

## ENGL 1541 - Introduction to College Writing

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 43409,

Credit hours: 3

### Instructor

Courtney Poullas

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### Public Instructor Information

Professor: Courtney Marie Poullas

Professional Qualifications:

- M.A. English, Graduate Certificate in Teaching of Writing (YSU alumni)
- B.A. Professional Writing and Editing (YSU alumni)

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### Course Description

This course acclimates students to academic writing expectations and college-level reading practices. Students engage in reflective and expository writing and incorporate peer and instructor feedback throughout the writing process. Students in this developmental course must complete it prior to enrolling in the first of two required composition courses in the general education core. This course does not count toward the graduation requirement in composition and does not count toward a degree. Grading for English 1541 is ABC/NC. Next course in sequence must be ENGL 1549 Writing 1 with Support (4 semester hours). Prereq.: Placement by ACT/SAT test results or by CPT results. 3 s.h.

### Course Readings

| Group    | Title                                                                      | Author   | ISBN           |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Required | The Norton Field Guide to Writing: With Readings and Handbook, 7th Edition | Multiple | 978-1324087632 |

**The ebook version of your required text is included in your course fees. Please do not attempt to purchase otherwise until after the first day of class.**

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

The following readings from your course text are **required**. It is strongly recommended that you choose a novel of at least 250 pages to read throughout the semester, but this is not required.

- **Week 2:** *Norton Field Guide*, Chapter 2
- **Week 3:** *Norton Field Guide*, "Growing Up Obese" by Jeff Mwathi
- **Week 4:** *Opposing Viewpoints In Context* article (student's choice via library research databases)
- **Week 5:** *Norton Field Guide*, Chapter 6
- **Week 6:** *Norton Field Guide*, Chapter 28 and course document, "Shitty First Drafts"
- **Week 7:** *Norton Field Guide*, Chapter 1 and *Norton Field Guide*, "The Fast and the Fashionable: How Your Closet Contributes To A Global Crisis"
- **Week 8:** *Norton Field Guide*, Chapter 30 • Handbook, S1 and *Norton Field Guide*, "Black Mamas' Lives Matter"

- **Week 9:** *Norton Field Guide*, Chapter 3 and *Norton Field Guide*, "Gentle With The Small Things"
- **Week 10:** *Norton Field Guide*, Chapters 7 & 8 and *Norton Field Guide*, "Barbie Review: Sometimes Corporate Propaganda Can Be Fun As Hell"
- **Week 11:** *Norton Field Guide*, Chapter 9
- **Week 12:** *Norton Field Guide*, Chapter 31
- **Week 13:** *Norton Field Guide*, Chapter 33
- **Week 14:** *Norton Field Guide*, Chapter 57

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## Schedule of Topics and Assignments

| Week of | Reading(s)                                                                        | Proposed Topic                                                                                    | Due/To Prepare for Class                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8/24    | None                                                                              | Introduction to course, instructor                                                                | Ask an anonymous question about the syllabus, create a Writing Center account, complete the writing sample, complete weekly freewriting<br>Due 8/27 at 11:59pm:<br>Week 1 Freewrite<br>Due 8/30 at 11:59pm:<br>Complete: Ask an Anonymous Question About the Syllabus<br>Complete: Create A Writing Center Account (extra credit)                                                                                    |
| 8/31    | Course documents: scan and question your texts, annotation basics; textbook ch. 2 | Pre-reading strategies<br>Note: The last day to withdraw and receive a 100% refund is Sunday, 9/6 | Annotations and screenshots assignment, annotation strategies discussion, weekly freewriting<br>Due 9/3 at 11:59pm:<br>Week 2 Freewrite<br>Due 9/6 at 11:59pm:<br>Complete: Annotation and screenshots assignment<br>Due 9/6 before 11:59:04pm:<br>Discuss: Annotation Strategies - Reply<br>Due 9/6 at 11:59pm:<br>InQuizitive for Writers: How to Use InQuizitive                                                  |
| 9/7     | None                                                                              | Application – pre-reading strategies<br>NOTE – YSU is closed Monday 9/7 for Labor Day             | InQuizitive module: Critical Reading Strategies; Scan, Annotate, Question assignment, AI conversation with Professor Penguin, weekly freewriting<br>Due 9/10 at 11:59pm:<br>Week 3 Freewrite<br>Due 9/13 at 11:59pm:<br>Complete: AI Conversation with Professor Penguin - Thinking About Freewriting<br>Complete: Scan, Annotate, Question, Read Assignment<br>InQuizitive for Writers: Critical Reading Strategies |

