

English Composition I

ENGL-1101

Fall 2021 Section E05 3 Credits 08/11/2021 to 12/10/2021 Modified 11/21/2021

Course Description (General):

ENGL 1101: This composition course focuses on skills required for effective writing in a variety of contexts, with emphasis on exposition, analysis and argumentation, and also includes introductory use of a variety of research skills.

Course Description (Specific):

Course Theme: Representations of Wastelands

This course will focus on texts (primarily a documentary, creative non-fiction selections, and short story selections) that highlight standard definitions of a wasteland: “something, as a period of history, phase of existence, or locality, that is spiritually or intellectually barren”; something that is “uncultivated” and/or “devastated.” Our discussion will center on not only these definitions but also on authors’ interpretations of these definitions and how these “wastelands” bear themselves out in these individual works. We will examine not only physical wastelands, but also spiritual, intellectual, and cultural, mental, and emotional wastelands and the effects of those on places and on individuals that surround them.

Description

Composition course focusing on skills required for effective writing in a variety of contexts, with emphasis on exposition, analysis and argumentation, and also including introductory use of a variety of research skills. Prerequisites: All English as a Second Language students must have exited from all English as a Second Language courses. All learning support students must have completed all reading and writing required remediation.

Requisites

Prerequisites:

Learning Support English 3

Corequisites:

Contact Information

Office Location and Phone: TLC 3132; Telephone (direct): (470) 729-2613 (Note: This is a GoogleVoice number and will ring through to my cell phone. If I miss your call, please do leave me a message [either voice or text], and I will return your call).

Meeting Times

Student Hours: Since this is an asynchronous course, I will have online hours set aside to meet specifically with students. These will be through Collaborate Ultra (inside CourseDen). I will be available Tuesdays from 10am-11am and on Thursdays from 11am-12pm (unless otherwise noted). If we find, as the semester progresses, that very few of you are utilizing this set time, we can reconsider our options and have virtual office hours by appointment through either Collaborate Ultra or Google Meet. In addition, I am available via email through both my UWG email and also through CourseDen email (please use bjames@westga.edu for more immediate responses since I will get notifications on my phone) during normal business hours (9 am-5 pm). If you email me during times other than those listed, my response may be delayed. You have LOTS of options to reach out to me. PLEASE do not hesitate to do so. Communication is often the key to SUCCESS.

Materials

Texts, Readings, Instructional Resources, and References: Note: All course materials will be provided to you via your Content Bar on CourseDen. Other course materials (ones not listed here) may be added if I feel they will benefit our discussion, and I will note those as well as we proceed through the course.

- *Waste Land* (a documentary)
- Creative Non-Fiction On Human and Physical Wastelands (essay selections)
- *Wastelands: Stories of the Apocalypse* (short story selections)

Outcomes

Learning Outcomes (General-for Core Area A1):

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Recognize and identify appropriate topics for presentation in writing
- Synthesize and logically arrange written presentations
- Adapt written communication to specific purposes and audiences.

Learning Outcomes (Course Specific):

1. To identify and employ a variety of rhetorical modes and techniques of persuasion and acquire reasonable mastery of conventions of college-level prose writing.
2. To develop and apply critical thinking skills in effective expository, analytical, and argumentative writing and to gain facility with the entire writing process from invention through revision.
3. To develop organizational strategies, incorporate and document additional textual materials to strengthen and support the argument.

Evaluation

Your work in the course will be evaluated using three categories:

- 1) Major Assignments: Essay One (20%); Essay Two (20%); Essay Three (25%)=65% of the final grade in the course.
- 2) Informal Writing Assignments (these will be smaller assignments that will allow you to discuss, write about, etc., the course material and will also assist you as you prepare to complete the major assignments (see above). These assignments will culminate into 25% of the final grade in the course.
- 3) Metacognitive Reflection Exercise (this assignment will function as the "final exam" in the course) and will equal 10% of the final grade in the course.

Assignments

Assignments/Assessment:

Major Assignments (three):

- Essay One (Engaging the Text)
- Essay Two (Analyzing Rhetoric)
- Essay Three (Synthesizing Arguments)

Informal Writing Responses:

- These assignments will take the form of discussion posts, journal assignments, short explications, or brief analytical responses to questions on the text(s) being discussed.

