

ENG-121S: Composition I, Summer Semester

Instructor: Natalie McCollum

M.A. English, Wright State University, 2025

Contact: nmccollum@edisonohio.edu (best way to reach me) and by appointment via Zoom/video conference if needed. Communicate – let me know!

Location: Online course

Course Description: Study and practice of essay writing by reading published authors and producing college-level writing for a variety of audiences and purposes. Employs critical thinking and analytical skills in both formal and informal writing. Formal writing is based on reporting information, narration, analysis, and research. All writing will stress Standard English, organization, and style.

Course Learning Objectives: Students successfully completing this course should be able to:

- Write an essay according to the 5-paragraph model with a clear topic, argument, thesis statement, and supporting evidence
- Draft, revise, and edit the essay to produce a final copy for submission
- Use MLA citation standards to present research that supports the essay's argument
- Apply essay-writing skills to a variety of types of discourse, both formal and informal
- Analyze the works of published authors and respond to those ideas in an original piece of writing

Required Text: *The Little Seagull Handbook* by Richard Bullock, et al. ISBN: 9781324060086

Course Requirements:

Four major essays will be assigned during the semester. Each essay will require multiple drafts. Working drafts will earn completion points, and the final draft will be scored via a rubric. The points awarded for each draft will combine to compose the project grade. Your project grade for each assignment will be worth 20% of your final grade.

Failure to submit complete final drafts within one week of each assignment's due date will result in a grade of F for the course. To be considered complete, all papers must meet the minimum requirements as listed on the assignment sheet.

Your final grade will be determined by your score in each of these five areas:

- Magazine Analysis-----20%
- Feature Story-----20%
- Research Narrative-----20%
- Critique-----20%
- Participation-----20%

You can calculate your grade in this class at any time. Add the project grades and your current participation score and divide by the number of grades you added. For example, if the

project grade for a magazine analysis is 70%, and the project grade for a feature story is 85%, and the current participation score is 95%, the current grade would be calculated as follows: $70 + 85 + 95 = 250/3 = 83.33\%$.

PARTICIPATION

Participation points will be earned throughout the semester by completing the Participation Points Exercises (PPE). The percentage of total points earned is your participation grade.

REVISIONS

Writing is a process. The first draft of a paper should not be the last. This course will ask that you take an active role in the revision process through peer workshopping and self-editing. Typically, our drafting process will be as follows:

1. First Draft

The first draft will be peer workshopped. To workshop essays, I'll provide a series of questions that you should use in offering feedback. Each student will be assigned two papers over a defined period of time.

2. Second Draft

You should revise after the workshop. Your second draft should NOT be the same as the first draft. Submitting the same draft may result in forfeiting the completion points awarded for the first draft. I will provide feedback with a grade on this draft.

3. Third Draft

If you're satisfied with the grade, then there is no need for a third draft. If you are not satisfied, review my feedback and complete a Revision Worksheet. Then, revise accordingly. The Revision Worksheet must be submitted with a polished draft to receive a re-scoring. (There will not be an opportunity to revise the Critique assignment.)

4. Final Grade

The third draft must be submitted by the due date unless otherwise negotiated ahead of time. If no new draft is submitted, the second draft grade remains. If a third draft is submitted, the new draft is scored and, if higher, overwrites the second draft grade. There is always opportunity for feedback throughout the process by emailing the instructor, consulting with the embedded tutor, scheduling a conference, or completing class exercises.

Course Policies:

Attendance & Class Participation: This is an online course, so it is essential that you complete and submit all the discussion questions (PPE) from our assigned reading as well as the essay drafts for completion credit and the graded final drafts. Because we don't meet in person to have class discussion, your responses to the posted discussions will substitute for that.

Grading: Your final grade will be based on completion credit for your responses to the posted discussion questions (PPE) from our assigned reading plus completion credit for a draft of each essay we write and a graded final copy of each essay (4 total essays). Assigned readings should

be done before the class day they are listed so that you can respond to the relevant discussion question posted for that day before the end of day by 11:59 p.m. (late responses will not receive credit).