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| 9/14  | Course document: Using Copilot to tackle challenging texts                                                                                                                                                    | Library instruction, pre-reading and active reading strategies                                                                | Scan, annotate, question, read with Viewpoints article; weekly freewriting<br>Due 9/15 at 11:59pm:<br>Extra Credit: Library Instruction Etiquette<br>Due 9/17 at 11:59pm:<br>Week 4 Freewrite<br>Due 9/20 at 11:59pm:<br>Complete: Scan, Annotate, Question, Read - Viewpoints Article                                                                                                                 |
| 9/21  | Textbook ch. 6                                                                                                                                                                                                | Writing and communicating ethically                                                                                           | Plagiarism tutorial, crafting professional emails with Copilot, weekly freewriting<br>Due 9/24 at 11:59pm:<br>Week 5 Freewrite<br>Due 9/27 at 11:59pm:<br>Complete: AI Literacy - Crafting Professional Emails<br>Plagiarism Tutorial: Understanding & Avoiding Plagiarism                                                                                                                             |
| 9/28  | Course document: "Shitty First Drafts" by Anne Lamott, Course document: Getting to know your writing process through Loop Writing, textbook: Chapter 28 – Writing as Inquiry                                  | Exploring individual writing processes<br>NOTE: 8/31 is the last day to change a grading option and/or change a credit option | Discussion: "Perfect" AI vs. The Messy Human, weekly freewrite<br>Due 10/1 at 11:59pm:<br>Week 6 Freewrite<br>Due 10/4 before 11:59:51pm:<br>Discuss: "Perfect" AI vs. The Messy Human - Reply                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 10/5  | Norton Field Guide ch. 1 and "The Fast And The Fashionable                                                                                                                                                    | Connecting reading to writing                                                                                                 | Annotation and response journal, weekly freewrite<br>Due 10/8 at 11:59pm:<br>Week 7 Freewrite<br>Due 10/11 before 11:59:54pm:<br>Complete: Annotation & Response Journal                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 10/12 | Little Seagull 5e (part of your course text – not a separate book): S1, Norton Field Guide ch. 30 and "Black Mamas' Lives Matter," course documents: introductory and conclusion paragraph quick start guides | Complete sentences and paragraphing                                                                                           | InQuizitive module: paragraph development; analyzing introductions, body paragraphs, and conclusions assignment, weekly freewrite<br>Due 10/15 at 11:59pm:<br>Week 8 Freewrite<br>Due 10/18 at 11:59pm:<br>Complete: Analyzing Introductions, Body Paragraphs, and Conclusions based on "Black Mamas' Lives Matter" (Norton Field Guide pp. 773-777)<br>InQuizitive for Writers: Paragraph Development |
| 10/19 | Norton Field Guide ch. 3 and "Gentle With The Small Things"                                                                                                                                                   | Responding to writing<br>Note: Sunday, 10/25 is the last day with withdraw with a grade of "W"                                | InQuizitive module: synthesizing ideas, short reading response, weekly freewrite<br>Due 10/22 at 11:59pm:<br>Week 9 Freewrite<br>Due 10/25 at 11:59pm:<br>Complete: Reading Response<br>InQuizitive for Writers: Synthesizing Ideas                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 10/26 | Course document: Understanding the rhetorical situation, Norton Field Guide ch. 7 + 8 and "Barbie Review"                                                                                                     | Rhetorical situation: Audience and purpose                                                                                    | InQuizitive module: rhetorical situations, processes, and genres; analyzing purpose and audience assignment, weekly freewrite                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |



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| 11/2  | Norton Field Guide ch. 9                                                                  | Rhetorical situation: Genre                                         | Due 11/1 at 11:59pm:<br>Week 10 Freewrite<br>Complete: Analyzing Audience and Purpose<br><br>InQuizitive for Writers: Rhetorical Situations, Processes & Genres (A Comprehensive Activity)<br>Writing in the wild genre scavenger hunt assignment, weekly freewrite |
| 11/9  | Norton Field Guide ch. 31                                                                 | Brainstorming and prewriting                                        | Due 11/8 at 11:59pm:<br>"Writing In The Wild" Genre Scavenger Hunt<br>Week 11 Freewrite<br>Work on essay, weekly freewrite<br>Due 11/12 at 11:59pm:<br>Week 12 Freewrite                                                                                            |
| 11/16 | Norton Field Guide ch. 33, course document: Peer review using describe, evaluate, suggest | Drafting and peer review<br>Conferences and presentation guidelines | Final essay first draft, peer review, weekly freewrite<br>Due 11/19 at 11:59pm:<br>Week 13 Freewrite                                                                                                                                                                |
| 11/23 | Course document: student conferences, Norton Field Guide ch. 57                           | Note: Thanksgiving break begins this week                           | Complete conference with instructor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 11/30 | None                                                                                      | Week 15: 11/30 Essay submission, course presentations               | Due 11/29 at 11:59pm:<br>Complete: Final Reflection Slideshow<br>Submit final essay                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 12/7  | None                                                                                      | None – we do not meet during finals week                            | Due 12/6 at 11:59pm:<br>Complete: Final Reflective Essay<br>None                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.