoom, and the other two classes will be covered by a guest teacher. Included below are the dates for those special classes in November:

- November 8—Zoom meeting—use this link: <https://eiu.zoom.us/j/4764509986>
- November 15—Guest teacher: Dr. Melissa Ames
- November 29—Guest teacher: Dr. Tim Taylor

**Schedule Acronyms:** *Naming What We Know* (NWWK); *Engaging Ideas* (EI); Reading Journal (RJ); Discussion Board Post (DB); Peer Responses to Discussion Board Posts (PR); Desire 2 Learn (D2L).



Class Topics/Readings Due	Due Dates
<b>Week 1: 08.22-08.28</b>	
<p><b>Topics:</b> Syllabus; Composition Studies (development of a field); <b>Project #1: Composition Theorist Review</b></p> <p><b>Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>NWWK:</b> Introduction (Yancey), pp. xvii-xxxi</li> <li>➤ <b>D2L:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ "Dartmouth Revisited" (Zancanella et al.)</li> <li>○ "Where did Composition Studies Come From?" (Nystrand et al.), pp. 1-9</li> <li>○ <b>Project #1 Assignment Sheet (D2L)</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Due 08.28, by midnight:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ DB #1</li> </ul>
<b>Week 2: 08.29-09.04</b>	
<p><b>Topics:</b> Writing and Critical Thinking</p> <p><b>Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>EI:</b> Chap. 1 &amp; Chap. 2</li> <li>➤ <b>NWWK:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ "NWWK: The Project of this Book" (Adler-Kassner and Wardle), pp. 3-16</li> <li>○ "Writing is a Social and Rhetorical Activity" (Roozen), pp. 17-19</li> <li>○ "Writing is a Knowledge Making Activity" (Estrem), pp. 19-20</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Due 08.30, before class (3:30 pm):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ PR #1</li> </ul> <p><b>Due 09.04, by midnight:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ DB #2</li> </ul>
<b>Week 3: 09.05-09.11</b>	
<p><b>Topics:</b> Writing and Cognition; Gateway Activities; The Cognitivist Movement</p> <p><b>Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>NWWK:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ "Writing is (Also Always) a Cognitive Activity" (Dryer), pp. 71-74</li> <li>○ "Writing is an Expression of Embodied Cognition" (Bazerman and Tinberg), pp. 74-75</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>D2L:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Teaching Writing as Reflective Practice</i> excerpt (Hillocks)</li> <li>○ "Where did Composition Studies Come From?" (Nystrand et al.), pp. 9-13</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Due 09.06, before class:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ PR #2</li> </ul> <p><b>Due 09.11, by midnight:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ DB #3</li> </ul>
<b>Week 4: 9.12-09.18</b>	
<p><b>Topics:</b> <b>Project #1 (due Sun., 09.18)</b>; Exploratory Writing; The Process Movement</p> <p><b>Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>EI:</b> Chap. 5</li> <li>➤ <b>NWWK:</b> "Failure can be an Important Part of Writing Development" (Brooke and Carr), pp. 62-64</li> <li>➤ <b>D2L:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ "Things that Go Without Saying in Composition Studies," (Nedra Reynolds piece), pp. 283-286</li> <li>○ <i>The Composing Process of Twelfth Graders</i>, excerpt (Emig)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Due 09.13, before class:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ PR#3</li> </ul> <p><b>Due 09.18, by midnight:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ DB #4</li> <li>➤ <b>Project #1</b></li> </ul>

## Week 5: 09.19-09.25

**Topics:** Designing Critical Thinking/Writing Tasks; Audience; The Expressivist Movement; **Project #2: Lesson Plan Design**

**Readings:**

- EI: Chap. 6
- NWWK: Lunsford, pp. 20-21; Lerner, pp. 40-41; Bazerman, pp. 37-39
- D2L:
  - Closing My Eyes as I Speak: An Argument for Ignoring Audience" (Elbow)
  - "Inventing the University" (Bartholomae)
  - **Optional:** "Responses to Bartholomae and Elbow" (Bartholomae and Elbow)
  - **Project #2 Assignment Sheet**

**Due 09.20, before class:**

- PR#4

**Due 09.25, by midnight:**

- DB #5

## Week 6: 09.26-10.02

**Topics:** Facilitating Class Discussions; Peer Review/Revision

**Readings:**

- EI: Chap. 9 & Chap. 11
- NWWK:
  - "All Writers Have More to Learn" (Rose), pp. 59-61
  - "Revision is Central to Developing Writing" (Downs), pp. 66-67
- D2L: *Discussion as a Way of Teaching*, (Brookfield and Preskill), choose a chapter to read

**Due 09.27, before class:**

- PR #5

**Due 10.02, by midnight:**

- DB #6

## Week 7: 10.03-10.09

**Topics:** **Project #2 (due Sun., 10.16)**; Designing writing assignments

**\*\*Note for Class Meeting:** Guest Teacher, Dr. Terri Fredrick

**Readings:**

- EI: Chap. 4
- D2L: "Designing Writing Assignments" (Gardner)

