Overview:

WR 121 is an introduction to writing as it is practiced in college and builds on your previous experience of writing by providing "a space, a moment, and an experience"--in which [you] might reconsider writing apart from previous schooling and work, within the context of inquiry-based higher education" (Downs 30). Find more information in the Syllabus Module, including a more extensive overview with a weekly schedule of assignments.

Required Reading:

We will be reading articles found in The Language Reader. You have the option of purchasing the textbook through the UO Duck Store. I will make digital links available for all articles you will be asked to read outside of class. We will also read articles available on the UO Common Reading Resources page.

Required Work:

- a writing inventory
- weekly quizzes to check your learning and engagement with the week's material
- "drafting LABs" (in wks 2-9) in which you will draft and revise work on two writing projects
- a final portfolio

What do you need to engage in the course? Daily access to Canvas and your student @uoregon.edu email; OneDrive (accessible through your UO account); a trial account on Hypothes.is, a browser extension you can download for free; Chrome (recommended); and the ability to work productively in a digital environment. Do plan to bring digital devices to class (phone, tablet, laptop). My goal is to have a paper-light class environment.

See grading + evaluation policies for information about grades, late work, and absences.

learning goal 1: writing as inquiry
You will learn to describe and practice writing as a multi-faceted process of inquiry, learning, and expression.

learning goal 2: writing as a social process
You will practice writing as a social process through compassionate and critical response to the work of your peers and revision of your own writing in response to peer and instructor feedback.

learning goal 3: writing as ethical argumentation
You will practice ethical argumentation in discussion and writing through open and curious engagement with multiple perspectives.
learning goal 4: writing with respect for audience
You will develop audience awareness and practice respectful treatment of audience in accomplishing your writing purposes.

learning goal 5: writing in an academic context
You will identify and critically apply style conventions for writing in an academic context.

ggrading + evaluation policies
The course is designed to be completed over time, not all at once (as explained in “navigating this course”). Your grade for WR 121 will be determined by the labor you put in and your own engagement with course material, activities, and learning goals. WR 121 is built on a “workshop” model of learning where working writers gather to share and support each other, generate ideas, and provide engaged and thoughtful feedback and suggestions. The work of the course is as or more important than the products you will produce as writers new to the university. The grading policy reflects this by placing a high value on attending and engaging in class and on attempting and submitting work on time over the 10-week course and by weighting all regular assignments the same.

All work is assessed as either "complete" or "incomplete" according to assignment-specific rubrics. As a result, not attempting or “ignoring” work, which includes not contacting me ahead of deadlines when faced with questions, carries a high penalty. Late work is not accepted without prior arrangement or using one of four “wild cards” (free passes). Demonstrating excellence in the course requires significantly more labor rather than more “talent” or experience using digital tools.

The baseline grade for the course is a "B." You decide which requirements you want to complete based on the grade you are working toward:

A= 24 (23 + 4 challenge assignments and "A" portfolio option)
B= 20
C= 19 (including submission of Final Portfolio)
D/F: 18 or fewer OR failure to submit Final Portfolio

Assignments include a writing inventory, weekly quizzes, drafting LABs, and the Final Portfolio.

You will earn a "B" in WR 121 if you:
Attempt and satisfactorily complete assignments and engage with in-class activities. More specifically, you must:

1. **Complete weekly quizzes** (10 total). Quizzes check your engagement and participation with course materials each week.
2. **Attempt + complete all assignments.** Note: Expect to work on assignments during class and on your own.
   - writing inventory (1 total)
   - drafting LABs (8 total)
   - final portfolio (1 total)
3. **Be present and engaged** during class and individual conferences.
4. **Use 4 or fewer wild cards.**

**More information about "wild cards":** You have four "wild cards" available to you at the beginning of the term. Wild cards can be "played" or used

- to make up for missed class sessions
- for submitted but "incomplete" drafting LABS

Wild cards may not be used for quizzes (you can retake quizzes until they are complete), the writing inventory, or final portfolio. You do not need to contact me to use a "wild card." I'll apply it and leave a note in comments on Canvas when I see you need it.

"Incomplete" work is work that is attempted but missing some elements on the associated rubric and/or is not completed in the "spirit" of the assignment. See "late policy" for more information about "late" work.

You may use ONE wild card to excuse up to ONE ignored assignment. An "ignored" assignment is also one you do not attempt or make any effort to contact me if you are having difficulty.

**What happens when wild cards are gone:**

- Additional "incompletes" will lower your final grade by 1/3. So, if you are completing "B" work and you earn an incomplete AFTER your wild cards are gone, you will earn a "B-." Two "incompletes" will lower your grade to a "C+," etc.
- Each absence from class will lower your final grade by 1/3. See attendance policy for more details.
- You can earn one additional wild card by completing one challenge assignment. This wild card can be used to excuse one additional "late" or "incomplete" assignment.

**ignored assignments**

"Ignored assignments" are assignments that you do not submit within 48-hours of the due date designated on the assignment sheet, and you do not contact me about. If you have one available, you can use a wild card to excuse one ignored assignment. After that, the next ignored assignments drops your grade to a "C." Ignoring two assignments beyond that drops your grade to a "D" and failure to complete WR 121. You need a "C-" or better to complete the course.

**challenging yourself + improving your grade**

In weeks 2, 4, 6, and 8, there will be two challenge opportunities you can choose from to boost your engagement and learning in the class. With your increased labor, your grade will rise accordingly.

- For an "A": complete 1 challenge each week a challenge is offered for a total of four challenges. Only one challenge per week can count toward an "A". **You must also complete the "A" requirements on the Final Portfolio due in WK10.**
- For an "A-": complete 3 challenges in any combination.
- For a B+: complete 2 challenges in any combination.