ChatGPT and other AI Language Models: If you use AI, please use sparingly. Although there are beneficial uses of AI, such as to generate ideas and for brainstorming as a pre-writing activity, please be aware that relying on a computer to do your thinking for you will not benefit your development as a critical thinker or the quality of your education. **See the AI-Generated Text policy for this course below on page 4.**

1. **Ensure you have all the necessary resources:** access to a computer and the internet, Microsoft Word or software compatible with Microsoft Word files, a library barcode number, and the course textbooks.
2. **This course requires self-guided learning.** You will have to establish your own studying schedule and actively seek out additional clarification or feedback when necessary.
3. **I'm available for conference by appointment.** Please email me to set up a time/method (video conference or in person).
4. **It is your responsibility to ensure that your work is submitted on time.** Everything will be submitted via Blackboard. Double check that your submission went through. Verify with me if necessary. If I do not have it, I cannot grade it.
5. **I will respond to emails within 24 hours Monday-Thursday.** Emails sent Friday-Sunday may not be answered until Monday morning. Otherwise, I'll respond as I'm able. If it's urgent, politely request a quick response, and I will make time to reply.
6. **Check your email and Blackboard regularly.** Failure to see changes or missing instructions will cost you points. This is an online course. Consider Blackboard and your email the classroom. Not showing up to class will have a negative impact on your grade.
7. **Proofreading is important.** All assignments should be polished and written to the best of your ability. **Excessive mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling (MUGS) errors may result in automatic failure of the assignment at my discretion.** Papers failed for MUGS may be resubmitted twice for re-grading.
8. **Assignments must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on the date assigned.** Submitting late may cause your work to be docked up to 50% or in some cases, not accepted at all. Failing to submit a second draft of one of the 4 major assignments within one week of the due date, unless otherwise individually negotiated, will result in your failing of the course.
9. **All work must be your own, produced by you and not by someone else.**

10. Once submitted, I may use your work for demonstration purposes in this and other courses. If I do choose your work, it will be completely anonymous. If you're not OK with this, please send me an email immediately to document that you do not consent to having your work used for demonstration purposes.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty:

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's writing and/or work without giving proper credit – or perhaps without giving any credit at all to the writer of the original material. Whether plagiarism is intentional or unintentional, it represents a serious academic offense that can be easily avoided by adhering closely to the following advice. A student must document his/her/their source of information whenever he/she/they:

- uses direct quotations
- copies a table, chart, or diagram
- constructs a table from data provided by others
- paraphrases a passage in his/her/their own words
- presents specific examples, figures, or factual information taken from a specific source and uses to explain or support his/her/their judgments (James M. McCrimmon, *Writing with a Purpose*, p. 499).

In addition to this definition, I consider plagiarism to include: (1) submitting the work of another student, (2) copying from another student, (3) using unauthorized notes or crib sheets to complete assigned work, or (4) submitting an essay generated in part or entirely by AI (adopted from a statement used by the Human Services program at James A. Rhodes State College).

AI-Generated Text: This is a writing intensive class, and I expect *all writing to be your own, not written by AI*. Although there are beneficial uses of AI, such as to generate ideas and brainstorming as a pre-writing activity, please be aware that relying on a computer to do your thinking for you will not benefit your development as a critical thinker or the quality of your education. It is still better to use your own brain and original thoughts as a human being, as a machine cannot replace the authenticity of the lived human experience. Therefore, if you copy any language or phrasing generated by AI into your essay (generally, 4 or more words in a row as produced by the model), **you must put quotation marks around the copied words** and provide a parenthetical citation at the end of your sentence identifying the AI model used. Failure to do so is considered plagiarism. **Any essay or assignment that is found to be partly or entirely written by AI and presented as your own original writing will receive an automatic zero, no exceptions.**

Course Schedule:

