

ENGL 103

Rhetoric & Composition I



Northern Illinois
University

Class Information

Location: Reavis Hall, 300
Day/Time: MWF 1:00-1:50
Texts: PDFs in Blackboard
URL: <https://webcourses.niu.edu/>

Instructor Information

Name: Malcolm Reynolds
Email: mreynolds@niu.edu
Office: Reavis Hall, 299B
Office Hours: MWF 12:00-1:00 or by
appointment

Course Description

ENGL 103 builds on and expands your writing experiences. Drawing on rhetorical approaches to writing, you will create traditional written texts as well as multimodal digital texts for various audiences and purposes. Helping you better understand your writing choices is at the heart of ENGL 103. This requires that you reflect deeply on your writing practices, including how your writing is produced, how it meets audience expectations, and how it meets genre conventions. Through these reflections, you will get help in connecting writing taking place throughout your life: at school, at your part-time job, in clubs and organizations, and in your personal life. ENGL 103 culminates in a final eportfolio that showcases your best writing and what you've learned.

Course Outcomes

By the end of ENGL 103, you will be able to:

- Articulate goals and processes for writing—both writing you've done and writing others have done.
- Articulate connections between writing contexts.
- Identify and use genre and style conventions appropriate for multiple situations and audiences.
- Work productively on collaborative writing projects.

Major Projects

WP1: Literacy Narrative 2.0



During the semester, you'll be asked to complete four writing projects (WP), each with a reflective component.

At the beginning of the semester, you will be asked to write a short narrative in which you explain a time when you were new to a space and what things confused you about it at the time. For WP1: Literacy Narrative 2.0, you will then adapt that narrative into a new medium appropriate for your audience, such as a video, a podcast, a website, a comic, or some other form of media. Then, you'll write a reflection explaining the adaptation, the choices you made in creating it, and how it fits your audience.

WP2: Value Analysis



For WP2, you will find a space that's new to you. You'll observe that space, specifically looking for the language and genre conventions used. You'll compare this language and the genre conventions with the space you used for WP1. Finally, you'll provide an explanation of what the space values in good communication based on what you've observed, carefully selecting evidence from your observation to help make your points. WP2 also includes a reflection, this time focused on how you decided on what to focus on and how you curated your data to make your argument about value.

WP3: Making Change



WP3 will build on WP2. With a group of your peers, you will compare the spaces you observed for WP2 and choose one or more space to focus on. The spaces you choose must be ones that you hope to change in a significant way. Many spaces offer obstacles to new users and to certain users of the space, such as users who are women, BIPOC, LGBTQ+, or international speakers of English. Your group will focus on one way in which the spaces are problematic and how they might change to be more welcoming. Your group will use data collected from WP2 as well as new observations. While this part of WP3 will be collaborative, the reflection will be individual. You will focus both on the choices you made in creating WP3 as well as the methods your group used to work together.

WP4: Reflection Overview



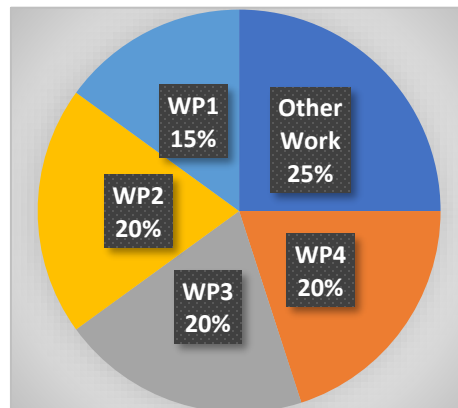
WP4 puts together all of the reflections from the previous writing projects. In this digital document, you will include each of the three reflections from WP1, WP2, and WP3 as well as write a new reflection that focuses on your overall learning in the course: What major things did you learn, what evidence do you have to point to that learning, and how will you use what you learned in the future? In order to make your points, you will use evidence from your writing projects and reflections as well as any other work you did in the class this semester. You're even welcome to include writing you did outside of class for other classes, part-time jobs, or just for fun!

Grading

The grading scale below will be used for major projects and overall grades:

- A: 93-100%
- A-: 90-92.99%
- B+: 87-89.99%
- B: 83-86.99%
- B-: 80-82.99%
- C+: 77-79.99%
- C: 70-76.99%
- D: 60-69.99%
- F: 59.99% and Below

Your grade will be based on the categories below. See “Grade Breakdown” for more info



Class Policies

Syllabus Updates

This syllabus is subject to change with notification. Any changes made will be posted in Blackboard, and you will be notified via email.