You can use one challenge IN ADDITION to your wild cards to make up for either one additional "incomplete" or "late" assignment or an absence. This gives you one additional opportunity to earn an additional "late" or "incomplete" and still receive the grade you are working toward.
"C"/Pass requirements
If you find that you cannot engage in the labor required for a "B" or better in the course, you can still earn a "C" or a "pass" (under the pass/no pass option) if you "ignore" one assignment. In other words, you can use your wild cards AND have one assignment that you don’t turn in or contact me about ahead of time and still pass the course with a "C."

Ignoring the final exam (failing to submit a completed final exam on time) will result in failure in the course.

late work policy
• An automatic 48-hour extension is available for all work required for a "B" (quizzes, LABs, writing inventory, final portfolio).
• You do not need to contact me.
• After 48 hours, I can no longer accept your work and it will be considered "ignored."
• All challenge assignments must be turned in by the posted due date to be counted.

responsibilities
I will do my best to be clear about assignment expectations and how I will assess your work. It's your responsibility to contact me—in my office or by e-mail—when you are confused, overwhelmed, or unsure about class expectations. Talk to me before an assignment is due, not after. That way I can help you talk through your confusion, brainstorm ideas, consider possibilities, give you resources, and discuss your work with you—that’s an integral part of my role in our class! I can’t make exceptions or extend grading deadlines unless you talk to me before the assignment is due.

attendance policy + accommodation
Attendance is required in all 100-level WR classes.
• each absence will lower your final grade by 1/3
• one "wild card" per absence can be used to prevent grade drops (up to four)

If you must miss class for games because you are a student-athlete or in the marching band or because of National Guard/Reserves/Military service or for another university-recognized reason, your absences will be excused if you provide me the appropriate paperwork. All other absences are covered by this policy, including illness.

As the course instructor, my job is to make sure that it is fair to all members of the classroom and meet the university’s regulations on attendance, conduct, and workload in classes. In remaining in the course, you agree to allow me to grant exceptions to any terms if the need arises. I will decide in consultation whether an exception to any class policy is warranted. If something happens beyond your control, it is your responsibility to contact me as soon as possible, usually before your work is affected.

other policies
Other policies for the Composition Program are available here:
https://composition.uoregon.edu/program-policies/

Please read and review. All students enrolled in any 100-level WR course are responsible for understanding and adhering to these policies.
# tentative schedule of assignments

| WK 1 | Introductions, WRITING PROJECT 1: What is good writing?  
begin "Rhetorical Situations And Their Constituents," on Canvas  
"Six Habits of Reading"  
**WK1 Quiz:** Due Friday, Oct. 4  
**Writing Inventory:** Due Sunday, Oct. 6 |
| WK 2 | Reading As A Writer  
review "Rhetorical Situations And Their Constituents," on Canvas  
Hypothes.is "Quick Start Guide" and "Illustrated Taxonomy of Annotation Types"  
"The Art of the Police Report" pg 86  
Annotation + Hypothes.is  
**WK 2 Quiz:** Due Friday, Oct. 11  
**WK2 drafting LAB:** Due Sunday, Oct. 13  
**Optional for grade increase:** Challenge assignments due Tuesday, Oct. 15 |
| WK 3 | Writing For Real and Imagined Audiences  
La Corte, "Washington State Sees Results From 'Plain Talk'"  
Lunsford, "Writing Addresses, Invokes, and/or Creates Audiences" (in-class)  
**Week 3 Quiz:** Due Friday, Oct. 18  
**WK3 drafting LAB:** Due Sunday, Oct. 20 |
| WK 4 | Writing As A Knowledge Making Activity  
Reading: selection from Language Reader (you decide!)  
**Week 4 Quiz:** Due Friday, Oct. 25  
**WK4 drafting LAB:** Due Sunday, Oct. 27  
**Optional for grade increase:** Challenge assignments due Tuesday, Oct. 29 |
| WK 5 | Developing Writing As A Community  
Read classmate drafts  
**Week 5 Quiz:** Due Friday, Nov. 1  
**WK5 drafting LAB:** Due Sunday, Nov. 3 |
| WK 6 | Writing Project 2: Writing For Action  
Finding a Reason To Write  
Selections from UO Common Reading Resources  
or  
Selections from Language reader: You decide!  
**Week 6 Quiz:** Due Friday, Nov. 8  
**WK6 drafting LAB:** Due Sunday, Nov. 10  
**Optional for grade increase:** Challenge assignments due Tuesday, Nov. 12 |
| WK 7             | Asking Good Questions  
Selections from UO Common Reading Resources or  
Selections from Language reader: You decide!  
**Week 7 Quiz:** Due Friday, Nov. 15  
**WK7 drafting LAB:** Due Sunday, Nov. 3 |
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| WK 8             | Creating a Writing Identity  
Trubek, *We Are All Writers Now* pg 92  
Baldwin, "If Black English Isn't A Language, Then Tell Me What Is" (pg 156, in-class)  
**Week 8 Quiz:** Due Friday, Nov. 22  
**WK8 drafting LAB:** Due Sunday, Nov. 24  
**Optional for grade increase:** Challenge assignments due Tuesday, Nov. 26 |
| WK 9             | Writing In The University  
Reading: TBA, re-read "Rhetorical Situation and It's Constituents"  
**Week 9 Quiz:** Due Friday, Nov. 29  
**WK9 drafting LAB:** Due Sunday, Nov. 1 |
| WK 10            | In-class work on Final Portfolio  
**Week 10 Quiz:** Due Friday, Nov. 6 |
| **FINAL**        | **Final Work Due:** Friday, Dec. 6  
[REQUIRED FOR "A"]: *Portfolio Reflection* |