ENGL 600
Internship in the College Teaching of English

Northern Illinois University

Class Information

Location: Reavis Hall, 210
Day/Time: MWF 2:00-2:50
URL: https://webcourses.niu.edu/

Required Texts

Naming What We Know: Classroom Edition
Other readings available as PDFs
in Blackboard

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Ryan P. Shepherd	Eric Hoffman
Email:	rshepherd@niu.edu	NWR@niu.edu
Office:	Reavis Hall, 215B	Reavis Hall, 308
Office Hours:	Mondays 3-4 PM & Fridays 1-2 PM	Mondays & Wednesdays 3-4 PM

Course Description

ENGL 600 is a graduate course set to run along with your first semester teaching at NIU. You will learn theoretical approaches to teaching writing as well as practices for lesson planning, classroom management, and responding to student writing. The course content should be manageable for both experienced and inexperienced teachers. If this is your first semester teaching, great! We'll learn together and make some mistakes along the way. If you've been teaching for years, great! Be open to new ideas and experiences but also bring your experience to class discussions and assignments.

Course Outcomes

By the end of ENGL 600, you will be able to:
- Plan day-to-day class lessons for composition courses.
- Build multi-day lessons that move toward course outcomes.
- Reflect on how course activities meet course outcomes.
- Grade student writing fairly and mindfully.
- Comment on students' writing in compassionate and helpful ways.
- Identify your teaching strengths as well as areas for improvement.

Teaching Portfolio	Your teaching portfolio will be a documentation of your growth as a teacher and is one of the primary ways you'll be evaluated for this class. Consider the portfolio as an ongoing document: it is something that will shift and grow this semester and into the future. Your portfolio will include artifacts, reflections, and a teaching philosophy.
Artifacts	Artifacts are any materials that you've created yourself in preparation for your class. This may include things like handouts, videos, PowerPoints, and so on. It may also include *adapted* materials, but this must include the original source as well.
Reflections	Reflections will be a regular part of ENGL 600 and will cover such topics as your approaches to grading, classroom management techniques, methods of feedback, use of technology, ways of fostering equity and inclusion, and so on. You may also include letters from teaching observations—both observing and being observed. A final reflection summarizing important parts of other reflections will be included.
Teaching Philosophy	The main new document in your teaching portfolio will be a draft of your teaching philosophy. This is a summary of what's important to you in your approach to teaching and what this looks like in the classroom. This will be drafted throughout the semester.
	Teaching portfolios may be formal or informal, and you're welcome to post them either privately in Blackboard or publicly on sites such as Wordpress or Google Sites.

Class Policies

Grading	You will receive either a Satisfactory (S) or an Unsatisfactory (U) for ENGL 600. Your grade will be determined by your teaching portfolio, your participation in class, your completion of homework, and your teaching observation. All requirements must be met to receive an S. Your grade will be accompanied by a recommendation for continuing in the program.
Attendance	You are expected to attend all classes, including the day-long orientation classes from August 16-25. In-person attendance is expected except in specific exceptional circumstances. Reasonable accommodation can be made for a missed class if approved in advance. If you cannot attend due to an emergency, please let Ryan and Eric know as soon as you're able.

Out-of-Class Work	All assignments should be submitted to Blackboard at least 30 minutes before class time. Work will be accepted late with prior approval or in extreme circumstances.
Tech	You are encouraged to bring a laptop, tablet, or phone to each class. Please use your tech during class time for class-related subjects. If you do not have a device, we will provide one for you. All university-provided laptops are Windows, and most tech support and instruction will presume a Windows machine.
Plagiarism	Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will not be tolerated in class. Using other people's words without giving credit—even on homework assignments or in your portfolio—is not acceptable. The English department's plagiarism policy is available here. If you are unsure if something is plagiarism, please ask us in advance—and always err on the side of caution.
Anti-racism & Inclusion	All students should feel safe and respected in this class and others. 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. Hate has no home in this class. If you feel unsafe or disrespected in this class or any other, please reach out to us, and we will do all we can to help.
Preferred Names & Pronouns	You will be asked for your preferred name and pronouns on the first day of class. If these change during the semester, please let us know.
Syllabus Updates	This syllabus is subject to change with notification. Any changes made will be posted in Blackboard, and you will be notified.

Resources

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.
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.
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.

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.