#### University of Toledo

##### Syllabus for Composition II Writing Studio Sections

**Course Description*:***

The Writing Studio is an innovative approach to writing instruction. Instead of meeting in a traditional classroom setting, students will meet in small groups with instructors to work on their writing. Students will spend the semester engaging in multiple writing tasks associated with their lives in various communities. The focus will be on responding effectively to texts that we read, situations that we encounter, and ongoing public arguments. We will also participate in fulfilling the mission of a major research university—contributing new knowledge that our democracy can use to better the lives of its citizens.

Contact Information:

The following instructors will be leading writing studio groups during this semester. You will be assigned one of these instructors at the first class session.

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| **Name** | **Studio Days** | **Contact Information** |
| Carol Parsil | M/W | [Carol.parsil@utoledo.edu](mailto:Carol.parsil@utoledo.edu) |
| Paul Wise | M/W | [Paul.wise@utoledo.edu](mailto:Paul.wise@utoledo.edu) |
| Sheri Benton | T/TH | [Sheri.benton@utoledo.edu](mailto:Sheri.benton@utoledo.edu) |
| Deirdre Perlini | T/TH | [Deirdre.perlini@utoledo.edu](mailto:Deirdre.perlini@utoledo.edu) |

**General Education Statement**:

This course fulfills a General Education and Core Curriculum requirement at the University of Toledo.

**Course Prerequisite:**

Successful completion of ENGL 1110 with a grade of C or higher.

**Recommended Text:**

Aaron, Jane. *The Little, Brown Compact Handbook. Concise Edition for the University of Toledo*. New York: Pearson, 2012.

**Course Requirements:**

Students must produce a minimum of 7000 words in final draft form during the semester (about 22-26 finished pages). One paper must be a documented research essay using a consistent citation format and incorporating a number of sources with a sustained discussion that results in a paper of at least 8 full pages. Papers will be submitted in a final portfolio, detailed below.

**Learning Outcomes:**

**Students should be able to**

* Create a thesis that establishes claims for both a main argument and intermediate arguments that support it;
* Distinguish between background, primary, and secondary research sources, and use those sources appropriate for the genre they are writing and the audience for whom they are writing;
* Write collaboratively with others, while remaining responsible for their own contribution to a group project;
* Use at least two different citation styles, and identify the disciplines for which they are appropriate;
* Apply advanced methods for integrating outside sources into an argument, such as endnotes, footnotes, appendices, or similar references;
* Use electronic environments to collaborate on texts, conduct peer review, and produce texts appropriate for publication in electronic forums.

**Final Portfolio Requirements (60% of final grade for course)**:

*Assignments*

Throughout the studio courses, you will be introduced to different genres of writing, either through instructor presentation or group discussion. You will select different genres in which to work and will choose topics arising from current coursework, university and community events, and personal interest in which to write. Possible genres are listed below; more information about these genres can be found in the course Blackboard site and/or by speaking with your group instructor. Instructors may also offer some specific assignments to help you during your time in the studio.

*List of Genres*

Commentary (Opinion Essay) Report Problem/Solution (White Paper)

Ethnographic Study Analysis

Profile Blog

Argumentative Research Paper (required)

Multimedia Project (can only account for 1/3 of the total portfolio)

Genres that *Cannot* be Included in Final Portfolio

Memoir Review

Poetry “How to” Documents Biography

Fiction (mystery, short story, science fiction, etc.) Personal Letter

*Portfolio Process*:

You will fill out and submit to your instructor a Portfolio Plan (document “My Portfolio Plan”) where you will list the genres and topics you plan to write in; you will also plan the due dates for your papers this semester. Your personal Portfolio Plan will be referred to throughout the semester to help you meet the deadlines you have established.

In order to include a document in the final portfolio, you must accomplish the following steps for every portfolio paper:

1. You must submit a proposal to your studio instructor and peer group that explains 1) the topic you have chosen to write about; 2) the purpose for the text; 3) the audience for whom the text is written; and 4) the genre chosen for the text. You will receive feedback on your proposal and, after it is approved by your instructor, you can begin the project. Each instructor will have their own expectations regarding what format the proposal must take, i.e. typed, written, verbal, etc.
2. Once a draft is completed, you must share your draft with your instructor and peers for review. Each instructor will specify how and within what timeframe drafts are to be submitted for instructor and peer review; you may be asked to post it to a discussion board or forum via Blackboard, submit it via email, and/or bring printed copies to your studio session.
3. NOTE: NO document will be accepted in the final portfolio without it having gone through the draft and peer review process. In other words, every portfolio paper (except the statement of self-assessment) must be seen in progress by your instructor during the semester in order to be accepted.

