
ENGLISH 2120:502*Expository Writing*

Fall 2019

CRN: 64626

Online Course

Professor Justin Bendell

Office Hours

M: 10-12; T: 10-12

W: 11-1; R: 11-1 (online)

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HOW THE WEST WAS WRITTEN

Official Course Description:

This course builds upon and refines the writing skills acquired in previous writing courses, with a focus on non-fiction prose. Research, composition, exposition and presentation abilities will be practiced and developed. Through analysis and revision, students will develop strategies to improve the versatility and impact of their writing. Course topics and emphases may vary by section.

My Course Description:

The theme of this class is "How the West Was Written" or "What is the west and how do we write about it?" How have writers written about the American West and how have these writings shaped global perception of the West -- what is was, what it is, what it might be? How might you define the West?

This class will explore the historical, physical, and literary terrain of the west. What makes the west different from the non-west? How has our understanding of the west changed over time? In the story of the west, whose voices are heard and whose voices are excluded?

We'll read Ed Abbey, Annie Proulx, Sherman Alexie, Jane Tompkins, Joy Harjo, Ana Castillo, and other masters of the craft, and you will write your own story of the west.

Some important stuff to keep in mind:

- The assignment syllabus is a tentative schedule. Any changes will be announced and/or posted on the Blackboard Learn calendar.
- All weekly assignments are due Sunday at 11:59 pm.
- Students who do not log in in the first week will be dropped.
- Late essays will be docked 5 points per day after due date.
- Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Required Work and Grading

All formal writing assignments must follow MLA format and be typewritten, double-spaced in a 12pt, Times New Roman font.

Grades will be determined on a traditional percentage system, with the appropriate plus or minus sign: 100-90% = A (100-90 points); 89-80% = B (89-80 points); 79-70%= C (79-70 points); 69-60% = D (69-60); and below = F.

Points Breakdown

2 Major Essays (5-6 pages; 14 pts each)	28 pts
5 Minor Essays (2-3 pages; 5 pts each)	25 pts
13 Discussion Posts (2 pts each)	26 pts
8 Reading Response (2 pts each)	16 pts
1 Final Reflective Essay (2-3 pages)	5 pts
Total Possible Points	100 pts
<i>Possible Extra Credit:</i>	<i>Up to 10 pts</i>

Course Calendar

Date	Readings	Assignments due Sunday night
Week 1 <i>Introduction</i>	(1) Read Syllabus (2) Professor Note "What is the West?" (3) Readings on Learn	(1) video; complete student contract (2) Discussion 1 (3) Reading Response 1
Week 2: <i>Landscape</i>	(1) Professor Note #2 (2) Readings on Learn	(1) Discussion 2 (2) Minor Paper 1
Week 3: <i>Myths</i>	(1) Professor Note #3 (2) Readings on Learn	(1) Discussion 3 (2) Reading Response 2
Week 4: <i>Native America</i>	(1) Professor Note #4 (2) Readings on Learn	(1) Discussion 4 (2) Minor Essay 2
Week 5: <i>Latin America</i>	(1) Professor Note #5 (2) Readings on Learn	(1) Discussion 5 (2) Reading Response 3
Week 6: <i>Women & Gender</i>	(1) Professor Note #6 (2) Readings on Learn	(1) Discussion 6 (2) Minor Essay 3
Week 7: <i>Men & Masculinity</i>	(1) Professor Note #7 (2) Readings on Learn	(1) Discussion 7 (2) Reading Response 4
Week 8: <i>Major Paper</i>	(1) Professor Note #8 (2) Readings on Learn	(1) Major Essay 1

