**Trinity Western University**

Course Syllabus

WRTG 100 IS

University Writing

**Independent Study**

Summer 2017

3 semester hours (for elective credit); fulfills the Writing Competency Requirement for TWU

**Prerequisites:** none

**Instructor:** Prof. Micah Towery, MFA

**Contact:** 607-296-0486; micahtowery@gmail.com

**Office hours:** I welcome email, phone, or Google Hangouts sessions. If you want to call or do a video session, please notify me ahead of time so that we can arrange a time.

Course Description:

This course is designed to improve the reading, writing, and critical thinking skills of students whose first language is English. Students are required to read an array of essays, discuss them critically, and write papers reflecting the structure and genres of these essays.

**Note regarding Independent Study:**

As an Independent Study, this course allows for customization for each student. Thus, a student can research, read and write about topics of interest and/or topics related to the student’s degree/major. In addition, grammar and sentence structure will be addressed on an individual basis, within the context of each student’s writing.

**COURSE TIME FRAME:** Although the course is designed to be accommodating to individual schedules, students must complete the course within 6 months of getting access to the MyCourses page. Extra time may be given for emergencies or extenuating circumstances; however, approval must be granted by both the professor and TWU-Extensions. Failure to complete the course within 6 months may result in a failing or incomplete mark.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

* Produce fluent and accurate scholarly writing
* Appropriately apply writing conventions to various genres and disciplines
* Interpret questions and assignments and prepare answers carefully
* Engage effective logical patterns of thought as reflected in written communication
* Comprehend, evaluate, and critically interact with text
* Become familiar with documentation styles and formatting requirements
* Write with increased confidence and develop an individual voice
* Understand the articulation of ideas as a gift from God for the pursuit of truth

Textbooks:

Williams, Joseph M., and Joseph Bizup. *Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace*. 11th ed. Boston: Pearson, 2014. Print.

Requirements:

* The independent study student must access the course regularly (weekly or more).
* The student must submit his/her own work. Plagiarism will be penalized. (See TWU policy on academic dishonesty.)
* The student must be willing to revise according to instructor feedback. In the independent study nature of this course, drafting, revising and redrafting are crucial to the student’s development. The professor expects regular, frequent communication with the student.
* The student must demonstrate an awareness of his/her own weaknesses in grammar. This will be measured through a final report and reflection submitted at the end of the course.
* The student must demonstrate grammatical and sentence-level accuracy, knowledge of conventions, and appropriate development in all required written assignments. In addition, the assignments involve a response to reading such as summary, paraphrase, evaluation, and application, so students must exhibit comprehension and critical thinking within this context. The student must also demonstrate responsibility in using MLA (or other approved style). Grading criteria will reflect all of these learning outcomes. The **written assignments** and **grade weightings** are as follows:

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FOR STUDENTS REGISTERED BEFORE SUMMER 2016

* **Six (6) Style Assignments (and assigned grammar work if necessary) - 40%**
These include exercises from the Style book and short reflection questions. The answers to the reflection questions should we be well-written and grammatically clean. If necessary, the professor may assign additional grammar work that will be factored into this final grade. *The extra grammar work will not exceed 1 additional worksheet/practice per style assignment.*
* **Paper 1 (Academic Summary) and Revision - 10% (5% each)**
* **Paper 2 (Exploratory paper) - 10%**
* **Paper 3 (Article Review) - 10%**
* **Paper 4 Introduction and Final Draft - 30%**

FOR STUDENTS REGISTERED SUMMER 2016 AND BEYOND

* **6 Style Assignments (and assigned grammar work if necessary) - 40%**
These include exercises from the Style book and short reflection questions. The answers to the reflection questions should we be well-written and grammatically clean. If necessary, the professor may assign additional grammar work that will be factored into this final grade. *The extra grammar work will not exceed 1 additional worksheet/practice per style assignment.*
* **Research Keywords Worksheet (2 parts) - 5%**
* **Paper 1 (Academic Summary) and Revision - 10% (5% each)**
* **Paper 2 (Exploratory paper) - 10%**
* **Paper 3 (Article Review) - 10%**
* **Paper 4 Introduction and Final Draft - 25%**

**NOTE: Papers should consciously apply the Style Lessons that have been covered up to that point of submission. In fact, some of the Style Lessons are directly relevant to the paper assignments (e.g., the Paper 4 introduction).**

Academic Integrity and Avoiding Plagiarism at TWU

As Christian scholars pursuing higher education, academic integrity is a core value of the entire TWU community. Students are invited into this scholarly culture and required to abide by the principles of sound academic scholarship at TWU. This includes, but is not limited to, avoiding all forms of plagiarism and cheating in scholarly work. TWU has a strict policy on plagiarism (see academic calendar). Learning what constitutes plagiarism and avoiding it is the student's responsibility. An excellent resource describing plagiarism and how to avoid it has been prepared by TWU Librarian William Badke and is freely available for download (PPT file) or used as flash (self running) tutorials of varying lengths from:
<http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/plagiarism.ppt>
<http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/Plagiarism.swf> (14 minute flash tutorial)
<http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/Plagiarism_Short.swf> (8 minute flash tutorial)

Grade Distribution:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Letter Grade | Percentage | Grade Point |
| A+ | 90-100 | 4.3 |
| A | 85-89 | 4.0 |
| A- | 80-84 | 3.7 |
| B+ | 77-79 | 3.3 |
| B | 73-76 | 3.0 |
| B- | 70-72 | 2.7 |
| C+ | 67-69 | 2.3 |
| C | 63-66 | 2.0 |
| C- | 60-62 | 1.7 |
| D+ | 57-59 | 1.3 |
| D | 53-56 | 1.0 |
| D- | 50-52 | 0.7 |
| F | Below 50 | 0 |

**Course Outline**

See MyCourses **Summary** for a description of the course outline. This course is self-directed, which means students set and manage their own due dates. However, it is important to keep both professor and student on the same page. In order to facilitate this, students will be required to create an electronic calendar through Google Calendar. **Please note that the course must be completed within 6 months of getting access to the WRTG 100 MyCourses page.**