

---

Writing 1020g (531)  
Introduction to University Essay Writing  
Lectures: Mondays, 6:30 to 9:30pm  
BR-202

**Instructor:** Dr. Dorotea Gucciardo

**Email:** [dguccia@uwo.ca](mailto:dguccia@uwo.ca)

**Office:** TBA

**Office Hours:** TBA

---

### **Course Description and Objectives**

This course is designed for first-year students in all disciplines, to build their academic writing skills. It helps develop research and thinking skills, designed to help students in all courses of study. A key goal is to enhance argumentation skills. Topics include planning research, academic research, argument structure, grammar, academic style, and revision.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Develop logical arguments supported by quality academic research and critical thinking (critical thinking, inquiry, and analysis)
- Plan arguments and structure writing to enhance its maximum impact, and ensure major points are convincing (communication, problem solving)
- Avoid common grammar and style errors to ensure writing is clear (communication)
- Present scholarly research in a variety of styles, and draw on a variety of academic sources (communication, social awareness and engagement)
- Construct useful feedback through peer evaluation, and learn to deliver constructive criticism that lead to measurable improvement (self-awareness and development).

***Anti-requisites:** Writing 0002f/g, Writing 1002f/g, Writing 1021f/g, Writing 1022f/g, and Writing 2101f/g. If you are not sure if you are eligible to register for this course, please see your academic advising office as soon as possible.*

\*\*\*

### **Course Texts:**

There are no required textbooks for this course. All mandatory readings will be available on Owl. However, students are encouraged to purchase and/or access the following text:

Lester Faigley, Roger Graves and Heather Graves. The Brief Pearson Handbook. 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Edition. Don Mills, Ontario: Pearson, 2017.

## Evaluation Breakdown:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Participation	20%	Ongoing [10% returned February 25]
Essay Proposal	5%	February 25
Essay Draft	15%	March 18
Peer Review	10%	March 25
Presentation	5%	Various
Essay	45%	April 8

## Attendance and Participation:

Attendance will be taken at each class. Given that weekly writing and student engagement are essential for success in this course, any student absent for more than 40% of the classes will fail.

## Late Policy:

Late assignments will be penalized 3% per day. Assignments that are handed in more than one week after the due date will not be accepted without documentation from an academic advisor. Please note that attendance on March 25 is mandatory; there is no opportunity for making-up the peer review session.

## Outline:

Please read the outline carefully.

- The **bolded** text gives you the day's topic
- The *italicized* text tells the theme of our in-class workshops.
- The CAPITALIZED text will tell you what you need to have read to be prepared for class.
- The **red** text will remind you of assignment deadlines.

**January 7**

### **Introduction: How to prepare a research question**

*Workshop: The Pursuit of Happiness*

IN-CLASS READING: GAIMAN, "WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR IDEAS?"

**January 14**

### **Assessing Sources**

*Workshop: Your research question*

NO READING

**January 21**

### **Preliminary Research**

*Workshop: Your source findings*

NO READING

**January 28**

### **Documenting Sources**

*Workshop: Learning how to read*

READING: LAC, "DEFINING PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCES"

**February 4**

### **Organizing Information**

*Workshop: Taking good notes*

READING: THOMAS, "TO ERR IS HUMAN"

- February 11**      **The Outline and First Draft(s)**  
*Workshop: A killer first line*  
 READING: MAXFIELD, "FOOD AS THOUGHT"
- February 18**      **Family Day + Reading Week**
- February 25**      **Writing in the Disciplines**  
*Workshop: Who cares?*  
 READING: GRAFF ET.AL., "SAYING WHY IT MATTERS"  
**Essay proposal due**
- March 4**      **Argument and Persuasion**  
*Workshop: Types of essays*  
 READING: WALLACE, "CONSIDER THE LOBSTER"
- March 11**      **Writing Essentials: Sentence Structure**  
*Workshop: From question to thesis*  
 READING: GLADWELL, "...COCA-COLA HYSTERIA"
- March 18**      **Writing Essentials: Grammar Part 1**  
*Workshop: Building your vocabulary*  
 READING: EHRENREICH, "THE ECSTASY OF WAR"  
**Presentations**
- March 25**      **Writing Essentials: Grammar Part 2**  
*Workshop: Reviewing work (and Choose Your Own Topic)*  
 NO READING  
**Presentations**  
**Essay draft due for in class peer review [attendance is mandatory!]**
- April 1**      **Writing Essentials: Punctuation and Format**  
*Workshop:*  
 READING: GRAFF ET.AL., "USING TEMPLATES TO REVISE"  
**Presentations**
- April 8**      **Choose Your Own Topic: TBD**  
**Presentations**  
**Submit Final Essay**

### **Writing Support:**

You are encouraged to visit the Brescia Writing Centre. Online bookings:  
<http://writing.bresciauc.ca/>

## 2018-19 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

### 1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation.

Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty

Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded from: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf) . The student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation.

The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at:

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_12](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12)

### 2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official sessional dates in the Academic Calendar, see the Sessional Dates tab at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/index.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=> ). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

### 3. ABSENCES

**Short Absences:** If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment.

Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

**Extended Absences:** If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory

([http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading\\_68](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_68) ).

#### **4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at:

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_20](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20) .

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

##### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

##### **Computer-marked Tests/exams:**

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

#### **5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS**

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, she may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal. For information on academic appeals you can consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the

Academic Calendar

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_14](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14).

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.

## **6. PREREQUISITES**

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from the Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

## **7. SUPPORT**

### **Support Services**

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>.

### **Mental Health and Wellness**

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about mental health and wellness at Brescia at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness at Western, [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/index.html](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html), for information about how to obtain help for yourself or others.

### **Sexual Violence**

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

---

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.