**Due 10.04, before class:**

- PR #6

**Due 10.09, by midnight:**

- DB #7
- **Project #2**

## Week 8: 10.10-10.16

**Topics:** The Social Turn; Writing and Identity; **Project #3: Annotated Bib + Synthesis**

**Readings:**

- NWWK:
  - "Writing Enacts and Creates Identities and Ideologies" (Scott), pp. 48-50
  - "Writing is Linked to Identity" (Roozen), pp. 50-52
- D2L:
  - "Where did Composition Studies Come From?" (Nystrand et al.), pp. 14-19
  - "Black English from a Black Perspective" (Smitherman)
  - 'Students' Right to Their Own Language" (SRTOL)
  - **Project #3 Assignment Sheet**

**Due 10.11, before class:**

- PR #7

**Due 10.16, by midnight:**

- DB #8

## Week 9: 10.17-10.23

**Topics:** Teaching undergraduate research; Multilingual Writers/Writing

**Readings:**

- EI: Chap. 10
- NWWK:
  - “Writing Provides a Representations of Ideologies and Identities” (Villanueva), pp. 57-58
  - “Writing Involves the Negotiation of Language Differences” (Matsuda), pp. 68-70
- D2L:
  - CCCC Statement on Second Language Writers and Writing
  - **Optional:** “The Myth of Linguistic Homogeneity” (Matsuda)
  - **Finding Scholarly Sources Workshop** (Handout and Video) (D2L)

**Due 10.18, before class:**

- PR #8

**Due 10.23 by midnight**

- DB #9

## Week 10: 10.24-10.30

**Topics:** Project #3 Proposal (due Sun., 10.30); Grammar & Correctness; Error; The Social Turn and Error

**Readings:**

- EI: Chap. 15
- D2L:
  - “What Should Colleges Teach?” (Fish)
  - “Errors and Expectations” excerpt (Shaughnessy)
  - “Redefining the Legacy of Mina Shaughnessy” (Lu)

**Due 10.25, before class:**

- PR #9

**Due 10.30, by midnight:**

- DB #10
- Project #3 Proposal

## Week 11: 10.31-11.06

**Topics:** Responding to student writing and providing feedback

**Readings:**

- EI: Chap. 14
- D2L:
  - “Responding to Student Writing” (Sommers)
  - “Audio Feedback vs. Written Feedback” (Cavanaugh and Song)

**Due 11.01, before class:**

- PR #10

**Due 11.06, by midnight:**

- DB #11

## Week 12: 11.07-11.13

**Topics:** Multimodal Composing; Composition History: The Multimodal Turn

**\*\*Note for Class Meeting: On Zoom—link [here](#) and on D2L**

**Readings:**

- NWWK: “All Writing is Multimodal” (Ball and Charlton), pp. 42-43
- D2L:
  - “A Pedagogy of Multiliteracies” (New London Group)
  - “A Multimodal Task-Based Framework” (Shipka)
  - “Between Modes: Assessing Student New Media Compositions” (Sorapure)

**Due 11.08, before class:**

- PR #11

**Due 11.13, by midnight:**

- DB #12

## Week 13: 11.14-11.20

**Topics:** Project #3 (due Sun., 11.20); Rubrics and Assessment; Contract & Portfolio Grading; Race & Assessment

**\*\*Note for Class Meeting:** Guest Teacher, Dr. Melissa Ames

**Readings:**

- EI: Chap. 12 & Chap. 16
- NWWK:
  - “Assessing Writing Shapes Contexts and Instruction” (Scott and Inoue), pp. 29-31
  - “Assessment is an Essential Component of Learning to Write” (O’Neill), pp. 67-68
- D2L: *Antiracist Writing Assessment Ecologies*, Chap. 1 (Inoue)

**Due 11.15, before class:**

- PR #12

**Due 11.20, by midnight:**

- DB #13
- **Project #3 Due**

## Week 14: 11.21-11.27

**NO ASSIGNMENTS—THANKSGIVING BREAK**

## Week 15: 11.28-12.04

**Topics:** Reflection and Teaching for Transfer; Teaching philosophies; Project #4: Teaching Philosophy

**\*\*Note for Class Meeting:** Guest Teacher, Dr. Tim Taylor

**Readings:**

- NWWK: Taczak, pp. 77-79
- D2L:
  - “Teaching for Transfer” (Yancey et al.)
  - Guidance on Writing a Philosophy of Teaching Statement
  - Teaching Philosophy Examples Packet
  - **Project #4 Assignment Sheet (D2L)**

**Due 11.29, by midnight:**

- PR #13

**Due 12.04, by midnight:**

- DB #14

## Week 16: 12.05-12.11

**Topics:** Project #4 (due next week, during Finals Week, on Friday, 12.16, by 5 pm)

**Readings:** No readings assigned this week

**Due 12.06, before class:**

- PR #14

**Due next Fri., 12.16, by 5 pm:**

- Teaching Philosophy

## Week 17: 12.12-12.16

**Teaching Philosophy Due Friday, 12.16, by 5:00 pm  
(This serves as your final for the class—no class meeting)**