Date	Readings	Assignments due Sunday night
Week 9: <i>Work & Opportunity</i>	(1) Professor Note #9 (2) Readings on Learn	(1) Discussion 8 (2) Reading Response 5
Week 10: <i>Water & Fire</i>	(1) Professor Note #10 (2) Readings on Learn	(1) Discussion 9 (2) Minor Essay 4
Week 11: <i>Borderlands</i>	(1) Professor Note #11 (2) Readings on Learn	(1) Discussion 10 (2) Reading Response 6
Week 12: <i>Wilderness</i>	(1) Professor Note #12 (2) Readings on Learn	(1) Discussion 11 (2) Reading Response 7
Week 13: <i>Contested Terrain</i>	(1) Professor Note #13 (2) Readings on Learn	(1) Discussion 12 (2) Minor Essay 5
Week 14: <i>On the Road</i>	(1) Professor Note #14 (2) Readings on Learn	(1) Discussion 13 (2) Reading Response 8
Week 15: <i>Major Paper</i>	(1) Professor Note #15 (2) Readings on Learn	(1) Major Essay 2
Week 16: <i>Conclusion</i>	(1) Professor Note #16 (2) Readings on Learn	(1) Final Reflective Essay (2) Course Evaluation

Important Dates:

Monday, Aug 19	First day of classes
Friday, Aug 30	Last day to Add or Change Sections
Monday, Sept 2	Labor Day – No classes
Friday, Sept 6	Last Day to Drop with 100% refund
Thur.-Fri., Oct 10-11	Fall Break - no classes
Friday, Nov 8	Last Day to Withdraw <i>w/o</i> approval of Student Services
Friday, Dec 6	Last Day to Withdraw <i>with</i> approval of Student Services

Course Objectives

In English 2120, you will progress toward the following student learning outcomes:

- Use a variety of writing styles and sets of conventions to compose documents for academic, business, technical, scientific, popular publishing or professional settings.
- Analyze the subjects, purposes, audiences, and constraints that influence and determine document creation.
- Develop research strategies for writing, gathering information from primary and secondary sources.
- Use appropriate documentation and document design in writing.
- Describe and evaluate rhetorical choices.
- Students successfully completing this course will be able to identify leading regional authors, important texts, historical developments in the field of Western American literature, and possess an awareness and knowledge of cultural differences within the many subcultures of the Western US and the literatures they have produced.
- Analyze and critically interpret significant and primary texts and/or works of art relevant to this course
- Recognize and evaluate how some literary works reflect historical, national, cultural, and ethnic differences, even as they invoke shared human experiences and relate to readers and the world today (in discussions, short essays and reviews)
- Write with increasing proficiency critical essays characterized by original and insightful theses, supported by logically integrated and sound subordinate ideas, appropriate and pertinent evidence, and good sentence structure, diction, grammar, punctuation, and spelling
- Use multiple approaches for planning, researching, prewriting, composing, assessing, revising, editing, proofreading, collaborating, and incorporating feedback to make your compositions stronger in various mediums and using multiple technologies
- Evaluate your development as a writer over the course of the semester and describe how composing in multiple genres and mediums using various technologies can be applied in other contexts to advance your goals
- Use writing and research as a means of discovery to examine your personal beliefs in the context of multiple perspectives and to explore focused research questions through various mediums and technologies
- Integrate others' positions and perspectives into your writing ethically, appropriately, and effectively in various mediums and technologies

Library Literacy Outcomes

- Students will access Libros and find a book relevant to the writing project.
- Students will learn how to skim a text or document and find quotations that are both relevant and appropriate for the paper.
- Students will be able to identify what type of database source they have found, e.g. magazine, journal, newspaper, website.
- Students will write a correctly formatted Works Cited page.

Navigating this Online Course

Because this class is administered fully online, it is important to have a high level of skill in operating computers. It is not recommended for students with limited computer skills to take an online course. The following tips will help students navigate the course. If you have computer problems, including log in or technical issues call 277-5757. For issues with Blackboard Learn, tutors in the Learning Center can advise you at 925-8907.

