

Syllabus, Fall 2020

Engl 1010 Critical Reading and Expository Writing

East Tennessee State University, Department of Literature and Language

Last update: 7/30/2020

Section:

Instructor and contact information:

Originally scheduled meeting times:

Weekly "synchronous" meeting time on zoom:

Course Texts

The Norton Reader: An Anthology of Nonfiction, Shorter Fifteenth Edition. Edited by Goldthwaite and others. 2020. 588 pages. ISBN: 978-0393420531. List price for the paperback is \$62.50. The paperback is recommended, but the \$25 ebook option is suitable for this course, and is available at digital.wwnorton.com/nortonreader15s.

The Little Seagull Handbook, Third Edition, Ebook. Available online for free with purchase of either the paperback or the ebook version of *The Norton Reader*.

Course Overview

The goals of this course: 1) To develop your ability to read deeply. 2) To develop your ability to write and revise sustained, non-fiction prose for a variety of audiences, in various genres.

The writing component of the course is built around writing and peer review. So, over the course of the semester, you will write five major essays of 3 to 5 pages each. For each of those essays, you will first write a rough draft, and you will review two classmates' rough drafts. Then you will revise your draft to submit for a grade.

The grading policy is built around revision. You drop your lowest of the five essay grades, and in the last weeks of the semester you will further revise your best work for a portfolio which is worth 20% of the final grade. This revision-oriented grading policy gives you a chance to practice and develop your writing skills over the semester, and to use those skills to earn the highest grade that you can earn.

Five Major Writing Assignments, 3-5 Pages (750-1250 words) Each

1. Narrative essay based on experience and observation
2. How to/ Tech writing
3. Review/ Critique (of a movie, book, cd, restaurant, computer game or software or hardware, automobile, etc.)
4. Viewpoint / Op-ed
5. Genre of Your Choice (travel writing, sports writing, food writing, profile, memoir; or, students, if you have another genre in mind, propose it)

Final Grade Breakdown (100 points = 100%)

1. Best 4 of 5 major essays (the lowest of the 5 grades is dropped, excluding Fs): 40%
2. Portfolio -- Best work revised: 20%
3. Drafts -- A draft is, by its nature, incomplete; but a good faith effort earns 2 point each draft.
Total points: 10%
4. Participation in draft workshops (peer review), 2 points for each workshop. Total points: 10%
5. Reading quizzes: 10%
6. Miscellaneous, ungraded short memos and other writings (including in-class writing practice; topic proposals; revision plans; presentations; grammar, vocab quizzes; etc): 10%

Calendar Overview--Eight Modules Built Around Five Essays

Week 1 Introductions; writing process; invention
Week 2-3 **Essay 1:** Narrative
Week 4-5 **Essay 2:** How-to/ Tech
Week 6-7 **Essay 3:** Review/ Critique
Week 8, Oct 12-16 Quoting and paraphrasing
Week 9-10 **Essay 4:** Viewpoint
Week 11-12 **Essay 5:** Genre of Your Choice
Week 13-15 Preparing your portfolio (and Thanksgiving break)

Calendar--by Week, with Writing Due Dates

First drafts are due on Tuesdays. Final drafts due the following Thursdays.

Week 1 Aug 24-28

Introductions: Writing process; peer review process; revision.

Week 2 Aug 31-Sep 4

First draft Essay 1: Narrative **due** -- Peer review

Week 3 Sep 7-11

Final draft Essay 1: Narrative **due**

Week 4 Sep 14-18

First draft Essay 2: How To/ Tech **due** -- Peer review

Week 5 Sep 21-25

Final draft Essay 2: How To/ Tech **due**

Week 6 Sep 28-Oct 2

First draft Essay 3: Review/ Critique **due** -- Peer review

Week 7 Oct 5-9

Final draft Essay 3: Review/ Critique **due**

Week 8 Oct 12-16

Practice quoting and paraphrasing.

Week 9 Oct 19-23

First draft Essay 4: Viewpoint **due** -- Peer review

Week 10 Oct 26-30

Final draft Essay 4: Viewpoint **due**

Week 11 Nov 2-6

First draft Essay 5: Genre of your choice **due** -- Peer review

Week 12 Nov 9-13

Final draft Essay 5: Genre of your choice **due**

Week 13 Nov 16-20

Preparing for portfolio. Student conferences.

Week 14 Nov 23-27 Thanksgiving and Fall Breaks

Week 15 Nov 30-Dec 4 Online

Revision activities.

Final exam week: Portfolio **due** on Tues 11:59pm.

Two-Week Assignment Sequence Cycle for Each of the Five Major Essays

Each of the five major essays includes a sequence of three assignments:

1. First draft; 2. Peer review on the D2L discussion forum; 3. Final draft.

1. First draft: By **Tuesday at 11:59pm** on the week the draft is due, you must open a thread -- in the D2L Peer Review Discussions forum, under the appropriate essay assignment topic. Upload a draft of your essay to that thread. **At the same time**, upload a copy of the same draft to the appropriate "first draft" D2L dropbox. (By uploading it to the dropbox, you provide your instructor with a record that you have met the draft due date.)

A "draft" is a rough, early version of an essay. The draft will not be graded according to the criteria for finished writing, but it will be scored up to two points, depending on how much effort it represents as a first draft.

2. Peer review: The D2L discussion forum software will automatically group you with two classmates (or sometimes with just one classmate, depending on the numbers in the class). You and these classmates together form a peer review group. After you and your classmates have posted your drafts to discussion threads, the next step is for you to read and comment on each other's draft.

To do this, go to your classmates' threads and download their drafts. Then also download the Peer Review Guide which is posted at the Discussion topic. For each of your classmates' drafts: Read the draft carefully, then fill out your responses to the questions in the Peer Review Guide. "Save as," and include yours and your classmates' names in the document filename, when you save it. Post completed peer review sheets to group members' threads by **Friday at 11:59pm**. Your participation in peer review will be scored up to two points.

3. Final draft: The final draft is due on **the following Thursday at 11:59pm**. Before you submit it on Thursday, you will revise your draft substantially, based on feedback that you have received. The final draft will be graded.

For links to peer review guides, and for complete peer review instructions, see the "Peer Review" forum in "Discussions" under "Communication."

Course Objectives

This course is designed to help you increase your competence in these skills:

- understanding and analyzing written material and responding to it intelligently and critically
- pursuing complex lines of thought and expressing complex ideas
- understanding and using the writing process
- responding to the needs of different audiences
- integrating the ideas of others into your writing
- recognizing features of various nonfiction genres
- organizing your writing in the conventions of North American academic culture
- assessing your own writing and speaking and being aware of your development as a communicator
- using the grammar, usage, style, and format conventions of Standard American English effectively

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this department, and its consequences are serious. Proven **willful** plagiarism can result in failure in the course and may include dismissal from the university.

The *MLA Handbook* defines plagiarism as repeating...

"...as your own someone else's sentences, more or less verbatim. . . . Other forms of plagiarism include repeating someone else's particularly apt phrase without appropriate acknowledgment, paraphrasing another person's argument as your own, and presenting another's line of thinking. . . as though it were your own."