Writing 111
Spring 2018
Department Info

Course Description

Writing 111 develops and refines your critical thinking, reading, and writing skills and prepares you to write successful college-level essays. Together we will explore the functions of writer, audience, and purpose and come to understand writing as an ongoing process: a creative mix of reading, re-reading, thinking, re-thinking, drafting, and revising. We will focus on developing and supporting interesting ideas in narrative/descriptive, analytical/expository, and argumentative essays. Over the course of the semester, these and a variety of other assignments will help you gain increasing confidence, independence, and sophistication as a writer.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of Writing 111, students will:

1. know and consistently apply the rules of English grammar and usage
2. write clear, concise, logical sentences
3. construct coherent, unified, well-developed paragraphs that include specific supporting details
4. recognize and write effective thesis statements
5. demonstrate an understanding of audience and purpose by choosing appropriate style and diction
6. demonstrate enhanced critical reading and thinking skills
7. incorporate and document source material in an ethical, thoughtful, focused, stylistically correct manner
8. construct engaging, cohesive essays that include fully developed introductions, body paragraphs, and conclusions
9. understand what constitutes plagiarism and adhere to the College’s policy on academic integrity

Please note:
According to the policy of Westminster College’s Department of English and Public Relations, students who plagiarize will receive a 0 for the assignment and may fail the course.

You must earn at least a C- in Writing 111 to meet the College’s writing requirement. You must meet the writing requirement to graduate.
Writing 111, Spring 2018

Brianne Howard
Email: howardbk@westminster.edu
Cell: (330) 885-0889
Office: Thompson-Clark 408

Section 01: T/Th 7:40-9:10, Thompson Clark 314
Section 03: T/Th 9:20-10:50, Patterson 110
Office Hours: by appointment only
(either on campus or virtually)

Our Course Description and Plan

This semester, we’ll explore our personal views — specifically where our beliefs, opinions, and knowledge stem from — and how they influence our experiences and interpretations of the world. Our goal is to articulate our thoughts using a variety of composition tactics while we explore how the writing process helps facilitate critical thinking and expression in and outside of academia. We’ll be using real world experiences, as well as texts and topics that you will choose, to create a written journey in your major assignments.

Required Texts

Other Course Requirements

Regularly check Desire2Learn (D2L) and your school email for announcements, schedule changes, assignments, and follow up that may be required.

Save all of your work, both handwritten and electronic, so you have a record of your grades. D2L isn’t a clear indicator of your grade, since it doesn’t include all assignments and grade components. Also, I recommend using a cloud service to save your electronic work so you can access it anytime on any device.

Technology is welcome in class as long as you’re using it for class-related purposes. Avoid making devices a distraction to others and yourself.

We will discuss sensitive issues and our work openly as a class. Criticism must be constructive and respectful at all times. Disagreeing can fuel some great conversations and learning experiences, just remain awesome in the process.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism of any kind is unacceptable. You are responsible for maintaining academic integrity in all of your work, and all work submitted for this course should be your own and for this class only. If you use any information from any outside source, you must give credit to that source. According to the policy of Westminster College’s Department of English and Public Relations, students who plagiarize will receive a “0” for the assignment and may fail the course.
Assignments and Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100%</td>
<td>Essay 1: Descriptive 15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93%</td>
<td>Essay 2: Expressive 15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89%</td>
<td>Essay 3: Compare/Contrast + Research + Persuasion 20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-87%</td>
<td>Essay 4: Argument and Analysis 20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83%</td>
<td>Essay 5: Reflection/Evaluation 15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79%</td>
<td>Major Essays 85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-77%</td>
<td>Minor Assignments 10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73%</td>
<td>Participation 5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68-69%</td>
<td>Total Possible: 100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-67%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
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The actual process of development for your major essays is a substantial component for grading and participation in this class. You will turn in a rough draft or rough draft components and participate in peer workshops for each major essay assignment. Minor assignments are usually geared to be practice or assist in skills needed for a major essay. These may be comprised of quizzes, written responses, discussion board entries, short papers, pre-work, group work, mini-presentations, etc.

MLA format is required for all major assignments. Use your Prentice Hall Reference Guide in combination with the updated digital handout available on D2L as the go-to resources.

Additionally, all major assignments must be turned in via D2L in .doc or .docx format. Assignments will automatically be run through the TurnItIn service. Assignments will not be accepted or eligible for grading until this is completed.