Please:

- Be familiar with your syllabus. These documents are located on the Blackboard Learn Course home page for English 220-502. Refer to the syllabus throughout the semester when you have questions. Feel free to stop by my office hours, as well, for personal attention regarding essay requirements or e-mail for an appointment if the hours do not fit into your schedule.
- Become familiar with Blackboard Learn software. Click on all the Course Tools to discover what is available to you in your online course. You may want to visit The Learning Center at UNM Valencia Campus if you need additional help learning how to navigate.
- Keep copies of all your work. Saving all writing is necessary. Learn how to save Word or RTF files to your desktop or a flash drive. If you do not know how to save files, go to The Learning Center or call 277-5757.
- Be proficient in Mail in Blackboard Learn. If you need to send me a message, do the following: 1) click on “Mail” in Course Tools, 2) then click on “Browse for Recipients,” 3) choose my name, 4) follow guidelines for writing e-mails (see the section on E-mail Netiquette, and 5) type your message and click on “Send.” It is important to send e-mails following the netiquette guidelines and standards of professionalism. If you begin your email with text speak or informal language like, “Hey Professor,” I will not respond.
- Create a routine—here is a suggested routine to help you get started.
 1. Log on! Lessons open on Monday morning and close the following Sunday night at midnight. On Monday, log in and read the list of assignments for the week. Make sure you have all materials you need to complete the assignments, such as page numbers or links. Jot down due dates and print out assignments.
 2. Read the assignments actively, highlighting important ideas. Use any resources (dictionaries, asking questions, etc.) to help you acquire the information the session is trying to relay. Be pro-active and disciplined in your study habits.
 3. Log on periodically throughout the week to check course e-mails and review new threaded discussions or blog responses. Watch for new announcements.

4. Check Discussions. Read questions I have posted for the week, your classmates' and my responses, and enter your own answers. Your responses are an important part of your grade, so please take these exercises seriously. In responses, respect others. Finally, run spell and grammar check on your postings.

5. Importantly, give yourself ample time to submit work well before the deadline. You can submit work right at 10 pm Mountain Time, but this practice is very, very risky. For example, computer failures, corrupted discs, and Blackboard Learn outages are no excuse for work not completed (UNM-V policy). Plan for problems like these because meeting deadlines will help you successfully complete the course.

Professor Bio:

Justin Bendell is an assistant professor of English at UNM-Valencia. He earned an MFA in Creative Writing from Florida International University, an MA from Northern Arizona University, and a BS from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. A practicing writer and musician, his stories and poems have been published in *3:AM Magazine*, *Harper's Ferry Review*, *Meridian*, *Washington Square Review*, and elsewhere. He likes camping, capsaicin, crime fiction, and spaghetti westerns. He lives in Albuquerque with his family. For more info: www.justinbendell.com

Brass Tacks and Policy Stuff

Instructor Information

My office hours are Monday & Tuesday 10-12 pm, Wednesday 11-1, Thursday 11-1 (online), or by appointment. My office is Academics Affairs, Room A-142E. Email me anytime, but keep in mind that I am generally not online after 5:00 pm and before 8:00 am. Please give me 24 hours to respond, Monday through Friday. I will usually respond to weekend emails within 24 hours, but sometimes I am away until Monday morning.

Tutoring:

Free tutoring is available at the Learning Center (505) 925-8907 <http://www.unm.edu/~tutor/>. Writing Lab tutoring sessions are scheduled weekly for all English classes.

Required Texts and Materials

- There is no specific text required. The professor will supply all required readings via PDF.
- UNM email address and access to UNM Blackboard Learn
- Access to Internet and Microsoft Office (available on UNM-VC computers)
- A desire to think critically and to deepen your writing and reading skills

Attendance Policy and Overall Participation: It is your responsibility to keep up with reading and assignments, and/or to contact me if you have questions about the material. **Students who fail to log in in the first week or submit the diagnostic essay will be dropped.**

Plagiarism: Plagiarism means using language and/or ideas without acknowledging their source. Plagiarism includes such activities as copying another student's papers or ideas, downloading and turning in papers from the Internet, or copying passages from sources without proper documentation, or rephrasing an author's ideas and presenting them as the student's new, original thoughts. Plagiarism in this course may result in one or more of the following consequences: failure of the assignment, failure of the course, or disciplinary action by the University. To learn how to avoid plagiarism, students can speak to me, consult a tutor, or refer to <http://library.acadiau.ca/tutorials/plagiarism/>.