The dates for peer review and draft submission are largely determined by your Portfolio Plan, and it is up to you have your papers in by the deadlines you have set. We will hold you to these deadlines and fully expect you to come to class with your finished paper on the week you have decided to do so. If at any point you would like to reevaluate the dates you have chosen, ask your instructor to sit down with you and edit your plan.

*Portfolio Submission*:

The My Portfolio Plan document will help you plan and create your final portfolio for this course. A Final Portfolio must consist of the following in order to be considered for a grade:

* At least 7,000 words in final draft form, which translates into roughly 22 to 26 finished pages;
* Must display the ability to write competently in three to five different genres. Each paper in the portfolio must be from a different genre (i.e. two papers from the same genre cannot be included) unless instructor approval has been given;
* Every paper must include research;
* One paper must be a documented researched essay using a consistent citation format and incorporating a number of sources with a sustained argument that results in a paper of at least 8 pages, plus the Works Cited/Reference page(s);
* Must demonstrate the ability to use two different citation styles. Therefore, if the argumentative research paper is cited in MLA, a different paper in the portfolio must contain cited sources in a different citation style, such as APA; and
* Must include a statement of self-assessment (maximum three pages) that has not received feedback from the group instructor or peers (see below for more information).

**The final course portfolio must be submitted for assessment by no later than Week 15.**

*Statement of Self-Assessment*:

Each portfolio must include a statement of self-assessment that analyzes your work in the course this semester. In this statement, you will argue for why you feel you have satisfied the course objectives of Composition II. You can cite any text you have completed for this studio class in support of your argument.

Choose at least three and no more than five of the course Learning Outcomes listed on the first page of the syllabus and explain, in detail, how you have satisfied those objectives through your course work. Pay particular attention to referencing portfolio papers in your letter. The letter should conclude with a broader reflection of your strengths and weaknesses as a writer.

**Studio Work (40% of your final grade—20% for face to face and 20% for online work):**

Your active participation in this writing class will help you to achieve the goals of this course and accomplish your personal academic goals. Therefore, your regular attendance and informed and active participation are expected. Feedback from instructors and peers will occur during the studio sessions; a lack of participation in these sessions will delay the revision of your work. In the event that you must miss class, you should notify your group instructor by voice mail, email, or in writing. However, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and to complete all work. If a situation arises where your absence will result in missing multiple sessions, contact your group instructor as soon as possible to make them aware of the situation. Finally, be aware that all work in this class is public and will be read by the instructor and fellow students. Please keep this in mind when writing texts.

Your studio work will be evaluated by your studio group instructor. Studio work encompasses both face to face participation and online participation. For face to face participation, students must come prepared to each session with a document, item, or topic to discuss. Documents can include pre-writing, proposals, first drafts or revised drafts. Items can include documents, videos, visuals, or descriptions of events in which the student wishes to use for a writing project.

In addition, studio work includes attending each session having read any texts posted by fellow group members, preparing a list of comments/questions/suggestions based on the provided peer review sheet, and actively participating by offering advice to writers on how to strengthen their texts.

***NOTE:*** **Students who miss studio sessions will find their studio work grade affected;**

**students who miss more than two studio sessions may fail the course.**

For online participation, you must submit work online following the guidelines outlined under Portfolio Requirements and must participate in any online discussions/reviews of texts as dictated by the studio instructor. Students who regularly do not post documents will find their studio work grade affected.

In addition, you are highly encouraged to make use of the additional resources offered by the studio environment, including writing tutors, physical textbooks and documents, and online handouts on different writing genres, skills, and strategies.

**Accessibility Statement:**

Anyone who has an accessibility issue (physical, speech, hearing, etc) that may influence their performance in this class should talk to their instructor about this as soon as possible and should have the disability documented with the Office of Accessibility (x4981 or <http://www.utoledo.edu/utlc/academicaccess/index.html>)

**Plagiarism***:*

Representing the work of another as your own, whether through direct copying, unattributed paraphrasing, or inadequate citation practices constitutes plagiarism. If you do not know how to give credit where credit is due—and that is a legitimate concern—see your studio instructor and we will review the process. A paper that is plagiarized in whole or in part will receive an F, the student producing it will receive an F, and the paper will be turned over to the administrative supervisors to determine further action. Plagiarism is grounds for dismissal from the University. The policy on academic dishonesty can be found in the University of Toledo catalog at the following URL: <http://www.utoledo.edu/policies/academic/undergraduate/pdfs/3364-71-04%20%20Academic%20dishonesty.pdf>.

**Submission of Work:**

It is expected that all student work submitted for a grade will be typed in MLA/APA format: standard 12-point font, double spaced, one-inch margins, and numbered pages.

