



Walters State Community College Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course Number and Name: ENGL 1010 English Composition I

Section ID: 80401.202380

Semester and Year: Fall 2023

Credit Hours: 3

Start Date: August 21, 2023

End Date: December 08, 2023

Course Format: CON - Conventional Methodology

Catalog Course Description: A composition course in argumentative writing, including invention, organization, style, and revision. Critical reading and thinking will be addressed through students writing. Research skills and documentation will be introduced. Prerequisites: Completion of Learning Support Reading and Writing, if required. **F, S, Su** (T)

General Education Course Designation: General Education Course

Meeting Details: MW; 08:00AM - 09:25AM; MEHS

Course Drop Deadline: October 27, 2023

Instructor Information

Name: Michael Wilson

Role: Instructor

Office Location: Morristown East H.S. Room 201

Office Hours: T, R, F 8 A.M.-9:00 A.M.

Office Phone: 423-586-2543

Email: wilsonm@hcboe.net

Supervisor Name: Christopher Morelock

Supervisor Phone: 423-585-6780

Secretary Name: Debbie Wilson

Secretary Phone: 423-585-6947

Required Textbook(s) and Materials

The Little, Brown Essential Handbook

Additional Information

All learning materials will be provided to the students via eLearn and via the teacher.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- A composition course in argumentative writing, including invention, organization, style, and revision. Critical reading and thinking will be addressed through students writing. Research skills and documentation will be introduced.

By the end of this course, students will be able to

1. distill a primary purpose into a single compelling statement by
 - a. selecting and narrowing their own topics.
 - b. identifying and writing argumentative thesis statements.
2. order major points in a reasonable and convincing manner based on that purpose by
 - a. engaging in the writing process—including prewriting, outlining, drafting, and revising.
 - b. demonstrating the relationship between the thesis and outline.
 - c. writing formal topic and sentence outlines.
 - d. developing an introduction, body, and conclusion for each collegiate essay.
3. develop ideas using appropriate argumentative rhetorical patterns by
 - a. employing reasonable, logical argumentative strategies to support fully the thesis.
 - b. synthesizing source materials with original thought.
4. employ correct diction, syntax, usage, grammar, mechanics, punctuation and spelling by
 - a. editing and revising their essays.
 - b. addressing issues of style and audience through revision.
5. manage and coordinate basic information gathered from an outside source by
 - a. critically analyzing the source materials.

- b. locating and using credible secondary sources.
- c. differentiating between opinions, facts, and inferences.
- d. quoting, paraphrasing, and summarizing source materials.
- e. documenting sources according to MLA standards through a Works Cited list and internal citations

Instructional and Evaluation Methods:

1. Students will produce an argumentative writing sample at the first class meeting in order for the instructor to evaluate basic writing skills and to make referrals for further assessments.
2. In addition to the sample, students will complete a first-of-semester Multiple Sections Verification (MSV) objective exam (which does not receive a grade), an end-of-semester MSV objective exam (which counts 5% of the final grade), quizzes, in-class writings, and major graded papers. These writings represent a minimum for the course, and with drafts and informal writing assignments, students should write a min of 4000 words during the semester.
3. To successfully complete the course, students must not only earn a passing grade but also demonstrate mastery of the general education reading and writing competencies as reflected on the departmental rubrics. These competencies will be evaluated with each major paper.
4. Students will move through a process to complete major papers. The process will vary according to assignments, but it should include prewriting, outlining, drafting, and editing.
5. Students must write a minimum of four papers (including the writing sample). The instructor and peers will assess stages of the writing process for each paper, and the student will revise accordingly to arrive at a final draft. Revisions may receive daily points for addressing instructor and peer feedback, but once a student submits a major paper for a final grade, it cannot be resubmitted for a higher grade.
6. The student will keep all required paper drafts and make revisions according to instructions. The instructor may require that this process be completed electronically. Any major paper assignments evaluated outside of eLearn must be submitted to the instructor at the end of the semester.
7. The student will submit print or electronic notes, bibliographic information, rough drafts, and source material used in preparation of documented papers so that the instructor may verify paraphrased material and direct

quotations. Additionally, students will submit all major papers to eLearn dropboxes for plagiarism detection.

