ENGL 1541 - Introduction to College Writing

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 07, CRN 43496,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Lynn Zvara

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Public Instructor Information

Professor: Lynn Zvara

Professional Qualifications:

MA English, Youngstown State University

BA English, Youngstown State University

Graduate Certifications:
• Teaching of Writing
• Document Design and Publications
• Professional Communication
• Professional/Technical Editing
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Emails are typically answered within 24 hours.

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	Richard Bullock, Deborah Bertsch, Maureen Daly Goggin	978-1324087632

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**.

- **Week 2:** *Norton Field Guide*, Chapter 2
- **Week 5:** *Norton Field Guide*, Chapter 6
- **Week 6:** *Norton Field Guide*, Chapter 28
- **Week 7:** *Norton Field Guide*, Chapter 1
- **Week 8:** *Norton Field Guide*, Chapter 3 • Handbook, S1

- **Week 9:** *Norton Field Guide*, Chapter 3
- **Week 10:** *Norton Field Guide*, Chapters 7 & 8
- **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
8/31	Course documents: scan and question your texts, annotation basics; textbook ch. 2	Pre-reading strategies Note: The last day to withdraw and receive a 100% refund is Sunday, 9/6	Annotations and screenshots assignment, annotation strategies discussion, weekly freewriting
9/7	None	Application – pre-reading strategies 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
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
9/21	Textbook ch. 6	Writing and communicating ethically	Plagiarism tutorial, crafting professional emails with Copilot, weekly freewriting
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 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
10/5	Norton Field Guide ch. 1 and “The Fast And The Fashionable	Connecting reading to writing	Annotation and response journal, weekly freewrite
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	InQuzitive module: paragraph development; analyzing introductions, body paragraphs, and conclusions assignment, weekly freewrite
10/19	Norton Field Guide ch. 3 and “Gentle With The Small Things”	Responding to writing Note: Sunday, 10/25 is the last day with withdraw with a grade of “W”	InQuizitive module: synthesizing ideas, short reading response, weekly freewrite
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
11/2	Norton Field Guide ch. 9	Rhetorical situation: Genre	Writing in the wild genre scavenger hunt assignment, weekly freewrite
11/9	Norton Field Guide ch. 31	Brainstorming and prewriting	Work on essay, weekly freewrite

11/16	Norton Field Guide ch. 33, course document: Peer review using describe, evaluate, suggest	Drafting and peer review Conferences and presentation guidelines	Final essay first draft, peer review, weekly 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	Submit final essay
12/7	None	None -- we do not meet during finals week	None

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