

## **Introduction to Academic Writing**

### **Course Description**

Focusing on the connection between reading and writing, this first-year course emphasizes the development of academic arguments. In a series of increasingly complex assignments, students cultivate rhetorical and writing process knowledge as well as an understanding of the general expectations of the academic discourse community. Assignments focus on summary and analysis of academically oriented texts. Students must write a series of compositions, submit a satisfactory portfolio, and earn a C- or higher in the course to enroll in WTNG 102. Placement occurs initially by Directed Self-Placement, and secondarily by an in-class Diagnostic Writing Sample during the first week of class to confirm that placement is appropriate. (Lecture, 3 credits.)

### **Course Outcomes**

By the end of the course, the successful student will have developed competencies in the areas that follow.

#### **Subject Matter Knowledge**

- Define rhetorical situation, genre, summary, paraphrase, analysis, audience, purpose, thesis statement, topic sentence, unity, and coherence

#### **Writing Process Knowledge**

- Use practices many writers employ to write summary and analysis
- Use the generative power of writing to increase comprehension and develop ideas
- Use instructor and peer-review feedback to improve written work

#### **Rhetorical Knowledge**

- Apply rhetorical concepts of audience and purpose to writing and reading situations

#### **Genre Knowledge**

- Work with genre conventions to write summaries and textual/ rhetorical analyses
- Connect thesis statements and topic sentences to unified, coherent, and well-developed paragraphs and papers
- Identify and use appropriate types of support

#### **Discourse Community Knowledge**

- Understand and work within general expectations of the academic discourse community. These include valuing disciplined, open-minded inquiry, employing reasons and evidence, and producing clear, reader-centered prose.

#### **Meta-cognition**

- Practice ongoing self-assessment of writing processes and products.

### **Required Text**

Bean, John C., Virginia A. Chappell, and Alice M. Gillam. *Reading Rhetorically*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston, MA: Pearson, 2014. ISBN-13 978-0-321-84662-4

### **Additional Resources**

Though you are ultimately responsible for your success in this class, several resources are available to help. Your instructor, for example, will hold regular office hours during which he or she can answer questions and offer feedback on work-in-progress. In addition, RWU has a Writing Center, which is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Main University Library, in the Center for Student Academic Success. At any point in the writing process, students may work with peer and/or faculty tutors on an assignment for this or any other class. Additional information, as well as tutor schedules, can be found at <http://www.rwu.edu/go/tss>. Purdue University's Online Writing Lab also provides a wealth of information and helpful links. It can be found at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu>. Links to these and other useful sites can be found on your course Bridges site.

### **Grading**

Course papers will count for 65% of the course grade, the course portfolio will count for 20%, and class participation will count for 15%.

The passing grade for this course is C- (70).

If a student does not complete or hand in a paper, the student will receive no credit for the paper. All coursework must be completed for credit before a portfolio can be turned in. No D range grade will be assigned as a midterm-warning or final grade.

### **Papers and Portfolios**

Course papers will only be accepted if students have completed all parts of the assignment. Late drafts may be accepted but with penalty.

Portfolios will not be accepted if students have not satisfactorily completed the coursework. Late portfolios will also not be accepted, except under extraordinary circumstances. Students who submit an incomplete portfolio or who do not submit a portfolio will fail the course.

All formal written assignments, including the portfolio cover essay, must be uploaded to your class Bridges site. Your instructor will provide further guidelines on turning in materials.

### **Attendance**

Students in writing courses are participants in all class activities; they write, discuss writing and readings, share drafts, and give and get feedback on writing. Thus attendance is expected. Absences in excess of three classes for students in sections meeting three times per week and two for students in classes meeting twice a week will negatively affect a student's participation grade as well as the student's semester average.

Extenuating circumstances, though, may prevent a student from attending class. A student should report extended absences due to long-term illness, hospitalization, or bereavement to the Student Affairs Office, which will notify the student's instructors and advisor.

The policy regarding make-ups on in-class work and the impact of absenteeism on the student's grade will be determined by the section instructor.

Attendance at co-curricular activities—including the end-of-the-semester Celebration of Writing-- may also be required.

### **Participation**

A student's participation grade is determined by a number of factors, including the student's level of preparedness for class, engagement in class discussion, performance on in-class individual and group exercises, as well as the quality of the peer review the student conducts. All of these activities are contingent upon attendance. Students who do not show up for class or show up late, who are not prepared, or who do not attend to the day's tasks will earn lower than a "C."

### **Academic Integrity**

According to the *Roger Williams University Catalog*,

Plagiarism is best defined as the incorporation of words and ideas of another person in an attempt to claim that person's work as one's own. Thus, plagiarism fails to engage in civil, scholarly discourse. It is sometimes a form of intellectual theft and is always a form of intellectual fraud.

In its worst form, plagiarism may consist of directly copying large or small portions of either printed or online works, or, as frequently happens in schools, written papers of another student, without properly crediting the source(s) from which they came. There are, however, more subtle forms of plagiarism as well. Paraphrasing, which is the process of using alternative expressions to communicate the meaning of another author's words, is also a form of plagiarism, unless the sources of those ideas are acknowledged.

An in-depth explanation of academic integrity and plagiarism, including the procedures for addressing possible violations and the penalties for actual violations, can be found at <http://rwu.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-standards>.

In addition, students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the Turnitin.com site.

### **Student Accessibility Services**

Students who wish to receive academic accommodations for this course must first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in order to begin the accommodation process. The SAS office will provide registered students with the specific information they will need to share with each instructor. SAS is located on the second floor of the Main University Library and is open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

Additional information is at <http://rwu.edu/academics/academic-services/sas/current-students>

### **Writing Assessment**

Committed to reflective practice, the Department of Writing Studies, Rhetoric, and Composition conducts ongoing program assessment. Your portfolio or papers may be used (anonymously) for this purpose unless you notify your instructor in writing.