Testing Procedures:

The instructor evaluates each paper on its own merits. While there is no single formula for evaluating any paper, in this course all papers will be assessed by standard rubrics. These rubrics will address criteria such as the quality of content and organization, thesis, specific detail to support and develop general statements, and the number and frequency of serious errors (such as fragments, comma splices, fused sentences, errors in agreement and tense, and awkward constructions). Repeated errors and deficiencies become significant in the evaluation of the student's writing. Since progress is the principal objective, students will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery of the evaluated criteria.

Instructional Approach and Methods

The class will use the following methods:

- Lecturing and Modeling
- Whole group and small group discussion
- Collaborative learning
- Writing workshops and peer evaluation

Assessment, Evaluation and Testing Procedures

The instructor evaluates each paper on its own merits. While there is no single formula for evaluating any paper, in this course all papers will be assessed by standard rubrics. These rubrics will address criteria such as the quality of content and organization, thesis, specific detail to support and develop general statements, and the number and frequency of serious errors (such as fragments, comma splices, fused sentences, errors in agreement and tense, and awkward constructions). Repeated errors and deficiencies become significant in the evaluation of the student's writing. Since progress is the principal objective, students will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery of the evaluated criteria.

Grading Scale

A	90 - 100%
B	80 – 89%
C	70 – 79%
D	60 – 69%
F	59% and below

Assignments

5 Major Essays

Pre-Test and Post-Test

Quizzes

Reading Assignments

Short Writing Assignments

Group Activities and Projects.

Course and Class Policies/Procedures

Other Requirements: Program Specific Policies-Student Conferences

The instructor encourages the student to schedule conferences. Any student who needs additional help should request extra conferences. In the conferences the instructor reviews the student's written work, explaining and clarifying points that are giving the student trouble, noting evidence of improvement, and making suggestions for further improvement. The instructor also helps the student to self-diagnose any areas of punctuation, diction, or sentence structure to which additional attention and study should be directed. The student may also seek further help from the English Learning Lab Technician (Jennifer Mayes) in Humanities 120, where both professional and peer tutors are available to assist, either on site or online.

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited. Students may not submit work from other classes unless permitted by the instructor. According to *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary*, plagiarism is to "steal and pass off as one's own (the ideas or words of another); to present as one's own an idea or product derived from an existing source." Also, see *The Little, Brown Essential Handbook* pages 5-6 and 212-218. Any student who plagiarizes will receive a zero on the paper and may receive a grade of F in the course. (See the Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook.)

Excessive absences may substantially lower the course grade. A late paper receives a one-letter grade deduction for each day it is late unless the student has an excused absence and notifies the instructor in advance. This rate of deduction could result in a grade value of zero if a paper were to be several days late. The instructor can require written proof of a valid excuse. Even if the absence is justifiable or administratively approved, the student must complete the paper or make arrangements to do so within one week after returning to class. After one week, if the student has not made up the paper or made satisfactory arrangements to do so with the instructor, the student receives a 0 for that theme.

Students for whom English is a second language may contact Michelle Mitrik at 423-585-6930 for advising and/or tutoring referrals.

Additional Course Requirements/Details/Information

Mr. Wilson's Classroom Policies

General Rules:

- 1. Respect your teacher.**
- 2. Respect your classmates and classroom visitors.**
- 3. Be polite, positive, and helpful.**
- 4. Keep the classroom clean and organized.**
- 5. Take responsibility for your actions and your level of success.**

Specific Rules:

- 1. When I am speaking or a classmate is speaking to the class, you should be actively listening and not talking.**
- 2. Be in class on time and ready to work.**
- 3. Follow directions the first time they are given.**

4. No offensive, insulting, racist, or hateful language and no throwing of objects.

5. No sleeping.

If You Choose to Break a Rule

First Time: Name on board. Warning.

Second Time: One check. 15 minutes of detention.

Third Time: Two checks. 30 minutes of detention.

Fourth Time: Three checks. 45 minutes of detention and parents are called.

Fifth Time: Four checks. Office referral is written; student is sent to the office.

