

ENGL 1551A - Writing 2

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 43952,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

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Public Instructor Information

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Course Description

This course builds upon students' knowledge of the writing process and rhetorical concepts as they conduct scholarly inquiry on a specific topic using academic research. The course emphasizes the process of investigation including identifying problems to explore with research, collecting data from primary and/or secondary sources, synthesizing source material, and clearly presenting the results of these inquiries in a research-based argument. Students write a minimum of 5,000 words (approximately 20 double-spaced pages) cumulatively across the major assignments. Grading is ABCDF. English 1551 is three semester hours. Prereq.: ENGL 1549 with a grade of "C" or better or ENGL 1550 with a grade of "C" or better or ACT/SAT scores or Composition Placement Test results. 3 s.h.

Writing 2 for Art Majors

This section of Writing 2 is designed especially for art majors. We will discuss, read, and write about questions and themes related to the visual arts. You will have the opportunity to bring your interest in art into all of your major projects in the course. The idea of "art" covers a lot, however—you will also be able write about issues in which art plays a role but is not the exclusive focus.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Writing About Art	Karen Gocsik and Elizabeth Adan	9780500841815

Citing Sources

Throughout the course, you will be expected to use APA formatting for all of your citations. Remember, citing sources is your responsibility whenever you use an outside source. That said, I will provide instruction and guidance for getting accustomed to APA style.

Keep in mind, though, that using APA style is not about my personal preference. Citing your sources is the ethical thing to do; the style you are using in this class is used widely by professional researchers in the humanities and social sciences.

The best resource I've found for help with APA style is the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL). Their explanation of APA style is very helpful.

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

Weekly Schedule

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Gocsik & Adan - ch. 1 "The Challenges of Writing about Art" Look over the glossary of art terms in Gocsik & Adan (pp. 226-244).	Why write about art?	Why Write About Art? (5)
8/31	Gocsik & Adan - ch. 2 "Looking at Art"	Museum blog entry	Museum Blog Entry (10)



9/7	Gocsik & Adan - ch. 3 "Analyzing Art"	Analyzing images: doing a formal descriptive analysis	Formal Descriptive Analysis - Draft 1 (30)
9/14	Gocsik & Adan - ch. 9 "Revising Your Work"	Revision strategies: weeding out interpretive language	
9/21	Gocsik & Adan - ch. 8 "Attending to Style"	Revision strategies: crafting the final draft	Formal Descriptive Analysis - Draft 2 (10) Formal Descriptive Analysis - Reflection (5)
9/28	Review Gocsik & Adan ch.3, especially "Cultural Analysis"	What is context?	
10/5	Review Gocsik & Adan ch.3, especially "Historical Analysis"	Contextualizing art works	
10/12		Types of context: historical, cultural, interpersonal, etc. Rabbit Hole game	Contextual Analysis - Draft 1 (35)
10/19	Gocsik & Adan, ch. 5 "Researching Art"	APA overview for citing primary sources	
10/26		APA overview for citing secondary sources	
11/2	Review ch. 8 in Gocsik & Adan "Attending to Style" Review ch. 9 in Gocsik & Adan "Revising Your Work"	Strategies for revision: refining structure and organization	Contextual Analysis - Draft 2 (10) Contextual Analysis - Reflection (5)
11/9	Review chs. 2 and 3 in Gocsik and Adan Gocsik & Adan ch. 6 "Developing Your Thesis"	Famous art controversies Rhetoric in and about art, pt. 1	
11/16	Review ch. 4 in Gocsik & Adan		
11/23		Thanksgiving Weekend Rhetoric in and about art, pt. 2	Arguing about Art - Draft 1 (40)
12/7		FINALS WEEK: all revisions due	Arguing about Art - Draft 2 (10) Arguing about Art - Reflection (5)

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.