

Course Syllabus
WR 121 English Composition
Fall Term 2018
T/Th 11:30-12:50

Instructor: Karyn Chambers
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“ . . .To write to your best abilities, it behooves you to construct your own toolbox and then build up enough muscle to carry it with you. Then, instead of looking at a hard job and getting discouraged, you will perhaps seize the correct tool and get immediately to work,”
–Stephen King, *On Writing*.

Required Materials:

- 1) Textbook: *Readings for Writers*
- 2) *The Little Seagull*, Bullock & Weinberg
- 3) Supplies: 2 Pocket folders, 2 colored highlighters, mini-stapler, 2 college exam booklets.

Welcome to WR 121!

Course Description: WR 121 is designed to improve your ability to generate ideas, reduce writer's anxiety, and establish an effective writing process to increase your level of confidence as a writer for a wide range of disciplines in your core classes. We will achieve these goals through plenty of in and out of class writing, formal and informal writing assignments, multiple revisions, peer reviews, and grammar exercises. We will also learn to carefully document outside sources within your essays as preparation to do scholarly writing and succeed in college.

Above and beyond this, my personal goal is to show you the joys of writing for your own pleasure. Beware, writing can change your life.

“Everybody is talented, original and has something important to say.” Brenda Ueland

Class methods: This class will be conducted as a workshop where we will spend our class time “practicing” new concepts to strengthen your writing ability devoting our class time to freewriting, small group activities, grammar practices, and peer review sessions. Students learn the most when jumping in to participate in the writing process, getting plenty of feedback on their writing, and learning from each other. Feel free to ask questions or for further explanation when needed. Remember others may have the same questions, so it is a good use of our class time. Our text will be used during every class, so **always** bring it with you.

Attendance: Your education depends on participation in class activities. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class, and your homework will be due at that time. Your learning and the development of new skills depend on being prepared, present, and ready to participate in class activities, so plan to attend every class. Call or email me *before* class if you cannot attend. You are responsible for any missed assignments. We will form a “learning community” during the first few weeks. Your willingness to share and participate adds to the richness of our class. Remember to treat everyone with respect and courtesy to create an atmosphere in which we all feel safe, comfortable, and ready to learn.

Lateness: We will begin class with taking attendance, announcements, and a “warm up” writing assignment. Arriving late distracts your fellow classmates and myself. Please be prompt so our valuable class time is not wasted and our concentration is not disturbed. Be

kind and considerate. If you do come it late, remain quiet and don't ask your instructor to repeat information you missed.

Required reading/ assignments: For our class to be successful and for you to develop the skills we are learning, come prepared to turn in and discuss completed assignments. Your contributions are highly valued and appreciated by your classmates.

Late Work Policy: All assignments are due on the day of class to receive *full* credit. **No late work is accepted without prior approval. In class warm-up writing may NOT be made up.**

Reading summaries and responses: We will practice the fine art of summarizing, which requires condensing and comprehending the most important message from the writer and how he or she supports his position. In your responses, you will be using critical thinking skills to evaluate and analyze the message from the writer and supporting evidence. As you read, highlight and take notes, jot down key points. You will also capture your insights, questions, and memories from your own experiences to include in your response. Sometimes I will give you specific questions or prompts to respond to. **We will write 2 per week.**

Testing Policies and Student Integrity: All students are expected to take tests and complete assignments with honesty, not jeopardizing their own or other students' integrity.

Grading Criteria:

- 1) **Class participation:** 100 points
 - 2) **Reading summaries and responses :** 100 points (10 points each)
 - 2) **Warm-up writing:** 100 points (warm-ups and freewrites-- 5 points each)
 - 3) **PRACTICE FINAL:** In class essay 100 points
 - 4) **3 Typed essays:** 150 (50 points each): (essay packet includes—brainstorming, early draft, peer reviewed draft, and Instructor draft, all clearly labeled)
 - 5) **Small Group assignments, Grammar,MLA Citation Activities:** 125 points
 - 6) **PEER REVIEW:** 75 points (25 points each)
 - 7) **Final Exam:** 300 points
- Total: 1,000**

***Syllabus subject to revision based on needs of the class. You are responsible for all class assignments. If you have to miss class, please call a classmate and ask for assignments.**

****IMPORTANT: SAVE ALL HOMEWORK AND "ALL" WRITING UNTIL YOU RECEIVE YOUR FINAL GRADE. INSTRUCTOR IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST WORK.**