Severe Disruption: Student is immediately sent to an administrator.

Students who are assigned detention will have one week to serve the detention. Students who fail to serve detention will be subject to a discipline referral and parent communication.

Attendance and Tardiness

Student attendance will be recorded by the teacher during each class period. A student is counted absent from a class if he or she misses twenty minutes or more. A student will receive an office referral for his or her 5th tardy and for each and every tardy after the 5th tardy.

Smartphones and Other Electronic Devices

You will use your laptop computer on a daily basis. However, school policy does not allow students to use electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, smartwatches, etc.) in the classroom unless the teacher permits you to do so. If I see or hear an electronic device being used without my permission, I will confiscate it, including headphones and earbuds.

Student Bell Activity

By the time the tardy bell rings, students are expected to be in their assigned seats and ready to begin work. Almost everyday will begin with a bell ringer or opening activity. We will practice this procedure.

Student Work Policy

Students are responsible for completing all assignments. Incomplete work will not be accepted, and late work will be graded accordingly. Students are responsible for knowing about each assignment. I try to help students who have been absent, but the student is ultimately the one responsible for being aware of the work he or she has missed due to being absent. Students have 2 days to make up work with an absence. After these 2 days, the student will be penalized 10% of the grade for each additional day. After 5 days, the student will receive a zero for that assignment. If a student is quarantined, the student needs to communicate with me regularly about how to keep up with assignments.

Missed Quizzes/Exams/Essays

Unless given special permission, missed quizzes, exams, or in-class essays should be completed within a week of the missed assignment. Students need to schedule time after school or during STORM to take a missed quiz or exam. A student will have 5 days to complete a missing quiz, exam, or essay. After the 5 days, the student will receive a zero for the assignment.

Bathroom/Hallway Pass

To leave the classroom during class, a student will need the hall pass. Except for emergencies or important trips to the main office, no one should ask to leave the classroom until he or she has read the smart board and readied his or her materials and tools for the class. If the class begins to ask for an excessive amount of trips to the restroom, I will need to create a new bathroom policy. Also, buy your snacks or drinks before class, for I do not guarantee an opportunity during class for you to leave the room for snacks or drinks.

Snacks and Drinks

Snacks and drinks are allowed in our classroom. However, this is a privilege and not a right. Buy your snacks or drinks before class. In-class requests to leave the room for snacks/drinks are disruptive, so do not be surprised if I deny such requests. Also, you are responsible for disposing of trash into the waste baskets. If I find trash on the floor, in desks, or on shelves, you will lose your snack/drink privilege. Furthermore, be careful to not spill drinks, especially onto laptops.

Tutoring

I will make myself available to students for tutoring before and after school. Generally, I remain late after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and students can schedule time on any day to visit me for extra help. I will also meet with students for tutoring online using Google Meets. Whether you are an in-class student or an online student, you are strongly encouraged to schedule tutoring time with me if you are struggling with an assignment or a concept or if you have been absent and need extra help with a missed assignment or lesson.

Laptop Procedures

You will use your laptop everyday in this class. Therefore, you need to take responsibility for the following daily habits:

- Keep your laptop charged. You need to charge your laptop at home.
- Shut down your laptop at home so that it will properly update. In other words, do not simply close your laptop or select Sleep mode. Literally Shut Down your computer before you close it.
- Take good care of your laptop. Do your best to avoid losing or damaging your laptop.
- During a lesson, you should open only the tab(s) needed for the lesson. In other words, you should not open tabs that are not a part of the lesson unless I give you or the entire class permission to do so. If you break this rule, you will receive a warning for the first infraction and, then, an office referral for every additional infraction.

Academic Honesty

Faculty expect all students to refrain from acts of academic misconduct including but not limited to:

1. Plagiarism - refers to using another person's ideas or writing without giving proper credit to the original source. Indulging in this type of conduct will subject the student to disciplinary sanctions, which may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures of Walters State Community College as outlined in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism will result in a grade of "0" for the paper/exam/presentation. Student Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions contained in the college Catalog/Student Handbook apply (see policy 04:18:02 Disciplinary Sanctions).

