

English 731: Theory and Practice of Teaching Composition

Location: BAC 254

Days/time: MTWRF (9:00 - 1:00)

English 731 offers an introduction to both the theory and reflective practice of teaching composition. In this course, you will learn to:

- Apply and adapt theories of rhetoric and composing process to the teaching of writing.
- Reflect critically about your own teaching and writing practices.
- Design and implement inquiry-based, scaffolded writing assignments that enhance student learning.
- Integrate digital technologies and multimodal composing into writing pedagogy in meaningful ways.
- Respond to and evaluate student writing in ways that encourage revision and deep learning.
- Plan and implement interactive course sessions that help students develop transferable writing skills (e.g, invention and research strategies, audience analysis heuristics, reflective habits, critical reading strategies, revision and editing techniques)
- Adapt instruction to the individualized needs of students.
- Develop practical skills in classroom management and course organization.
- Design a course syllabus that achieves the common outcomes of our 111 curriculum (while also contributing actively to our collaborative culture of innovation).

Readings

Composition Teacher's Guide

Rhethawks: 111 Reader

Adler-Kassner, Linda and Elizabeth Wardle, Eds. Naming What We Know.

Online Coursepack (available in Canvas modules and linked from the schedule)

Grade Breakdown

Personal Philosophy of Composing: 250 pts

Informal Composing (discussion board): 200 pts

In-Class Participation: 100 pts

Course planning documents: 300

Peer Teaching (including reflection): 150 pts

Grade Scale

980-1000 A+
930-979 A
900-929 A-
880-899 B+
830-879 B
800-829 B-
780-799 C+
730-779 C
700-729 C-
680-699 D+
630-679 D
600-629 D-
0-599 F

Policies

Basically, come to class every day, work hard, be trustworthy, be kind, and let us know how we can best help you learn. (See legalese below)

1) Access / Accommodations: We are committed to maximizing your learning potential and making this course as accessible as possible. If there is any way that I can adapt this course to better meet your unique needs as a learner, please let me know! If you have a documented disability, I am especially interested in providing any accommodations that have been best determined by you and the Office of Disability Resources (<http://www.units.muohio.edu/oeo/odr/> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.; 513-529-2541) in advance.

2) Attendance: It is Miami University policy that every student is expected to attend every class meeting. Attendance is of utmost importance to the success of this class and to your development as a writer. Much of the learning in English 731 happens via in-class inquiry activities, in-class writing assignments, class discussion, and group interaction that cannot be easily made up or replicated outside of class. Class time will be highly interactive — requiring frequent participation, discussion, team work, in-class writing, and responding to writing. For this reason, attendance at all class sessions is expected. You are allowed a maximum of 1 unexcused absences in this course. Having more than 1

unexcused absences will result in a lowering of your final grade for the course by one tier (for example from B to B-).

3) Tardiness: Two late arrivals equals an absence.

4) Late Work: All assignments must be turned in on time. Final grades on papers will be downgraded one whole grade for each day late (for example A to B) unless you have made prior arrangements for an extension with me (in exceptional circumstances).

5) Distractions: Please silence your cell phone and refrain from texting. While we will regularly use laptops for in-class writing, research, and collaboration, please refrain from using your laptop for non-class activities.

6) Backing up Work: Please make sure to have a plan for backing up all of your digital work in multiple places in case of computer failure. Please also make sure to save all of the writing you complete for class.

7) Respect / Community: While we will often engage in vigorous and lively debate in this class, personal insults or attacks on an individual person's race, class, gender, sexuality, or disability will not be tolerated.

8) Academic Integrity / Plagiarism: For all assignments, you are expected to provide proper attribution and use of all sources and source material (e.g., use of in text and reference citation, use of quotation marks, proper summarizing/paraphrasing). You are expected to do so not only to demonstrate how well you are able to incorporate and interpret source material to aid in your argument or understanding but also to distinguish others' thoughts from your own. Proper attribution and use of source material is the cornerstone of academic writing and allows you to build upon others' ideas in your work. Merely copying and pasting (or restating) others' work in your assignment with little to no original thought will not constitute an acceptable assignment, and any use of source material without proper attribution and usage will be handled under the Academic Integrity Policy and procedures as suspected plagiarism. Remember, writing well is more than citing well. Even if all of your citations are technically accurate, if you do not put information and ideas into your own understanding, it is still considered plagiarism. **DO NOT COPY AND PASTE** in any stage of your writing.

Any suspected instances of plagiarism will be handled under Miami University's Academic Integrity policy found in Part 1, Chapter 5 of the Student Handbook (http://www.miamioh.edu/_files/documents/secretary/Student_Handbook.pdf (Links to

an external site.)Links to an external site.). Please review this policy, and note that lack of knowledge or understanding of the appropriate academic conduct is not an excuse for committing academic dishonesty.

9) Canvas/Daily Schedule: The daily course schedule and more detailed assignment prompts will be available on Canvas. The course schedule is subject to change based on the needs and interests of the class. You are responsible for regularly checking Canvas for updates.

Resources

Writing Center The Howe Writing Center (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. is located on the main floor of King Library. The Center is staffed with writing consultants from many different academic areas. In a one-on-one workshop, a staff member will consult with you concerning work-in-progress, final drafts, research style, and many other aspects of writing. It is best to schedule an appointment ahead of time, but you may also walk in on days when they have consultants available. For further information, visit <http://writingcenter.lib.muohio.edu/> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site..

Disability Services: If you have a learning or physical disability, please speak with any of us early in the semester so we can discuss how we can best adapt our course to help you learn. You can also obtain additional information and support from the Office of Learning Disabilities Services (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. 513-529-8741 or The Office of Disability Resources (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. 513-529-1541.

Student Counseling Service: Located in the Health Services Center, this office provides a wide range of counseling services. For more information, call 513-529-4634 or visit <http://www.units.muohio.edu/saf/scs/> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site..

CIM Center: The Center for Information Management (CIM) Cent (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.er, located in King library, is a great resource for multimedia and multimodal projects. There's a computer lab with staff assistance for just about any software program you could imagine, a fast scanner for making pdfs, and more.

Campus Libraries: Check out the library website (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. or contact Humanities Librarian, Arianne Hartsell-Gundy (Links to an external site.)Links to

an external site., for more information about how the library can support your work as both student and teacher.

IT Support Desk: Visit the IT Help website ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#), call 513-529-7900, or email ithelp@muohio.edu for tech support with wireless, niihka, teacher stations, or other academic technology needs.