

# WR30 Syllabus

Instructor: Viola Olsen

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**Course Prerequisites:** Placement in WR30 is determined by Placement Test scores or completion of WR 20.

**Course Description:** This online course focuses on the basic essay format while reinforcing basic sentence skills and paragraph development. The main emphasis is on developing the ability to express ideas clearly and effectively. It also develops critical thinking skills and the ability to write a composition in a timed situation.

**Learning Outcome:** At the end of the term, students in this class will demonstrate, through work submitted in a final electronic portfolio, that they can use the basic conventions of Standard Written English in a variety of coherent, unified, well-structured essay formats. Specifically, students will be able to write a five-paragraph essay, using a clear thesis statement, several supporting paragraphs with clear topic sentences, and a conclusion. They will be able to apply various revision and editing strategies to improve their own essays and to critique the essays of fellow classmates.

## Required Textbook and Other Resources:

1. *College Writing Skills with Readings*, 7th Edition. John Langan
2. Rogue Online Log in at least three times per week to stay current.
3. Online Reference Library: Dictionary, Thesaurus, Encyclopedia, and News Center - Helpful site if you do not already own a reference library of your own.
4. A computer with Microsoft Word or MS Works, with Spell Check, Explorer or Mozilla Firefox.

**Course Content:** See summary of course content below. You will see details in “Lessons” when you log in to Angel (The Rogue Online Course Management System).

## I. Essay Formats:

- Narration
- Illustration (Exemplification)
- One other rhetorical form. Definition, Cause and Effect, or Argumentation.

## II. Sentence Skills:

- Spelling Log for Spelling Errors/Corrections
- Easily Confused Words

- Parts of Speech
- Subject and Verbs and Identifying Prepositional Phrases in Sentences
- Subject-Verb agreement
- Fragments
- Run-ons (Fused Sentences and Comma Splices)
- Pronouns: reference, agreement, point of view, case
- Punctuation, especially comma rules and apostrophes.
- Misplaced and dangling modifiers
- Parallelism

**III. Readings for Effective Writing** - Three essays from the textbook. These will be assigned.

**IV. Critical and Creative Thinking Skills:** See the Critical Thinking sections in “Lessons.”

**V. Grading Information:** This is a proficiency course, or Pass/No Pass. In order to pass, you will need to fulfill each of these requirements in equal proportions. The instructor reserves the right to provide the final assessment, based on student performance and according to these criteria:

- **Final Sentence Skills test:** A score of 70% or higher. The exam will be posted in Angel during Week 11.
- **Final Timed Writing Exam:** A score of 8 or higher on the timed, final Writing Proficiency Exam. (This means that two graders agreed on a score of 4 on a Holistic Scoring Scale.) The exam will be posted in Angel during Week 10. See the holistic scoring rubric under Course Information in “Lessons” to understand how your essay will be evaluated.
- **Electronic Portfolio** containing specific revised and edited essays. Instructions are posted in “Course Information.” You will be reading about this throughout the term.
- Weekly participation on public topics in the **Discussion Board**. This is our online way of communicating about important ideas related to writing. Do participate at least once a week in these public discussions. Read to find out what your classmates are saying.
- Weekly participation in “freewrites” (accessed through the Discussion Board, and credited 100% for doing them each week). The purpose for doing these freewrites is to increase your focus on a specific topic and build typing speed.

### **Steps for Online Participation**

1. Upon first logging in, always read the Announcement on the course Entry Page. It is updated frequently, so stay tuned. While in the entry page, check for email messages and Discussion Board postings.

2. Next, go to "Lessons" to see the week's objectives and to view your Weekly Activity Worksheet. Here you will find your weekly assignments in detail.
3. Respond to public discussion topics and questions provided by the instructor and other students.
4. Before taking your weekly quiz, read the assigned chapter carefully and do the Langan online practice quizzes posted in the Langan *The Online Writing Center*.
5. Do all the practice timed writings. Watch for their opening and closing dates. These practice timed writing exercises will prepare you for the final Writing Proficiency Exam.
6. Maintain your electronic portfolio as directed each week. All these items, revised and edited will become part of your final Portfolio entry, which is due at the end of the term. By submitting your drafts on Fridays, you will get my feedback in time for you to do the second draft.

### **MORE TIPS FOR SUCCESS:**

#### **Remember: SUCCESS MEANS PLANNING AND PERSEVERING**

- \* This online course demands much reading and writing, more so than face-to-face classes. This is because reading and writing is our ONLY means of interacting. Therefore, the more you read and write, the more skillful you will become.
- \*Consistently, do your freewrites in the Bulletin Board. This is a safe place for you go to solve writing problems, express your needs, vent, ask questions, and discover subjects for writing formal compositions.
- \* Participate in public group discussions and be willing to mentor, teach, and facilitate learning projects, especially peer reviews.
- \* Visit the Tutoring Center at RCC when you're in the neighborhood. Take a hard copy of your portfolio with you to help the tutor address specific problems in your writing.
- \* As you write, remember to use vivid word pictures and strong action verbs. Be clear, accurate, precise, relevant, thorough, and logical in your compositions. These are the intellectual standards that we will observe throughout the term.
- \* Explore freely the Langan Online Learning Center, and do the practice quizzes assigned during the week. You do not need a pass code to get in. Just click on "Student."
- \* Use e-mail to communicate privately with your classmates and me.
- \* Check your papers against the rubrics and scoring guides provided. Proofread and edit your own work. Learn to be self-sufficient as you learn the grammatical structures cited above in the Course Content.

\* Practice educational honesty.

***Plagiarism is not acceptable and will result in a NO PASS.*** See the *Langan Online Learning Center* for an article on Plagiarism. As I mentor you throughout the term, I tend to become very familiar with your writing style, your strengths, and your weaknesses. If you think you can have others write your papers for you, you need to have them sit in for you at Orientation, take the first writing sample exam, and then take the rest of the course for you. In this case, you will be paying good money for someone else to become a better writer, and you will have to live the rest of your life at the WR20 level. This is a waste of your mind and your money.

\* Understand that success means hard work, and that there are no shortcuts to becoming a skilled college writer.

### **Disability Accommodations:**

If you feel that you may need an accommodation for any disability, such as vision, hearing, orthopedic, learning disabilities, psychological or other medical conditions, please contact the Support Services office.

- RCC Redwood Campus
- Wiseman Tutoring Center, Room W17
- 3345 Redwood Highway
- Grants Pass, Oregon
- Phone: 541-956-7337 or 541-956-7338

Other Notes: Please see the **RCC Academic Calendar** for important dates, and add these to your personal calendar. Notice especially the last day to drop without penalty. A copy of this calendar is posted in "Course Information," or you can access it through the RCC homepage.