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to the following:

- a. Using cut/paste tool from original document with no references given.
- b. Copying another student's work and submitting it as one's own.

- c. Forging or otherwise altering signatures.
 - d. Giving or falsifying academic documents or materials.
2. Cheating - construed as attempting to deceive or mislead which includes, but is not limited to the following:
- a. Utilizing old tests, projects, notes or written papers.
 - b. Providing unauthorized information to a fellow student about exam content.
 - c. Receiving unauthorized aid from any source with quizzes, examinations, or other assignments.
 - d. Seeking information in an unacceptable manner during/preceding an exam or other assigned work (cheat sheet, verbal exchange, looking at another person's paper or electronic device, utilizing headphones, using textbook when the test/quiz is not an open book test/quiz, using textbook test bank etc.).
 - e. Consulting with a classmate or others when taking a computerized test.
 - f. Disregarding other specific policies and procedures outlined for a particular class.
 - g. Utilizing unapproved technology/electronic equipment during testing (i.e.: mobile devices such as cell phones, smart devices, or tablets, etc.).
 - h. Using the same Internet Protocol network address (IP address) as another student for testing without approval from the course faculty.
3. The use of any generative artificial intelligence (AI) tool, such as OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Bard, or any other pre-trained language model (commonly referred to as "chatbot"), must be cited for any assignment where it has been used and may not be used unless specifically allowed by your instructor. Please see your instructor or the course policies within the syllabus if you have questions.

Student Resources

TUTORING SERVICES

Students in need of tutoring assistance are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Tutoring located as follows:

- Morristown Campus - Student Services Building Room L107 - (423) 585-6920
- Niswonger Campus - GRNV 226 - (423) 798-7982
- Sevierville Campus - MMH Room 210 - (865) 286-2787
- Claiborne Campus - Room 123A - (423) 851-4761

Specific tutoring assistance in mathematics and writing is available in-person and online as follows:

- Morristown Campus - English Learning Lab - HUM 120 - (423) 585-6970

[Walters State English Learning Lab \(opens in new window\)](https://www.waltersstate.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab)
[ws.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab](https://www.waltersstate.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab)

- Morristown Campus - Mathematics Lab - MBSS 222 - (423) 585-6872

[Walters State Mathematics Learning Lab \(opens in new window\)](https://www.waltersstate.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab)
[ws.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab](https://www.waltersstate.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab)

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

Students who need assistance with computing and technology issues should contact the IET Helpdesk by phone at Morristown: (423) 318-2742; Niswonger: (423) 798-8186; or Sevierville: (865) 286-2789 or on-line access.

[Walters State Helpdesk \(opens in new window\)](https://www.waltersstate.edu/helpdesk)
[helpdesk.ws.edu](https://www.waltersstate.edu/helpdesk)

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SUPPORT SERVICES

Students with disabilities must register with Student Support Services each semester in the Student Services Building, Room U134 (phone (423) 585-6892) if they need any special facilities, services, or consideration.

[Walters State Student Support Services \(opens in new window\)](https://www.waltersstate.edu/student-services/disability/)
[ws.edu/student-services/disability/](https://www.waltersstate.edu/student-services/disability/)

SUICIDE PREVENTION STATEMENT

Walters State is committed to and cares about all students. Support services are available for any person at Walters State who is experiencing feelings of being overwhelmed, hopelessness, depression, thinking about dying by suicide, or is otherwise in need of assistance. For immediate help, contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by calling or texting 9-8-8 or the Trevor Lifeline at 1-866-488-7386. Veterans may also contact the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 (press 1) or Text 838255.

Walters State has a relationship in place with the following community agencies to provide services (may include crisis referral services, prevention screenings, etc.):

- Cherokee Health Systems 423-586-5032
- Frontier Health 423-467-3600

College Policies

STUDENTS HANDBOOK AS OFFICIAL GOVERNING DOCUMENT

This class is governed by the policies and procedures stated in the current Walters State Community College Student Handbook. All students attending Walters State Community College, regardless of the time, location, or format of the class, must abide by the rules and regulations outlined in the current Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook and the current Walters State Timetable of Classes.