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
1	⇒ Start reading p. 2-27 in Little Seagull handbook	Due June 10 • Response to PPE 1	Due June 12 • Magazine selection

2	Due June 15 • Magazine Analysis draft #1 and peer workshop	⇒ Read p. 31-45 in Little Seagull	Due June 19 • Magazine Analysis draft #2
3	⇒ Read p. 58-72 in Little Seagull	Due June 24 • Response to PPE 2	Due June 26 • Response to PPE 3
4	Due June 29 • Feature Story draft #1 and peer workshop		Due July 3 • Feature Story draft #2
5	Due July 6 • Response to PPE 4 ⇒ Start drafting your Annotated Bib		Due July 10 • Annotated Bibliography
6	Due July 13 • Research Narrative draft #1 and peer workshop		Due July 17 • Research Narrative draft #2
7	Due July 20 • Response to PPE 5	Due July 22 • Response to PPE 6 (Evaluating & Integrating Sources)	⇒ Start drafting your Critique
8	Due July 27 • Critique draft #1 and peer workshop		Due July 31 • Critique draft #2

Submitting substantially the same work:

Everything that you submit for this course should be developed specifically for this course. You should not reuse assignments, even if they were not submitted/accepted. This means that **if you**

have previously taken this course or have, in the past, taken other courses similar to this course, you cannot submit the same assignments you developed for those courses.

Academic honesty:

All class members are assumed to be honest. Attempting to deceive, defraud, or use dishonesty for one's own gain will not be tolerated in any form. Cheating during any class activity is unethical and compromises the integrity of the college and subverts the process of education. Cheating may result in a grade of 0 for the activity.

Assistance for students with documented disabilities:

Edison State Community College will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. If you believe you may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, contact the instructor privately with your self-identification letter. If you do not have a self-identification letter, contact Accessibility and Disability Support Services by emailing disabilities@edisonohio.edu or by calling 937.778.7850. Accessibility and Disability Support Services is located on the Piqua Campus in Room 160.

Mental health services:

We have established partnerships with many local mental health providers. If you are struggling and need to speak with someone in person, please reach out to the Edison State Care Team, <https://www.edisonohio.edu/CARE-Team/>. If you are concerned about a student or colleague, please file a CARE Team form <https://www.edisonohio.edu/CARE-Team-Referral-Form/>.

Title IX statement – anti-discrimination, harassment, and bullying:

It is the policy of the College to maintain a learning environment free from bullying, discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual violence. Title IX federal law protects students, employees and third parties with a relationship to the college. All Edison State Community College employees are required to report all knowledge of incidents that violate the Title IX policy to the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator immediately. Student and employee confidential consultation is available through the Coordinator of Health and Wellness Services. Title IX Policy and procedure language as well as contact information for the Coordinator of Health and Wellness, Title IX Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator can be found at www.edisonohio.edu/TitleIX/.

Testing Your Faith Act policy:

Edison State Community College is committed to providing an environment respectful of students' beliefs. Students are permitted to be absent for up to 3 days each semester based on their faith, religion, or spiritual belief system with no academic penalty. Students must complete the Testing Your Faith Act Accommodations Form, <https://www.edisonohio.edu/services-support/registration-records>, located in "Forms" and provide a copy to their individual faculty

within 14 days from the start of the course. The entire policy can be found in the student handbook at <https://www.edisonohio.edu/services-support/student-resources>.

Tutoring services:

All Edison State students are eligible to receive free tutoring and learning support services through our Tutoring Center. Available services include Edison State tutors, both online and in-person, covering a wide variety of courses including various levels of math and paper reviews, online tutoring through OhioLINK eTutoring, distraction-reduced study rooms, and the use of Tutoring Center resources including subject-specific and general study guides. For more information on tutoring services, visit the Tutoring Center in the Library, email us at tutoringcenter@edisonohio.edu, call 937-778-7959, or visit our webpage at <https://www.edisonohio.edu/tutoring-center/>