Participation grades are determined by your engagement in class. I will be looking for things such as being prepared, completing the readings consistently, speaking up (with comments or questions), active listening, coming to all the peer workshops, using available resources, utilizing technology appropriately, and taking ownership for your own growth in this class.

You are welcome to revise any graded major essay on which you receive a C- (73%) or less and turn it in for a new grade, except for the final essay. The better of the two grades will count. You will have one week’s time after the return of the original essay to make revisions and resubmit.

Late Work

I accept major essays late, but for each day they are late, including weekends, you lose 10% of the total possible grade. For example, if the assignment is worth 100%, and you turn it in two days late, you will lose an additional 20% off your final score for the assignment. Any late penalties that apply to your original assignment will also apply to revised assignments.

Other assignments, including rough drafts, will only be accepted late with my prior approval. See the attendance policy for missed in-class work.
**Attendance**

You are expected to attend every class on time. In the event you must miss class, please let me know as soon as you can via an email, text message, or voicemail. Again, be awesome.

You can miss up to two absences (excused or unexcused) without any penalty. Each absence afterward will lower your final course grade by one degree of a letter grade as determined by the grading scale. For example, if you miss four class sessions, your final course grade will be lowered by two levels (e.g. from a B to C+). Excessive tardiness will be counted as unexcused absences.

You are not able to make up in-class work for the day you are absent, whether excused or unexcused. Check with a classmate for any missed material, notes, or assignments.

**Accessibility**

Westminster College actively strives for the full inclusion of all our students. Students with disabilities who require access solutions for environmental or curricular barriers should contact:

Faith Craig, Disability Resources Director
209 Thompson-Clark Hall
(724) 946-7192
craigfa@westminster.edu
Course Schedule
This schedule is subject to change. Changes will be announced in class and online. All readings listed in the schedule as PHRG are in the Prentice Hall Reference Guide, and any online readings will have links posted in D2L. Any readings should be done prior to class time. Online videos and recordings will usually be watched in class unless other instructions are provided.

Unit 1: Past Influences
Week 1: 1/14-1/20
- How writing is measured
- The writing process/brainstorming
Week 2: 1/21-1/27
- Audience - read PHRG pg. 2-3
- Purpose - read PHRG pg. 3-5
- Narrative/Showing vs. telling and description - advice from Mary Karr and Stephen King
- Word choice - read PHRG pg. 203-207; emojis
- Workshop
Week 3: 1/28-2/3 - Essay 1 due on Tuesday, 1/30, in D2L by 11:59 p.m.
- Proofreading/editing/revising - read PHRG pg. 18-22
- Workshop

Unit 2: The Present and Presence
Week 4: 2/4-2/10
- Introductions and conclusions - read PHRG pg. 29-32
- Paragraph development - read PHRG pg. 22-29
- Organization and transitions
- Workshop
Week 5: 2/11-2/17 - Essay 2 due on Thursday, 2/15, in D2L by 11:59 p.m.
- Concise writing - read PHRG pg. 218-223; advice from Stephen King
- Workshop

Unit 3: Exploration and Discovery
Week 6: 2/18-2/24
- Thesis statements - read PHRG pg. 11-13
- Plagiarism - read PHRG pg. 368-375
- Research and integration - read PHRG pg. 375-390, 340-342, 356-363, 366-368, 331
Week 7: 2/25-3/3
- MLA and citations - review PHRG section 11; read PHRG pg. 434-440
- Ethos, logos, and pathos
- Logical fallacies - read PHRG pg. 59-68, pg. 69-70
- Workshop
Week 8: 3/4-3/10 - Spring Break; no class this week
- Workshop

Unit 4: Applying Critical Thinking
Week 10: 3/18-3/24
- Film analysis
Week 11: 3/25-3/31 - Easter Break on Thursday; no class on Thursday only
Week 12: 4/1-4/7 - Follow Monday schedule on Tuesday; no class on Tuesday
  ★ Film analysis
Week 14: 4/15-4/21
  ★ Argument organization
  ★ Workshop
Week 15: 4/22-4/28 - Essay 4 due on Thursday, 4/26, in D2L by 11:59 p.m.
  ★ Workshop

**Unit 5: 5 Degrees of Separation - Now what?**
Week 16: 4/29-5/5 - Essay 5 due on Thursday, 5/3, in D2L by 11:59 p.m.
  ★ What did we learn?
  ★ Course evals
  ★ Workshop

Week 17: 5/6-5/12 - Finals week; no class