

English 1000: The Writing Process

Fall 2008 Section 44419

4205 Dunbar

MW 4:00 – 5:50pm

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Office: 1060 Moore Hall (The Writing Center)
Office Hours: Wed. 4-6pm

Program Coordinator: Dr. Jonathan Bush
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Required Materials

A Writer's Resource: A Handbook for Writing and Research. Elaine Maimon. (or any writing handbook)
1 Pocket Folder
1 Spiral Bound Notebook
Fee Card: \$5.00 (you can get this at the WMU Bookstore). Due **September 26**.

Course Description

English 1000 builds on the skills of developing writers through an exploration of the writing process. By moving together through the stages of prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing, we will explore several kinds of writing this semester in order to help you prepare for success in your first-year writing course, other college classes, and life outside the classroom. Course goals include:

- Fostering deftness and finesse while using the writing process and critical thinking skills
- Preparing you to be an active member of a writing community by both giving and receiving commentary on your work from your classmates, writing consultants, and myself
- Developing skill at writing papers that clearly and succinctly present and elaborate on original ideas.

Course Requirements

Beginning in the second week, each class will be divided into two sections, our whole class meeting and either a Writing Studio session or Teacher Consultations. We will start with the whole class meeting, and use the second hour to alternate between the other two sessions.

Whole Group Meeting: During this portion of class, I will explain assignments, and we will engage in class discussion and group work lead into our larger projects. It functions like a “normal” writing class.

Writing Studio: During this required hour of class, three Writing Studio consultants (a branch of the WMU Writing Center) assist groups of 5-6 students. Consultants will assist in brainstorming, peer response, and discussion of assignments as needed. Students share their work and questions as they learn to discuss and utilize writing processes. Active participation in Writing Studio will lead to a greater understanding of the way writing works and help students learn how to develop stronger practices based on input from others. We will have Writing Studio on **Wednesdays**.

Teacher Consultation: During these individual meetings with me, you can discuss your writing decisions, class progress, and other writing or class related issues. You can expect to have an 8-10 minute appointment with me approximately every third week. We will hold Teacher Consultations on **Mondays**.

*****Note:** Attendance is mandatory for both the Writing Studio and the Teacher Consultations on top of the normal class meetings. All of our sessions are held during our scheduled class times, and missing any one-hour session will count as a full absence for the day.***

Papers

You will take part in five major projects and produce several short writings and daily journal entries over the next 15 weeks. Because the writing process is the emphasis of this course, **I reserve the right to refuse to accept any paper if I have not seen earlier drafts or if the final draft does not reflect revision from the earlier work.**

The main goal of this class is not to produce flawless work; it is to learn to utilize multi-stage process writing in order to improve your ability to express your ideas on the page. Your work is only partly evaluated based on the strength of your final draft, and partly on your use of the writing process and your engagement with class activities.

Late work is not an option! We will move quickly from draft to draft and project to project, and there are no slow points where you can catch up if you get behind. If your paper is going to be late, **please contact me ASAP**, either by phone or email. Any late papers that are due to emergencies of a family or medical nature will still be accepted. Any other late papers will count as missing and incomplete.

Academic Honesty

You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate Catalog (pp. 274-276) that pertains to Academic Integrity. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with me if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test.

Attendance

Punctual attendance is mandatory in English 1000, and missing three or more class periods during one paper cycle will result in that paper being counted as incomplete and missing. Missing any portion of class (coming to the whole group meeting but missing Writing Studio, for example) counts as a full absence.

Course Credit

English 1000 is a Credit/No Credit course. Because of this, we do not use letter grades. Your evaluations will instead use the following system to show you how you are progressing as a writer:

- 4 **Excellence:** Demonstrates ability to thrive in this aspect
- 3 **Competence:** Demonstrates ability to succeed in this aspect
- 2 **Progressing:** Possesses some strong traits; improvement needed
- 1 **Developing:** Significant area of concern; in need of instruction and assistance

Generally, 3s and 4s indicate good improvement and fluency in the writing process. Ultimately, it is up to me and the English 1000 Program Director as to whether you are able to advance to ENGL 1050, IME 1020, or BIS 1420.

Projects

The course will focus on issues in and around life at WMU. Specifically, the course consists of 5 major projects:

- All About Audience
- Examining Campus Cultures
- Hidden Gems: Exploring People, Places, and Things at WMU
- “Dear President Dunn” -- Identifying Issues, Proposing Solutions
- Reflecting on our Writing

This list is subject to change. I will provide you with more detailed schedules for each project as we start them.

The Writing Center (1060 Moore Hall): The WC provides writing assistance for students of all levels. Find more information and make appointments online at <http://www.wmich.edu/casp/writingcenter/>