



**ENGLISH 102
WRITING ACADEMIC DISCOURSE**

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Course Description

English 102 focuses on the composition of research papers as well as critical textual analysis and synthesis in academic discourse. Students will receive instruction and practice in conceiving, drafting, revising and completing papers based upon sources that challenge them to seek new information and to reflect upon its relevance to their own observations and experience. This course provides students with a variety of research and writing skills. Activities include writing assignments, readings on composition techniques, readings of literature and criticism, online discussions, and lessons on relevant grammar issues and formatting sound arguments. English 101 is a prerequisite.

The focal text for English 102 is F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. All major writing assignments regard this novel, which students will research and write about in different ways. Minor assignments involve general writing and research techniques.

The goal of the course is to help students develop a concrete understanding of research skills while critically engaging with primary and secondary texts.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This is an online course with clear deadlines for all assignments; as long as you are attentive to these deadlines, you may work at your own pace. I am available by email and by appointment for personal consultation. Needless to say, accessing and using computer technology on a regular basis is a crucial requirement for the course. If you have an out-of-date home computer, make use of the computer labs on campus.

Textbooks

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. A Cornell Edition. New York: Scribner, 2006.

Bullock, Richard, Maureen Daly Goggin, and Francine Weinberg. *The Norton Field Guide to Writing with Readings and Handbook*. Second Edition. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2010.

Course Evaluation

Grades are based on the following points system:

Annotated Bibliography	100
Character Profile	100
Research Essay	200
Assignments & Discussions	100
Total Points	500

As I grade your work, **Pilot** tallies the points so that you may gauge your performance in the course at any time during the quarter. As you can see, your final grade will be largely based upon points received for essays.

At the end of the quarter, points will be converted to percentages, and percentages will be converted to letter grades. Here is the grading rubric:

90.0-100%	A
80.0-89.9%	B
70.0-79.9%	C
60.0-69.9%	D
0-59.9%	F

Essays

There are three major writing assignments for this class. In order of appearance, they are:

[1] Annotated Bibliography – Compose an annotated bibliography of SIX sources on the topic of THE AMERICAN DREAM as represented in *The Great Gatsby*. Pattern your bibliographies after the sample on pgs. 116-17 of *The Norton Field Guide*, although keep in mind that each annotation should be 100-150 words and formatted according to MLA style. 3-4 pages.

[2] Character Profile – Choose a main character in *The Great Gatsby* and write a profile on him or her. The profile should include a thesis that succinctly describes what the character is like followed by textual support from both the primary source (the novel) and at least THREE

secondary sources (criticism about the novel). Refer to the online WSU libraries website and use the MLA International Bibliography database and/or the Academic Search Complete to perform your research; they will consistently provide you with professional, scholarly criticism. MLA style required. 3-4 pages.

[3] Research Essay – Choose ONE of the three writing prompts below and write an essay in which you make a statement of intent regarding a topic and then report on that topic using at least EIGHT secondary sources. 5-6 pages. Here are the prompts:

[1] *The Great Gatsby* is set in what has been referred to as the “Jazz Age.” Write a research essay in which you report information on this topic, accounting for Fitzgerald’s novel in your discussion.

[2] *The Great Gatsby* is a product of American modernism, an early twentieth century literary and artistic movement. Research this topic and write an informative report. In addition to F. Scott Fitzgerald, be sure to discuss some of American modernism’s leading figures.

[3] Another cultural movement that took place during the Jazz Age and the rise of American modernism was the Harlem Renaissance. Research this topic and write an informative report.

FINAL NOTE: The Review of Scholarly Literature and Research Essay must be written in a formal, expository style and possess a clear, engaging thesis that is sustained (and kept in focus) from start to finish. They should be substantive in thought and content, reflecting a considered view of the topic and the primary source. They should also exhibit ample research, be accompanied by a bibliography, and be formatted according to standard MLA guidelines. Wikipedia, Spark Notes, encyclopedias, dictionaries, and other general reference texts, online or in print, are not viable secondary sources.

Writing Standards

- A The student's writing is consistently superior and expresses independent thought with grace, clarity and force. Essays are organized, its thesis is clear, and its ideas are supported with pertinent details. Words are used with precision and suited to the purposes of the assignment. Essays are virtually free from mechanical errors in grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- B The student's writing is above average in thought and expression, demonstrating both understanding and control of the elements of sound essay writing; however, it is not consistently superior in depth of thought, effectiveness of development, and mechanical savvy.
- C The student's writing is acceptable as college work, but lacks an original, significant purpose or point-of-view. Typically, written work is characterized by inadequate support of generalizations, slipshod style, poor use of detail, or

mechanical errors.

- D The student's writing meets minimum standards. Written work is often marred by confused purpose, lack of organization, repetition of ideas, imprecise use of words, and frequent grammatical, spelling and punctuation errors.
- F The student's writing does not meet minimum standards.

Assignments

Throughout the quarter, you will be given a number of assignments that include essays, summaries, discussions, grammatical worksheets and activities, and a final meditation. As with essays, directions and due dates for all assignments are clearly demarcated in **Pilot** as well as the modules for the course.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism occurs when a writer: (1) copies verbatim from an author without quotation or attempts to disguise the act by selective omissions or alterations; (2) paraphrases from an author without naming the source in the text of the paper or providing a list of references at the end; (3) turns in a paper written by somebody else. As a point of academic integrity, you are required to submit original material of your own creation. Plagiarism of any material is a serious offense and, if established with sufficient evidence, can result in failure of the course or dismissal from the university.

Writing Center

The Lake Campus's writing center is located in room 221 in Dwyer Hall. Contact the director, Dr. Christine Wilson (christine.wilson@wright.edu), to make an appointment.

IMPORTANT NOTE: STUDENTS WHO USE THE WRITING CENTER WILL BE GIVEN 5 EXTRA CREDIT POINTS FOR EACH VISIT.

Class Calendar

Modules

Schedule

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|---|---|
| 1 | Due: Discussion #1
Read: <i>The Great Gatsby</i>
Introduction to the Course |
|---|---|

Chps. 1-4 – Rhetorical Situations
Chp. 42 – Developing a Research Plan
Chp. 43 – Finding Sources
Chp. 44 – Evaluating Sources
Chp. 49 – MLA Style

- 2 **Due:** Annotated Bibliography
 Due: Summary of *The Great Gatsby*
 Chp. 11 – Annotated Bibliographies
 Chp. 45 – Synthesizing Ideas
 Chp. 46 – Quoting, Paraphrasing & Summarizing
 Chp. 47 – Acknowledging Sources, Avoiding Plagiarism
- 3 **Due:** Character Profile
 Due: Search Engine Research
 Due: Discussion #2
 Chp. 24 – Drafting
 Chp. 27 – Editing & Proofreading
- 4 **Due:** Discussion #3
 Chp. 8 – Reporting Information
 ONLINE TEXT – Against the Odds (Sample Research Essay)
 Chp. 29 – Beginning & Ending
 Chp. 32 – Arguing
- 5 **Due:** Research Essay
 Due: Final Meditation