

Brescia University College

Writing 2101F – Introduction to Expository Writing Section 530 – Fall 2021

Wednesdays: 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Room: Synchronous Lectures via Zoom

Instructor: Lisa Macklem

Office: Via Zoom
Office Hours: Wednesday 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Other times by appointment

Course Description

An introduction to the basic principles and techniques of good writing. The course will emphasize practical work and the development of writing skills for a variety of subjects and disciplines.

Course Outcomes and Brescia Competencies

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

- Avoid common grammar and style errors to ensure that writing is as easy to read as possible and appropriate to the target audience (Communication)
- Adopt genre conventions for various types of writing (Communication)
- Develop logical writing supported by quality academic research and critical thinking (Critical Thinking; Inquiry & Analysis; Problem Solving)
- Plan and structure writing to enhance its maximum impact and ensure major points are compelling (Communication; Problem Solving; Critical Thinking; Inquiry & Analysis)
- Present scholarly research in a variety of styles and draw on a variety of academic sources (Communication; Social Awareness & Engagement; Valuing)
- Construct useful feedback on writing by peers and deliver constructive criticisms that lead to measureable improvement (Communication; Critical Thinking; Inquiry & Analysis; Problem Solving; Self Awareness & Development)

Class Organization

Each class will include a mix of lectures and active learning activities. You must come to class ready to participate, having read the assigned readings and after downloading required materials from OWL.

Slides and additional materials will be posted to the class OWL website.

Course Materials

Recommended Text:

Faigley, Lester, Roger Graves and Heather Graves. *The Brief Pearson Handbook*. 4th Cdn. Ed. Don Mills, ON: Pearson, 2017. (Available in the Western Bookstore)

Either the *APA Publication Manual* 7th ed. or the *MLA Publication Manual* 9th ed. Both are available through the bookstore or online. Students should consider investing in the Manual that is required for their major course of study.

Readings:

Rather than ask you to purchase a separate reading text, readings will be available to download through the course site on OWL. In order to keep the readings interesting and relevant, they will be posted as the semester progresses. Students are responsible for checking OWL regularly to stay informed about the readings for class. Readings will be short and relevant for discussion or as examples of writing.

Assignments and Evaluations

Assignment	Value	Due Date
Short Essay	15%	September 29
Essay 2 Proposal	10%	October 13
Annotated Bibliography	10%	October 27
Quizzes & Exercises	15%	Weekly - Online
Peer Review	10%	November 24
Essay 2	40%	December 1

Attendance and Participation

This course has a very strong practical aspect that requires students to attend each class. Many assignments will only be graded if you are present in class when they are assigned.

Due Dates

Late assignments will be penalized at 5% per day (weekends included) to a maximum of one week, unless approved accommodation is granted. If you need accommodation, please contact your Academic Advisor at the earliest opportunity. If you are struggling with an assignment, let me know right away. You can also seek help with the Brescia Writing Centre.

Submissions

All assignments must be submitted no later than the start of class on the due date, unless otherwise specified. Submissions **must be in Word** and uploaded to the Assignments page of Owl. Assignments submitted as a PDF will NOT be graded. Specific guidelines will be provided with each assignment as to the expected format for that assignment. All assignments will be posted on OWL.

Remember to keep a copy of your work!

Statement on Academic Offences

Please consult the Brescia Academic Policies and Regulations. Academic integrity is expected and plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Students are expected to refrain from inappropriate use of technology in the class. This does not extend to actively searching for material pertinent to an active discussion.

Weekly Outline

Date	Topic/Readings	Assignments Due
September 8	Introduction to course; Audience; Choosing Words Reading: Pearson Handbook 1-5; 341-371	<i>Quizzes & Exercises ongoing throughout</i>
September 15	Writing in the Disciplines; Effective Sentences, paragraphs; Basic Essay Steps Reading: Pearson Handbook 35- 63; 75-86; 88-98	
September 22	Basic Essay Steps; Beginning Research Reading: Pearson Handbook 5-33 Punctuation: Pearson 429-490	
September 29	Library “Tour” Proposal Assignment; more on Research Reading: Pearson Handbook 64-74; 148-199	Short Essay
October 6	Incorporating and Documenting Sources Major Research Paper Assignment Reading: Pearson Handbook 202-226	
October 13	Annotated Bibliography Assignment Thinking Critically; Persuasive Writing Reading: Pearson Handbook 113-147	Proposal Assignment
October 20	Logical Argumentation; Documentation Reading: 227-274	
October 27	Incorporating Sources; Plagiarism; Reading: Pearson Handbook 275-331	Annotated Bibliography
November 3	FALL READING WEEK	No Class
November 10	Grammar; Editing Reading: Pearson Handbook 104-112	
November 17	Punctuation; Being a Good Editor/Proofreader	
November 24	Editing	Peer Review
December 1	Blogging; Writing essay exams Reading: Pearson Handbook 86-88 Course Wrap up	Essay 2

Technical Requirements:



Stable Internet Connection



Laptop or Computer



Working Microphone



Working Webcam

Students can phone into zoom if they are experiencing technical difficulties. Students should also consult Western Technical Services (<https://wts.uwo.ca/>) with any technical problems they encounter – I can't help!

2021-22 Brescia University College Academic Policies and Regulations

1. Policy Regarding Academic Accommodation

The complete policy regarding [Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students](#) can be found at

https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12 .

Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions which may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities should seek Academic Accommodation through Student Accessibility Services

(https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10).

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.

Students who experience an illness or extenuating circumstance sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

1. Submitting a **Self-Reported Absence** form provided that the conditions for submission are met;
2. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
3. For non-medical absences, submitting **appropriate documentation** (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to their Academic Advisor. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Advisor to clarify what documentation is acceptable.

Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Portal

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance of 48 hours or less that is sufficiently severe to render them unable to meet academic requirements should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours. Note that the excused absence includes all courses and academic requirements within the up to 48 hours, it is not intended to provide an excused absence from a single course while students fulfill their academic responsibilities in other courses during that time.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

1. Students will be allowed a **maximum of two self-reported absences** between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
2. The duration of the absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
3. The excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period if the student undertakes significant academic responsibilities (writes a test, submits a paper) during that time;
4. Self-reported absences will **not** be allowed for scheduled final examinations; midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term;
5. Self-report absences may **not** be used for assessments worth more than 30% of any course;
6. Any absences in excess of 48 hours will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC), or appropriate documentation;
7. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24** hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

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 their academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

The following conditions apply for students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds:

1. Students must submit their Student Medical Certificate (SMC) 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. An SMC can be downloaded from http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf ;
2. 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;
3. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, scheduled tests or examinations, and other academic requirements;
4. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the SMC to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence;

5. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the course instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements, arranging Special Exams (make-ups), re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawal without academic penalty.

The [full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) can be viewed at:
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

(https://www.brescia.uwo.ca/enrolment_services/academic_advising/index.php). If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please refer to <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official sessional dates in the Academic Calendar

(<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.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.

Please note that for asynchronous online courses, attendance or participation requirements may be different than for synchronous or in-person courses.

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).

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.

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, they may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, they may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal and if the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the SRBA. For information on academic appeals 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.

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/>. Students can access supports through Brescia's Student Life Centre (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/>) and Learning Skills Services at Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>)

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 obtain information about how to obtain help for yourself or others through **Health & Wellness at Brescia**

(https://brescia.uwo.ca/student_life/health_and_wellness/index.php) and **Health and Wellness at Western**, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html.

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 https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe_campus/sexual_violence/index.php.

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.