

English Composition I

ENGL-1101

Fall 2020 Section E08 3 Credits 08/12/2020 to 12/05/2020 Modified 08/10/2020

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. For more information on this institution's eCore courses, please see <http://www.westga.edu/~ecore/>

Requisites

Prerequisites:

Learning Support English 3

Corequisites:

Contact Information

Lecturer: Prof. Joshua Nicholas Black

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Phone: 678-839-4890

Website: https://www.westga.edu/academics/coah/english/profile.php?emp_id=90844
(https://www.westga.edu/academics/coah/english/profile.php?emp_id=90844)

Materials

Trinity: A Graphic History of the First Atomic Bomb

Author: Jonathan Fetter-Vorm

Publisher: Hill and Wang

ISBN: 978-0809093557

Availability: Campus Bookstore

Please get the cheapest version that you can find. The campus bookstore advertises used copies for \$5.38 while Amazon advertises used copies from \$2.54. Feel free to shop around, but please ensure that you have the text within the next few weeks, as it will be used extensively during the second unit in the course.

Outcomes

- To develop skills in effective expository, analytical, and argumentative writing.
- To develop facility with the whole writing process from invention through revision.
- To understand and employ a variety of rhetorical modes and techniques of persuasion.
- To acquire reasonable mastery of conventions of college-level prose writing.
- To incorporate and document additional textual materials to strengthen and support argument.
- General and Specific Learning Outcomes in detail

✓ Evaluation

Final grades in the course will be based on a straightforward grading contract, which is available on CourseDen.

☰ Assignments

Essay: Rhetorical Analysis

For the first essay, you will be completing a rhetorical analysis of the docudrama *A Haunting in Connecticut* (Discovery, 2002), a television film that purports to dramatize, well, a haunting in Connecticut. In practice, then, you will be making a value judgment about the argument presented in the film with reference to various rhetorical, generic, and argumentative strategies.

Essay: Argument and Persuasion

The second essay asks you to make an argument regarding the use of atomic weapons during the Second World War. We'll be looking at two texts, Jonathan Fetter-Vorm's graphic novel *Trinity* and Oliver Stone's *Untold History of the United States*, each of which will provide you with evidence both in support of and in opposition to the use of atomic weapons against the Japanese Empire. You'll need to decide which position you want to take, and then you'll need to excerpt evidence from those texts to support that position.

Essay: Synthesizing Arguments

The final essay is, in short, a traditional research paper. You will select a topic in consultation with me, and you will then utilize various research tools to locate reputable sources that address your chosen topic. The objective is to develop an original and informed argument on a subject of interest to you, and to contextualize and support that argument through reference to what others have said on the subject.

Writing Journals

Each week you will complete a writing journal (due to the appropriate dropbox on CourseDen before 11:59 p.m. on Sundays) in which you, in effect, reflect on and communicate about what you have learned, struggled with, and/or accomplished during the preceding week. The journals are informal writing assignments, meaning that you don't need to structure them like a traditional academic essay. Instead, think of them as a chance to communicate with me about the writing process. If you're struggling with a specific concept, then, let me know. If you accomplished something of which you're particularly proud, let me know. Additional information regarding the expectations for these journals is available on CourseDen.

Discussion and Participation

We might be an online class, but we still need to participate in meaningful ways on a regular basis. I will therefore be creating a number of forums for casual conversation about the course, most notably an ongoing Google Chat in which you can ask questions, express concerns, and so on. I will be responding to those questions, of course, but I also encourage you to respond to your classmates should you know the answer.

In addition, we will have weekly discussion forums (details are available on CourseDen) in which we will discuss the content of the course in a more formal manner. You will be expected to complete these discussion forums before 11:59 p.m. on Sunday each week.

📅 Schedule

The course schedule is available on CourseDen. Please consult the provided (and, importantly, accessible) document and/or calendar there for additional information.

* Course Policies and Resources

Attendance and Participation

As part of the grading contract for the course, you're expected to attend and participate in class on a regular basis. This is not a content-based course, meaning that you cannot skip class meetings, cram material before an exam, and hope to do well. It is, instead, a skills/practice-based course, closer to something like a clinical or professional practicum, and it thus requires you to participate in order to succeed. I promise, as much as possible, that I will attempt to make the class engaging if not altogether entertaining so as to incentivize participation. But, even if I'm ultimately unsuccessful, I implore you to show up, to listen to other's perspectives, to learn from their experiences with the writing process, to volunteer your own perspectives, and to allow others to learn from your experiences with the writing process.

NOTE: The course might be online, but it still requires active attendance and participation from you. Please log-in to CourseDen on a regular basis (I can see when and for how long each student has been on the platform), and should you experience extracurricular difficulties (e.g., illness, familial issues, etc.) please let me know *as soon as possible*. I'm committed to assisting you in succeeding in the course however I can, but to do so I need you to regularly communicate with me.

Late Work and Extensions

Honestly, so long as you get the work to me within a reasonable time (i.e., within one week of the due date), I don't care too much about deadlines. If you need more than a week to complete a missing assignment, however, do contact me sooner rather than later: I won't accept work that is more than a week past due.

Plagiarism and Excessive Collaboration

The university considers plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty to be a serious breach of academic ethics. Section 207 of the University of West Georgia Faculty Handbook, which defines plagiarism as "Improper academic conduct...the purchase and use of ghost-written papers and reports, or incorporating into a report, term theme, research paper, or project, ideas and information obtained from another person without giving credit to the person from whom such information was obtained."

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 classroom activities and out-of-class 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.

Each incidence of plagiarism is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of penalties including but not limited to failing the assignment, failing the course, and referral to the [disciplinary review board](#) (which may ultimately result in the expulsion, suspension, or disciplinary removal of the student from the university). In order to facilitate the prevention and detection of plagiarism the Department of English and the University of West Georgia will maintain records of plagiarized assignments and those who prepare and/or submit them.

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 see the [Student Handbook \(https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/handbook-code-of-conduct.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/handbook-code-of-conduct.php).

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

Proctored Exams/Online Instruction: Students should be aware and plan ahead for the possibility of having to complete all courses and/or exams online or in a proctored environment. This means talking with your instructors about what minimum technical requirements (software and hardware) will be required should your class move online or a student's personal needs dictate. This also includes making plans for internet access at whatever location participation may occur.

Virtual or in-person proctored exams, if your instructor should require them, may result in an additional cost to the student. Please discuss these details with your instructor or see the information provided here.

Face Coverings: Effective July 15, 2020, University System of Georgia institutions, including the University of West Georgia, will require all faculty, staff, students, and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible. Face covering use will be in addition to and is not a substitute for social distancing.

Face coverings are not required in campus outdoor settings where social distancing requirements are met. Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area.

Reasonable accommodations may be made for those who are unable to wear a face covering for documented health reasons.

Student FAQs: For more information about UWG COVID-19 guidance for students visit the [Student FAQ webpage](#) (<https://www.westga.edu/student-services/health/coronavirus-info/return-to-campus/students-faq-return-to-campus.php>).