Metacognitive Reflection Exercise:

- The final requirement is included because it provides us with a capstone for the semester, a chance for you to reflect upon and celebrate your progress as well as to receive some final recommendations from me on how to proceed going forward as a writer.

**Also Note: No extra credit will be assigned or accepted in this course. In addition, work completed for another course will not be accepted in this course.*

Schedule

Tentative Course Schedule ("At A Glance" Calendar)

***Note: These dates and assignments may be adjusted as necessary to meet the needs of the class.*

Week	Topic/Reading Assignment	Topic/Reading Assignment
<i>August</i> Week One (11 th +)	Introduction to the Course and Course Theme (Syllabus, Rubric, and Grading Contract Review)	Introduce Yourself (Video Note Discussion Post)
Week Two (16 th +)	Getting Back Into Practice of Writing (low-risk diagnostic assignment) <i>Waste Land</i> (documentary)	<i>Waste Land</i> (documentary)

Week	Topic/Reading Assignment	Topic/Reading Assignment
Week Three (23 rd)	Discussion of the <i>Waste Land</i> (in preparation for essay one)	Assign Essay One: Engaging the Text; Proposal and Justification
August/September Week Four (30 th +)	Work on the Introduction of Essay One	Focused Peer Revision of Introduction
September Week Five (6 th +)	Work on Body Paragraphs of Essay One	Focused Peer Revision of Body Paragraphs
Week Six (13 th +)	Work on Body Paragraphs/Conclusion of Essay One	Focused Peer Revision of Body Paragraphs/Conclusion

Week	Topic/Reading Assignment	Topic/Reading Assignment
<p>Week Seven (20th+) </p>	<p>Full Draft Self Review of Essay One</p>	<p>Proposed Revisions for Essay One</p>
<p><i>September/October</i></p> <p>Week Eight (27th+) </p>	<p>Essay One due in CourseDen in Essay One Folder by 9 am on 10/5</p>	<p>Review of Analyzing Rhetoric: Discussion and Writing Practice</p>
<p><i>October</i></p> <p>Week Nine (4th+) </p>	<p>Creative Non-Fiction Essays on Human Wastelands (Wastelands and Chronic Pain and Disfigurement)</p>	<p>Creative Non-Fiction Essays on Physical Wastelands (Wastelands and Environmental Destruction)</p>

Week	Topic/Reading Assignment	Topic/Reading Assignment
Week Ten (11 th +)	Review Essay One (Self-Reflection Exercise)	Assign Essay Two: Analyzing Rhetoric; Consider Your Argument: Getting Started on Essay Two
Week Eleven (18 th +)	Essay Two Proposal and Justification	Brainstorming Essay Two, Considering Organization, and Work on Thesis Statements and Topic Sentences
Week Twelve (25 th +)	Drafting Essay Two	Proposed Revisions for Essay Two (based on feedback from a UWC consultant or a peer) Note: You may also request feedback from me (but this is in addition to the two above)
<i>November</i> Week Thirteen (1 st +)	Essay Two Due in CourseDen in Essay Two Folder no later than 9 am Reviewing Synthesizing Arguments	Discussion of Short Story, "The End of the Whole Mess" (<i>Wastelands: Stories of the Apocalypse</i>)

Week	Topic/Reading Assignment	Topic/Reading Assignment
Week Fourteen (8 th +))	Discussion of Short Story, "Dark, Dark Were the Tunnels (<i>Wastelands: Stories of the Apocalypse</i>)	Assign Essay Three: Synthesizing Arguments; Proposal and Justification
Week Fifteen (15 th +)) *Note: Thanksgiving Holiday is 11/22- 11/26	Drafting Essay Three (Optional Focused Self Review)	Proposed Revisions for Essay Three (Optional GoogleMeet appointments available to discuss drafts/revisions)
Week Sixteen (29 th +)) Final Exam Week	Essay Three Due in CourseDen in Essay Three Folder by 9 am on 12/6	Final Metacognitive Reflection Due (by 9 am on 12/6)

* Course Policies and Resources

Late Work Policy:

Because of the nature of this course, no late work will be accepted. Please be sure that you pay close attention to ALL due dates for coursework. Coursework must also be submitted to the proper locations on CourseDen in order for it to be accepted and count towards the completion of the necessary coursework. No coursework may be submitted through any other avenue (i.e., email correspondence).

