

ENGL 1550 - Writing 1

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 38, CRN 40419,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Jacklynn Mercer

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Senior Lecturer

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

- Ed.D., Educational Leadership, Youngstown State University, 2024
- MA, Professional Communication, YSU, 2021
- MA, English, YSU, 2012
- BS, English Education, YSU, 2009

Instructor Office Location: DeBartolo Hall, 226

Instructor Office Phone: 330-941-3241

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, 7th ed.	Bullock, R. & Bertsch, D.	978-1-324-08739-7

Note: Your Ebook access is included in your course fees. If you would like a hard copy, you can purchase that at the bookstore.

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

Writing I, Fall 2026

Day	Date	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
Tue	8/25		Class introduction and syllabus review	
Thu	8/27	The Norton Field Guide to Writing, Ch. 1 "Writing in Academic Contexts" Ch. 2 "Reading in Academic Context" Ch. 3 "Summarizing and Responding: Where Reading Meets Writing"	Intro to academic writing	Professional Email Assignment due Thursday, 8/27 Reading Response #1 due Thursday, 8/28 Writing Sample due Sunday, 8/31 by 11:59 pm
Tue	9/1	Norton Ch. 6 "Writing with Generative AI"	Generative AI	



Thu	9/3	Norton Ch. 7 "Purpose" Ch. 8 "Audience" Ch. 9 "Genre" Ch. 8 "Stance" Ch. 13 "Analyzing Texts"	The Rhetorical Situation	Reading Response #2 due Thurs, 9/3
Tue	9/8	"Se Habla Español" by Tanya Maria Barrientos, p. 678 "Representation of Disney Princess in the Media" by Isabelle Gill, p. 711 "Homelessness on Campus" by Eleanor J. Bader, p. 753 "Justice or Murder?" by Russell Mobley, p. 905	Discuss Paper 1 and analysis	
Thu	9/10		Work on Paper 1 outline	Outline due by the end of class
Tue	9/15		In-class time to work on rough draft	
Thu	9/17		Rough Draft due for peer workshop	Paper 1 rough draft for Peer Workshop due Thurs, 9/17
Tue	9/22	Norton, Ch. 36 "Reflecting on Your Writing"	Discuss Paper 2 and proposal	
Thu	9/24	Student selected piece	Reading response #4 in class Discuss Paper 2 and proposal	Paper 1 due, Thurs, 9/24
Tue	9/29	Norton, Ch. 40 "Comparing and Contrasting" Ch. 51 "Quoting, Paraphrasing and Summarizing"	Work on Paper 2 Paraphrase practice	Paper 2 Proposal due, Tues, 9/29
Thu	10/1		Work on Paper 2 outline	
Tue	10/6	Norton, Ch. 50 "Synthesizing Ideas" Ch. 52 "Acknowledging Sources, Avoiding Plagiarism" Ch. 53 "Documentation"	Work on Paper 2 outline	Paper 2 outline due at the end of class
Thu	10/8		Work on Paper 2 rough draft	
Tue	10/13	Norton Ch. 30 "Organizing Your Writing, Guiding Your Readers" Ch. 31 "Drafting"	Work on Paper 2 rough draft	
Thu	10/15		Work on Paper 2 in class	
Tue	10/20		Paper 2 rough draft for Peer Workshop	Paper 2 rough draft due at the beginning of class
Thu	10/22		Work on Paper 2 in class	Paper 2 due, Thurs, 10/22, by 11:59 pm
Tue	10/27		Students will have individual conferences with Dr. Mercer this week. See Blackboard for the link to sign up for a day and time.	
Thu	10/29		Students will have individual conferences with Dr. Mercer this week. See Blackboard for the link to sign up for a day and time.	
Tue	11/3	Norton, Ch. 26 "Processes of Writing" Ch. 27 "Writing as Inquiry" Ch. 28 "Generating Ideas and Text"	Paper 3 discussion and proposal	Reading Response #5 due Tues 11/3
Thu	11/5		Paper 3 proposal in-class work	Paper #3 Proposal due Thurs, 11/15
Tue	11/10		Works cited information and practice	
Thu	11/12	No Class		
Tue	11/17		Work on Paper 3 rough draft	Works Cited due Tues, 11/17
Thu	11/19	No Class		
Tue	11/24		Paper 3 Rough Draft Peer Workshop	Paper 3 rough draft for Peer Workshop due Tues, 11/24
Thu	11/26	No Class		
Tue	12/1		In-class time to work on Paper 3	

Thu	12/3	In-class time to work on Paper 3 Final course wrap up	Paper 3 due, Thurs, 12/3, by 11:59 pm
Tue	12/8	FINALS WEEK--NO CLASS MEETING	
Thu	12/10	FINALS WEEK--NO CLASS MEETING	

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.