[Walters State Catalog \(opens in new window\)](http://catalog.ws.edu/)
catalog.ws.edu/

[Walters State Timetable of Classes \(opens in new window\)](http://ws.edu/admissions/registration/)
ws.edu/admissions/registration/

PURPOSE, LIMITATIONS AND MODIFICATION OF SYLLABUS

This syllabus sets forth the expectations for the course content, work, and grading as well as expectations for student performance and conduct. The syllabus does not constitute a contract between the student and the instructor or the College. The information contained here is subject to change at any time. The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus at any time with written notification to the students. Though changes are possible, it is expected that the course will be conducted as described in this syllabus for the semester/year specified in the Course Information section of the syllabus. This syllabus is only valid for the semester/year specified and course requirements are not guaranteed for future semesters.

COURSE GROUND RULES

- Students must attend the first day of on-ground class or contact the instructor prior to the first class. Failure to do this may result in being dropped from the class. Excessive absences may substantially lower the course grade.
- Regular class attendance is a student's obligation for any course regardless of format. (See the Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook). If a student misses class, it is his or her responsibility to contact the instructor regarding missed assignments and/or activities and to be prepared for the next class assignment.
- Students enrolled in web courses must follow the course attendance policy defined for online attendance during the first week of class and throughout the term. Failure to do this may result in being dropped from the class during week one OR may result in the accrual of absences which may negatively impact the student's grade in the course.
- Students who have not paid fees on time and/or are not correctly registered for this class and whose names do not appear on official class rolls generated by the Walters State student

information system (MyWS) will not be allowed to remain in class or receive credit for this course.

- Electronic devices must not disrupt the instructional process or college-sponsored academic activity. Use of electronic devices is prohibited unless use of the device is relevant to the activity and use is sanctioned by the faculty member in charge. Electronic devices that are not relevant to the activity or sanctioned by the faculty member in charge should be set so that they will not produce an audible sound during classroom instruction or other college-sponsored academic activity.

FINANCIAL AID

Students receiving any type of financial aid or scholarship should contact the Financial Aid Office before making any changes to their schedule. Schedule changes without prior approval may result in loss of award for the current term and future terms.

All forms of student Financial Aid may be jeopardized or lost due to the lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress in one or multiple courses. Lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress may negatively impact a student's degree/certificate completion pace and further jeopardize Financial Aid eligibility.

CANCELLATION OF CLASSES AND ACADEMIC CONTINUITY

For information related to the cancellation of classes due to inclement weather or other events, please check the Senators Emergency Text system or the college's Web site at:

[Walters State Homepage \(opens in new window\)](#)

ws.edu/home/

[Walters State Facebook page \(opens in new window\)](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/WaltersState/>

[Walters State Twitter page \(opens in new window\)](#)

<https://twitter.com/waltersstate>

or call the college's student information line, 1-800-225-4770, option 1; the Sevier County Campus, (865) 774-5800, option 7; the Niswonger Campus (423) 798-7940, option 7; or the Claiborne County Campus, 423-636-6200, option 7. Also, please monitor local TV and radio stations for further announcements.

When an event or disaster interrupts the scheduled operations of the college and the ability to proceed with the academic course activities as planned, the college and your instructor may alter the course plan outlined in the syllabus. Should an event occur, students should refer to their course e-Learn pages and/or class materials previously delivered to receive guidance from their instructor. Students should continue to monitor the official college channels of communication listed in the above

paragraph. If you would like to sign up for the Senators Emergency Text system, please go to the following Web site:

[Senator Emergency Text System \(opens in new window\)](#)
[ws.edu/set/](#)

Dual Enrollment students attending on a high school campus should refer to the high school inclement weather cancellations.

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Brightspace (commonly known as eLearn or D2L) is the college's Learning Management System (LMS).

Brightspace is committed to accessibility by "deliver[ing] a learning experience that meets the needs of all people, regardless of age or ability." [Brightspace Accessibility Standard \(opens in new window\)](#)

Brightspace is also committed to guarding student data and privacy. [Brightspace Privacy Policy \(opens in new window\)](#)