Online Behavior

- Our class is an inclusive environment where everyone is welcome. Treat each other with **respect**. Derogatory remarks, name-calling, trolling, bullying, and bigotry are prohibited.
- Students may discuss with me complaints about the course; however, the students must do so in the proper environment, such as via email or during office hours.
- Discussion boards are a professional learning environment. Treat them as such.
- Sexual harassment will not be tolerated.
- Students violating any of these rules may be dropped.

Email Netiquette Policy: Keep the following in mind when you write emails and discussion posts:

- Please avoid text-speak. Learning to write professional emails is a skill you need as you progress to higher academic levels and career pursuits.
- Emails that you write to me during the semester should include professional language, addressed with a subject heading including the type of question you are asking. For example, "Essay 1" would be an appropriate subject heading for a question regarding the first essay.
- Emails should include a salutation. For example, "Dear Mr. Bendell" or "Hello Professor Bendell" are appropriate salutations.
- Please close with an appropriate phrase and sign your email with your name. Some examples of appropriate phrases are "Sincerely," or "Thank you for your help,".
- Use short paragraphs (in general, 3-4 lines maximum) to make the email easy to read. In addition, be sure to skip lines between paragraphs.
- Be sure to proofread your email for grammatical errors.

Equal Access: Services located in Student Services provides academic support to students who have disabilities. If students think they need alternative formats for completing coursework, they should contact this service right away to ensure their needs are met in a timely manner. Students are responsible for getting all documented forms to me as soon as possible. I cannot accommodate any special needs without the proper authorization from UNM Valencia Campus Accessibility Services. They are located at Advisement & Counseling Services, Student Services Building, 280 La Entrada Rd., Los Lunas, NM 87031, 505-925-8560. <http://www.unm.edu/~vcadvise/equalaccess.htm> . Pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), I accommodate documented special needs and encourage students to discuss their concerns with me.

Anti-Discrimination Policy

To meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty, Teaching Assistants, and Graduate Assistants are considered “responsible employees” by the Department of Education (see page 15: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf> . This designation requires that any report of gender discrimination which includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity (oeo.unm.edu). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>.

Blackboard Learn: Students are responsible for posting responses to discussion questions/prompts that I have posted on our UNM Blackboard Learn site. These questions are designed to generate discussion, promote further inquiry into our topics, and scaffold the essays.

Essays You are required to submit two major 5-6-page essays (not including the Works Cited page), in addition to several 1-3-page essays. Each major essay requires at least three credible sources to be incorporated in text and in the Works Cited page. **Wikipedia does not count.** Students will be dropped from the class for failure to turn in one of the major essays. I will provide instructions and rubrics for each assignment at the beginning of each new unit.

Late Policy: I will not accept essays more than two days after the assigned date. For each day the essay is late, the assignment will be marked down half a letter grade, so make sure to turn in your essays in a timely manner.

Participation: Participation is mandatory in this course. Participation means actively participating in your education; if you do not log-in to Learn and complete assignments on a regular basis you will, most likely, be dropped.

Student Privacy Student privacy is strongly protected by professors at UNM-VC. The federal FERPA strictly prohibits the instructor or administrators from talking to anyone but the student about his/her progress. If a student has questions about a grade on an assignment or about the final grade for the course, FERPA dictates that the student is the only one who may speak to the instructor regarding their grades. All other outside requests for information release must be sent to and approved by the UNMVC registrar: (505) 925-8580
<http://www.unm.edu/~unmvc/Admissions/admiss.htm>

Technical Support: If you have questions about computer-related problems, call 277-5757, M-F, 8:00 am-12:00 noon and M-F, 1:00 pm-5:00 pm MST. Computer technicians are available and happy to help you solve those difficult problems.

Tutorials: If you do not know how to use Blackboard Learn, try one of the tutorials available on the information page at <http://online.unm.edu/help/learn/students/>

Tutors: Tutors are available at The Learning Center, both face-to-face and online, to help you navigate Blackboard LEARN. Call for an appointment: 925-8907.