Attendance Policy:

Since this course is almost exclusively asynchronous, there is no formal attendance policy. However, course "attendance," meaning your active involvement in the course, will be tracked through the submission of assignments and also through the "Class Progress" tool on CourseDen. Keeping up with work as it is assigned is crucial to your success in the course. If you have any type of issue during the course of the semester, PLEASE reach out to me.

Plagiarism and Excessive Collaboration Policy: (if a student violates this policy, he/she may receive an "F" for the assignment or an "F" for the course at my discretion). Policies on the university's honor code can be found by reviewing the "Honor Code" in the Institutional Policies below. More specific policies with regard to plagiarism, academic honesty, and excessive collaboration are here:

Plagiarism & Academic Honesty: Plagiarism is defined as taking personal credit for the words and ideas of others as they are presented in electronic, print, and verbal sources. There is the expectation that students will accurately credit sources in all assignments. An equally dishonest practice is fabricating sources or facts; it is another form of misrepresenting the truth. Plagiarism is grounds for failing the course (see above).

Excessive Collaboration: By the end of the term in both ENGL 1101 and 1102, students should demonstrate the ability to produce independent writing (writing without collaborative assistance of peers, writing tutors, or professionals in the field) that shows an acceptable level of competence. Although numerous course assignments may highlight collaborative learning and collaborative research, excessive collaboration (collaboration that results in the loss of a student's voice/style and original claims to course-related work) is considered another form of academic dishonesty and therefore will not be permitted.

Institutional Policies

Academic Support

Accessibility Services: Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given. For more information, please contact [Accessibility Services \(https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php).

Center for Academic Success: The [Center for Academic Success \(http://www.westga.edu/cas/\)](http://www.westga.edu/cas/) provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6280 or cas@westga.edu.

University Writing Center: The [University Writing Center \(https://www.westga.edu/writing/\)](https://www.westga.edu/writing/) assists students with all areas of the writing process. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6513 or writing@westga.edu.

Online Courses

UWG takes students' privacy concerns seriously: technology-enhanced and partially and fully online courses use sites and entities beyond UWG and students have the right to know the privacy policies of these entities. For more information on privacy and accessibility for the most commonly used sites, as well as technology requirements visit the [UWG Online \(https://uwgonline.westga.edu/\)](https://uwgonline.westga.edu/) site.

Students enrolled in online courses can find answers to many of their questions in the [Online/Off-Campus Student Guide \(http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php\)](http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php).

If a student is experiencing distress and needs help, please see the resources available at the [UWG Cares \(http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/\)](http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/) site. [Online counseling \(https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php) is also available for online students.

Honor Code

At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.

The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing.

Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of academic penalties including, but not limited to, failing the assignment and/or failing the course. Student conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student's conduct record at UWG.

Additionally, the student is responsible for safeguarding his/her computer account. The student's account and network connection are for his/her individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. The student is responsible for all actions originating through his/her account or network connection. Students must not impersonate others or misrepresent or conceal their identities in electronic messages and actions. For more information on the University of West Georgia Honor Code, please visit the [Office of Community Standards](https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/ocs/index.php) (<https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/ocs/index.php>) site.

UWG Email Policy

University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to check his or her email.

Credit Hour Policy

The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in-class or other direct faculty instruction AND two hours of student work outside of class per week for approximately fifteen weeks. For each course, the course syllabus will document the amount of in-class (or other direct faculty instruction) and out-of-class work required to earn the credit hour(s) assigned to the course. Out-of-class work will include all forms of credit-bearing activity, including but not limited to assignments, readings, observations, and musical practice. Where available, the university grants academic credit for students who verify via competency-based testing, that they have accomplished the learning outcomes associated with a course that would normally meet the requirements outlined above (e.g. AP credit, CLEP, and departmental exams).