**Grading:**

All Composition II courses are graded A-F and portfolios will be read with the University of Toledo Composition II Learning Outcomes in mind. Portfolios will be read holistically, and each portfolio will be assigned a letter grade as a whole.

The following is an overview of what portfolio texts must show in order to achieve the grade listed:

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| “A” Portfolio | * Displays a strong ability to establish a purpose and create a thesis in all of the portfolio texts. Is able to identify purpose and thesis in the writings of others. * Demonstrates an advanced knowledge of the rhetorical features of genres though organizational patterns, paragraph development, and audience awareness. * Develops strong arguments in texts, including exceptional use of rhetorical appeals, supporting information and counter-arguments. * Displays strong writing with little to no errors in grammar, word choice, punctuation, sentence structure, and mechanics. * Displays exceptional researching skills, including the use of reliable sources and an exceptional understanding of the conventions for in-text and end-of-text citation, with little to no errors in these areas. |
| “B” Portfolio | * Displays an above-average ability to establish a purpose and create a thesis in most of the portfolio texts. Is able to identify purpose and thesis in most of the writings of others. * Demonstrates above-average knowledge of the rhetorical features of genres though organizational patterns, paragraph development, and audience awareness. A few texts contain problems in either understanding or use of genres or above-mentioned rhetorical features. * Develops good arguments in texts, including above-average use of rhetorical features, supporting information and counter-arguments. Some texts contain errors in logic and/or rhetorical fallacies. * Displays above-average writing with some errors in grammar, word choice, punctuation, sentence structure, and mechanics. * Displays above-average researching skills, including the use of mostly reliable sources and an above-average understanding of the conventions for in-text and end-of-text citation, with some errors in these areas. |
| “C” Portfolio | * Displays an average ability to establish a purpose and create a thesis in some of the portfolio texts, but contains some significant flaws. Is able to identify purpose and thesis in the some of the writings of others. * Demonstrates an average knowledge of the rhetorical features of genres though organizational patterns, paragraph development, and audience awareness. At least half of the portfolio texts contain problems in either understanding or use of genres or above-mentioned rhetorical features. * Develops arguments in texts, but arguments contain significant flaws, including average to below-average use of rhetorical features, supporting information and counter-arguments. About half of the texts contain errors in logic and/or rhetorical fallacies. * Displays average writing with some errors (including some significant errors) in grammar, word choice, punctuation, sentence structure, and mechanics. * Displays average researching skills, including the use of some reliable and questionable sources, and an average understanding of the conventions for in-text and end-of-text citation, with some significant errors in these areas. |
| “D” Portfolio | * Displays a very limited ability to establish a purpose and create a thesis in most of the portfolio texts, containing significant flaws in many of these texts. Displays extreme difficulty when attempting to identify purpose and thesis in the writings of others. * Demonstrates little knowledge of the rhetorical features of genres though organizational patterns, paragraph development, and audience awareness. Most of the portfolio texts contain problems in either understanding or use of genres or above-mentioned rhetorical features. * Develops few organized arguments in texts, including little to no understanding of the use of rhetorical appeals, supporting information and counter-arguments. Texts contain several errors in logic and/or rhetorical fallacies. * Displays below-average writing with many significant errors in grammar, word choice, punctuation, sentence structure, and mechanics. * Displays below-average researching skills, including the use of mostly questionable sources and a below-average understanding of the conventions for in-text and end-of-text citation, with many significant errors in these areas. |
| “F” Portfolio | * Shows no ability to establish a purpose and create a thesis in most of the portfolio texts, containing significant flaws in many of these texts. Is not able to identify purpose and thesis in the writings of others. * Demonstrates poor knowledge of the rhetorical features of genres though organizational patterns, paragraph development, and audience awareness. Most of the portfolio texts contain problems in either understanding or use of genres or above-mentioned rhetorical features. * Develops almost no arguments in texts, including little to no understanding of the use of rhetorical appeals, supporting information and counter-arguments. Texts contain several errors in logic and/or rhetorical fallacies. * Displays poor to incomplete writing with many significant errors in grammar, word choice, punctuation, sentence structure, and mechanics. * Displays poor researching skills, including the use of almost no sources or questionable sources and a below-average understanding of the conventions for in-text and end-of-text citation, with many significant errors in these areas. |

In addition, students must demonstrate the ability to satisfy the following learning outcomes through their work in the studio groups:

* Develop critical reading skills, including the ability to locate rhetorical features in a text, identify the audience for a given text, and identify strengths and weaknesses in an author’s arguments and reasoning; and
* Use electronic environments for the drafting, reviewing, revising, editing, and submitting of texts.
* Demonstrate the ability to critique their own and peers’ writing by understanding the collaborative and social aspects of the writing process