

ENGL 1550 - Writing 1

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 40405,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Madeleine Zinz

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Ms. Madeleine Zinz

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

BA Communication Studies, Kent State University 2022; MA English, TESOL Certification, Teaching of English Certification, Youngstown State University 2024; Graduate Assistantship, Youngstown State University 2022 - 2024

Instructor Office Location: DeBartolo Hall

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Course Description

1550. Writing 1. This course develops an awareness of writing processes and provides strategies for generating ideas, drafting, giving and receiving feedback, revising, and editing. Students analyze texts in light of specific audiences, purposes, and contexts and develop critical skills in reading, thinking, and writing. Students write a minimum of 5,000 words (approximately 20 double-spaced pages) cumulatively across the major assignments and incorporate sources into their writing. English 1550 is the first of two required composition courses in the general education core. Grading is ABCDF but must earn a "C" or better to satisfy the General Education requirement and continue to ENGL 1551 or ENGL 1551H. English 1550 is three semester hours. Prereq.: Placement by ACT/SAT test results OR Composition Placement Test results. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	The Norton Field Guide to Writing with Readings + Handbook	Bullock, Bertsch, & Goggin	978-1-324-08770-0

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

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Day	Date	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
Mon	8/24		Review syllabus, guidelines, and policies. Practice with Norton eBook, Blackboard, Outlook and Writing Center information	
Wed	8/26	Ch 4 "Developing Academic Habits of Mind" Ch 2 "Reading in Academic Context" Ch 1 "Writing in Academic Contexts"	Reading and discuss Ch 4	Email Etiquette
Fri	8/28	Ch 3 "Summarizing and Responding: Where Reading Meets Writing"	Intro to Reader Responses Summarizing + response activity	Summarizing + response activity
Mon	8/31	Ch 27 "Processes of Writing" Ch 28 "Writing as Inquiry" Ch 29 "Generating Ideas"	Intro to Assignment 1 & context of Assignment Discussion over Ch 27, 28, 29	
Wed	9/2	Ch 7 "Purpose" Ch 8 "Audience" Ch 9 "Stance"	Rhetorical Situations: Purpose, Audience & Stance Discussion + activity over Tone v Stance	Appeal to the Senses activity Ch 7, 8, 9 + 10 Quiz

Fri	9/4	Ch 10 "Genre" Ch 11 "Media/Design"	Rhetorical Situations: Genre, Media/Design	Adapting to the Rhet. Sit. activity
Mon	9/7		LABOR DAY - NO CLASS	Brainstorming Sheet
Wed	9/9		Organization + Drafting - beginning strategies, endings, thesis statements, and paragraphs	
Fri	9/11	Ch 33 "Getting Response and Revising"	Peer Review overview Appeal to the Senses activity	Peer Review Reader Response Ch 33/34 Quiz
Mon	9/14		Peer Review Day	Assignment 1 Rough Draft
Wed	9/16	Ch 34 "Editing and Proofreading"	Discussion and activity over Ch 24 Final Draft Prep using revision, editing and proofreading	Ch 33/34 Quiz
Fri	9/18	Ch 6 "Writing with Generative AI"	Practicing questions with AI based on textbook examples AI Collaboration Practice activity	Ch 6 Quiz AI Collab Considering Academic Contexts for AI Use
Mon	9/21		Unit 1 Exam Revision Policy Discussion	
Wed	9/23		Intro to Assignment 2 + context of assignment	Assignment 1 Final Draft
Fri	9/25	Ch 13 "Analyzing Texts"	Discussion over Ch 13 Music Video Analysis	Music Video Group Activity Breaking Down an Analysis Reader Response Ch 13
Mon	9/28		Intro and activity on Ethos, Logos, + Pathos	Rhetorical Appeals Group Activity
Wed	9/30		Apply rhetorical appeals to MA2 analysis Outlining + Planning	Identifying the Rhetorical Situation
Fri	10/2	Ch 51 "Quoting, Paraphrasing, and Summarizing" Ch 52 "Acknowledging Sources, Avoiding Plagiarism" Ch 53 "MLA Style"	MLA Day 1 Discussion + Activity	Brainstorming Sheet MLA activity Ch 51/52 Quiz
Mon	10/5	Ch 61 "Textual Analyses"	MLA Day 2 Activity + Implementing	Reader Response Ch 61
Wed	10/7		Point, Illustration, Explanations discussion and activity	PIE Activity
Fri	10/9		"The Basics" review over transitions, formatting, writing in a formal language	MA 2 Outline
Mon	10/12		Workshop day – this class is not mandatory. You may come and ask questions, work in a quiet space, and catch up on work.	
Wed	10/14		Peer Review Group 1	Assignment 2 Draft
Fri	10/16		Peer Review Group 2	
Mon	10/19	Ch 32 "Assessing Your Own Writing"	Discussion over chapter 32 Wordiness + Weak Verbs	Reader Response Ch 32 Line by Line Activity
Wed	10/21		Unit 2 Exam Intro to Assignment 3 + context of assignment	Assignment 2 Final Draft
Fri	10/23	Ch 47 "Finding Sources"	Intro to Maag Library Research Database	Reader Response Ch 47
Mon	10/26		Possible Library Day	
Wed	10/28	Ch 48 "Evaluating Sources"	CRAAP Test Worksheet	
Fri	10/30		Final Article Checkpoint Brainstorming Sheet Workshop	
Mon	11/2	Ch 40 "Comparing and Contrasting"	Block by Block v Point by Point discussion, guide and activity	Brainstorming Sheet Ch 40 Quiz Comparison Practice
Wed	11/4		Implementing Block or Point into MA3	

Fri	11/6	Ch 30 "Organizing Your Writing, Guiding Your Readers"	Discussion over chapter reading Activity over drafting + recap over outlines Considering Other's Opinions activity	Ch 30/31 Quiz Thesis Statement activity
Mon	11/9		Intro to Reflective Letters + context of assignment Revision process for Assignment 1 + 2	Crafting Strong Titles
Wed	11/11		VETERAN'S DAY - NO CLASS	
Fri	11/13		Conference sign-ups + what to prepare Final formatting overview reminders + recap (MLA, hanging indent, thesis statements, etc)	
Mon	11/16		Peer Review Day 1	Assignment 3 Draft
Wed	11/18		Peer Review Day 2	
Fri	11/20		Conferences	
Mon	11/23		Conferences	
Wed	11/25		THANKSGIVING BREAK	
Fri	11/27		THANKSGIVING BREAK	
Mon	11/30		Crash course over APA + Resumes	
Wed	12/2		Final Surveys	
Fri	12/4		Unit 3 Exam	
Mon	12/7		FINALS WEEK - NO CLASS	Assignment 3 Final Reflective Letters
Wed	12/9		FINALS WEEK - NO CLASS	All final revisions (MA1 + 2)
Fri	12/11		FINALS WEEK - NO CLASS	

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.