

Reading & Writing I (2)  
**Tentative course syllabus**  
Spring, 2024

Instructor: Huifen Lin  
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Office: C630 (Phone: Extension 34382)  
Classroom: Computer lab II  
Class meetings: T3 T4  
Office hours: by appointment

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### **Course Description**

This course is designed to enhance your academic writing skills by offering guidelines for various genres, analyzing sample student essays, and exploring professional writings. With practice and dedication to the writing process, you are expected to improve continuously. Additionally, your writing skills will be further developed through providing feedback to peers. This semester, instruction will concentrate on strategies and key aspects of writing essays across different genres. Furthermore, you will learn to read and compose multimodal essays professionally.

### **Required Text**

Wyrick, J. (2017). Steps to writing well (Cengage Learning; 13th edition). The textbook is required for taking this class. It is students' responsibility to get a copy of the text. Earlier edition of the text is not allowed in class.

### **Grading policy**

Attendance and participation: 10%  
Reading project: 20%  
Multimodal essay and publications: 20%  
Individual presentation of student/professional essay/questions: 10%  
Homework and Chapter summary: 20%  
Midterm exam: 20%

### **Assignments & Requirements**

#### **1. Attendance and participation**

Attendance will be checked randomly. Students are required to inform the instructor of any absences at least one day before the class, or, in unexpected circumstances, within one day after missing the class. One point will be deducted from your attendance score for each absence, whether excused or unexcused. If you accumulate three absences, regardless of whether they are excused or unexcused, your attendance score will be reduced to zero.

## **2. Reading project**

Throughout the semester, you will explore essays on topics of your choice. These readings will culminate in multimodal essays that integrate text, images, audio, video, and other elements. You will use a social reading platform (Hypothesis) to upload, read, annotate, and organize your materials. As we transition between various writing genres, you will develop a deeper understanding of your chosen topic or issue through extensive reading.

## **3. Multimodal essay and publications**

At the end of the semester, you will compose a multimodal essay based on your readings. This essay should consist of at least a 1200-word text and include a minimum of six digital elements (such as photos, images, videos, hyperlinks, etc.). All external sources must be properly cited. Throughout the course, as we discuss various writing genres, you will develop your essay using the e-publishing platform Medium.

## **4. Individual presentation of student/professional essay/questions**

Each student is required to give a presentation on both the student and professional essays featured in each chapter, and to lead a discussion on the follow-up questions regarding content, structure, and style. Students should first summarize the essay, then discuss how the essay exemplifies the merits or guidelines suggested in the chapter, and finally, facilitate a discussion on the questions.

## **5. Homework and Chapter summary**

Throughout the semester, both graded and non-graded assignments pertaining to each topic will be assigned. These may include chapter summaries and exercises. Students are required to complete these assignments before the specified deadlines. The weight of each homework assignment will be announced in class. For non-graded assignments, one point will be deducted for each assignment that is not completed.

## **6. Midterm exam**

The midterm exam will be scheduled at the midpoint of the semester and will cover materials taught prior to the exam.

**Special note.** Unless granted permission by the instructor, the use of artificial intelligence software is forbidden for all course assignments.

## Topical outline

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Week	Content	Homework
1. 2/20	Class Orientation	Think of <u>two</u> potential topics/issues you like to address
2. 2/27	Potential topic presentation	
3. 3/5	How to avoid plagiarism In-text citations	Plagiarism report Paraphrase exercise
4. 3/12	Hypothesis: Introduction	Hypothesis worksheet Hypothesis practice task
5. 3/19	Introduction to multiple model writing (I)	
6. 3/26	Introduction to multiple model writing (II)	
7. 4/2	The strategy of exposition Chapter 9 Strategy 4: Development by Definition	Readings Chapter summary
8. 4/9	Midterm exam	Answers to essay questions
9. 4/16	Sample student essay & professional essay	Summary of readings
10. 4/23	Discussions of online readings: topic proposal	First part due: Definition
11. 4/30	Chapter 9 Strategy 6: Development by Causal Analysis	Chapter summary
12. 5/7	Sample student essay & professional essay	Answers to essay questions
13. 5/14	Discussions of online readings: topic proposal	Summary of readings
14. 5/21	Chapter 10: Argumentation	Second part due: Causal analysis
15. 5/28	Sample student essay & professional essay	Chapter summary
16. 6/4	Discussions of online readings: topic proposal	Answers to essay questions