HB 280 (Campus Carry)

UWG follows University System of Georgia (USG) guidance: http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information# (http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information)

You may also visit our website for help with USG Guidance: <https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php> (<https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php>)

Mental Health Support

If you or another student find that you are experiencing a mental health issue, free confidential services are available on campus in the [Counseling Center](#). Students who have experienced sexual or domestic violence may receive confidential medical and advocacy services with the Patient Advocates in [Health Services](#). To report a concern anonymously, please go to [UWGcares](#).

ELL Resources

If you are a student having difficulty with English language skills, and / or U.S. culture is not your home culture, specialized resources are available to help you succeed. Please visit the [E.L.L. resource page](#) for more information.

COVID-19

The health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff remain the University of West Georgia's top priority.

For the most recent information on coronavirus disease (COVID-19) visit:

- [UWG's Guidance on Face Coverings](https://www.westga.edu/coronavirus-info/return-to-campus/faq/what-is-the-guidance-on-the-use-of-face-coverings.php) (<https://www.westga.edu/coronavirus-info/return-to-campus/faq/what-is-the-guidance-on-the-use-of-face-coverings.php>)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention FAQ](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>)
- [Georgia Department of Public Health](https://dph.georgia.gov/) (<https://dph.georgia.gov/>)

Additional Items

Course Schedule and Postings of Course Materials and Assignments (You can expect to see the following with respect to our schedule and to the posting of course materials and assignments):

Note: Coursework and assignments for each week, respectively, will be posted each Monday and any assignments for that week will be due the following Monday (see below).

For the Course Schedule:

- Please check BOTH your “Announcements” as well as the “preview of the module” (see below) for updates on the course schedule. It is imperative that you stay current on postings of material, postings of assignments, and due dates for those assignments, as well as any changes, additions, etc. to the course as we move through the semester. I will also post an “at a glance” calendar of assignments in your Content Bar, so you can have a larger look at this semester’s scheduling (with the understanding that I can adjust that schedule as necessary to meet the needs of the entire class). **Note: Be sure that you are seeing all of our “Announcements” by scrolling to the bottom of the screen (on our main course page) and clicking on “Show All Announcements.”**

For the Posting of Course Material:

- All material will be posted using the Content Bar and will be organized using Modules (for both the Content Discussion and for each of the Major Assignments) and Submodules (for each piece of individual course material encompassed in each Module).
- At the beginning of each module, I will update a “preview of the module” every Monday (unless otherwise noted), detailing the week’s coursework.

For the Posting of Assignments:

- Each assignment will have clear directions as to their requirements, due dates, and locations of where they should be uploaded. Most, if not all, of your assignments, will be uploaded into “Discussions” (located under the “Communication” tab) or to “Assignments” (located under the “Assessment” tab). Remember (see the Late Policy guidelines above): ALL material MUST be uploaded into CourseDen in order to be accepted. No coursework will be accepted via email. **Note: All assignments (unless otherwise noted) will be due each Monday at 9 am. The assignment folder and/or discussion form will close after that time in adherence to the late work policy.**

Note on Keeping Up with Announcements and Due Dates:

Download the Brightspace Pulse App

Brightspace Pulse is a mobile app for students that can help you stay connected and on track with your Brightspace courses. It gives you one easy view of course calendars, readings, assignments, evaluations, grades, and news. The app will help you to make better decisions about how to handle your workload, when to submit assignments, and when to prepare for tests. Real-time alerts will let you know when classes are canceled, rooms are moved, or new grades are available. The schedule view and weekly visualization enable you to quickly at a glance view what is due today, this week, and upcoming across all your courses.

- See all the important dates and deadlines for each one of your courses
- Anticipate your busiest times with a quick glance
- Receive the latest grades and news
- View all your course content
- Share updates via email, text messages, and social media
- Enter your own events and deadlines
- Read and reply to subscribed discussions

- Edit course details and customize how much assignments and tests are worth
 - Seamlessly log in to Brightspace via your browser to complete tasks
 - Supports Apple Continuity for login from iPhone to iPad or Mac
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