Attendance

You are expected to attend every class and conference. Absence without prior approval may result in all class points lost for that day. If you are late to class or leave early without permission, you may lose half of the class points for that day. If there is a problem keeping you from attending, please let me know as soon as possible.

Homework

Homework should be submitted to Blackboard at least 30 minutes before class time.

Late Work

Late major projects will be accepted. Without prior approval, late major projects may lose up to 10% per day until they are submitted. Deductions will be capped at 50%, meaning no matter how late, you can still get half credit for any major assignment. If you have a reason to submit work late, please let me know in advance, and we can try to create an alternative deadline with no deduction.

Drafts & Revision

All major projects will have a completion and a revised draft. Students may submit additional drafts for comments or to be re-graded with permission from the instructor.

Discussion

You are expected to actively engage in class and conference discussions. Please be civil to other members of the class and actively keep dialog open—even when you disagree. If you cannot remain civil, you will be asked to leave class and be counted absent.

Class Policies

Tech

Class will meet in a Bring-Your-Own-Device (BYOD) classroom. You are encouraged to bring a laptop, tablet, or phone to class every day. If you do not have one, several school-owned laptops are available in each class. You can get help using your device by calling 815-753-8100. Please use your tech during class time for class-related subjects.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense in which writers use other people's words without giving credit and pass them off as their own. During class, we will go over the [plagiarism policy](#). If you are unsure if something is plagiarism, please ask me in advance—and always err on the side of caution.

Anti-racism & Inclusion

All students should feel safe and respected in all classes. This includes a rejection of white supremacy, a commitment to LGBTQ+ rights, and every effort to include people of different cultural backgrounds, abilities, and beliefs. If you feel unsafe or disrespected in this class or any other, please reach out to me, and I will do all I can to help.

Preferred Pronouns

You will be asked for your preferred pronouns and preferred name on the first day of class. If these change during the semester, please let me know.

Resources

University Writing Center

All students are encouraged to take advantage of the [University Writing Center](#). They can offer experienced feedback on writing for this class or any other. The Center is located on the first floor of Founders Memorial Library. They can be reached at 815-753-6636 or hasc@niu.edu. Online appointments are available through the [Tutor Matching Service](#).

Language Diversity

You are welcome in this class regardless of your first language or fluency in English. If language barriers are causing problems for you in class in any way, please reach out to me. One-on-one support for ESL students if available in the writing center.

Counseling Services

[Counseling and Consultations Services](#) offers counseling for students. They can also be reached at 815-753-1206 or by visiting room 200 in the Campus Life Building. Students may also consider getting into touch with [Couple and Family Counseling](#), which offers greatly discounted counseling services for students. They can be reached at 815-753-1684, familytherapy@niu.edu, or by visiting room 146 in Wirtz Hall.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability and would like an accommodation for this class, please contact the [Disability Resource Center](#). The center is located in the Campus Life Building in Suite 180. They can be reached at 815-753-1303 or drc@niu.edu. I am happy to provide a productive learning environment in any way I can.

First-Generation Students

If you are the first in your family to attend college, NIU acknowledges that this comes with additional challenges to those faced by other students. Resources for first-generation students can be found [here](#).

International Students

NIU welcomes students from all around the world. [International Student Scholar Services](#) can assist you if you are facing any problems, such as visas or cultural adjustment. They are located in Willston Hall and can be reached at 815-753-1346 or isfo@niu.edu.

Undocumented Students

You are welcome in this class regardless of your documentation status with the US government. If you are undocumented and need help, you can contact [Undocumented Student Support](#) in the Campus Life Building in Suite 230. They can also be reached at undocumented@niu.edu.

NIU Land Acknowledgement

The four locations of Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Naperville, Rockford, and Oregon occupy the traditional homelands of Anishinaabe peoples— Niswi-mishkodewinan, also known as the Council of the Three Fires—comprised of the Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Odawa. Other Indigenous peoples who call this land home include the Sac and Fox, Kickapoo, Peoria, Miami, and Sioux. We acknowledge the presence and continued vitality of these and other Native communities in our state and Midwest region.