

**Oakland University**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**  
**Department of Writing and Rhetoric**  
**WRT 1020 – Basic Writing**  
**4 credits – graded S/U**

**Class Meeting Days/Times:**

**Classroom:**

**Instructor:**

**Office:**

**Office phone:**

**E-mail:**

**Office hours:**

**WRT 1020 – Basic Writing**

Developing writing skills including idea generation and invention, organizational strategies and conventional usage in expository prose. Emphasis on developing fluency and effective writing processes. May be repeated once for additional credit. Graded S/U. Corequisite: WRT 1000 if recommended by instructor after first class meeting.

**Course Objectives**

Students in this class will learn to

- Approach writing as a multi-step, recursive process that requires feedback;
- Compose their texts to address the rhetorical situation;
- Demonstrate an ability to synthesize information/ideas in and between various texts – written, spoken, and visual;
- Reflect on their own writing processes and evaluate their own learning;
- Adapt their prior knowledge and learning strategies to a variety of new writing and reading situations in college and beyond;
- Develop the habits of mind of effective college writers and readers.

**Required Textbooks**

*Grizz Writes: A Guide to First-Year Writing at Oakland University*

Other texts available in Moodle

**Course Description**

Developing writing skills including idea generation and invention, organizational strategies and conventional usage in expository prose. Emphasis on developing fluency and effective writing processes. May be repeated once for additional credit. Graded S/U. Corequisite: WRT 1000 if recommended by instructor after first class meeting.

**Embedded Writing Specialist (EWS)**

Each WRT 1020 class also has additional writing support in the form of an Embedded Writing Specialist (EWS). Your EWS is an advanced undergraduate or graduate student who works in the Oakland University Writing Center (OUWC) and will attend 1 hour of your class each week as well as be available for tutoring in the OUWC. He or she will be there to provide you with

additional feedback, writing knowledge, and the perspective of a successful student at Oakland University. Please feel free to contact your EWS and setup an appointment at the OUWC.

### Course Assignments

- A Response Journal (ongoing) \*%
- Learning Narrative Paper \*%
- Guide to Student Services Research, Paper, and Collaborative Presentation \*%
- Critical Response to Selected Readings \*%
- A Portfolio with a reflective introduction and revised paper \*%
- Optional Research-Assisted Placement Essay to advance to WRT 1060, Comp I

### Assessment of Your Work in WRT 1020

This class is graded S/U. During the semester your work will be graded on a three-part scale (check plus, check, check minus), and at the end of the semester your final portfolio for the class will be graded either Satisfactory (and you will proceed into WRT 1050) or Unsatisfactory (and requiring that you repeat WRT 1020). The purpose of the three-part grading scale and the final S/U assessment is to focus your attention on the challenging reading and writing environment of college and to support your growth as effective readers and writers in this class. We've found that when traditional grades are eliminated, students have an easier time assessing their own progress, strengths, and weaknesses in this class.

Receiving a **check plus** on an assignment means that you have gone above and beyond, that you have produced a piece of writing that is well-organized and engaging and that addresses the rhetorical situation appropriately. This does not mean your writing is perfect and that you do not need any improvement, but it does mean that you have done an excellent job in writing this assignment.

Receiving a **check** on an assignment means that you have met the requirements for the assignment and that your writing may have areas that are quite strong, however, you still have a number of areas to work towards improvement.

Receiving a **check minus** means that your work is unsatisfactory and that you have not met the minimum requirements for the assignment. Receiving continued check minus grades could result in an unsatisfactory grade for the course.

The First-Year Writing program encourages all students, regardless of the grades they receive on their work, to seek additional feedback on their writing from their course instructor, Embedded Writing Specialist, or the University Writing Center.

Students earning a check or check minus on a major assignment may be asked to revise that assignment for a better grade.

### **Course Credits**

The four credits you receive for successfully completing WRT 1020 will not count towards your general education requirements, nor will they count towards your major, but they will count towards the total number of credits you will need to graduate from Oakland University.

### **Course Policies**

**Accommodations:** Students with disabilities who may require classroom or pedagogical support should make an appointment with campus Disability Support Services (DSS). Students who are registered with DSS should also bring their needs to the attention of their instructor as soon as possible.

**Academic Conduct Policy:** Cheating on assignments and examinations; plagiarizing the work of others; cheating on lab reports; falsifying records; unauthorized collaboration on assignments; and the resubmission of original work are considered serious breaches of academic conduct. The Oakland University policy on academic conduct will be strictly followed with no exceptions. See *Student Code of Conduct*:

<https://www.oakland.edu/deanofstudents/policies/>

**Department Attendance Policy:** All WRT classes adhere to the OU Excused Absence Policy for OU events and activities. Link to policy: <https://www.oakland.edu/provost/policies-and-procedures/>

**[Attention Instructors: please choose the appropriate policy] OU Excused Absence Policy and**

**[MWF schedules]** For absences not covered by the university policy, the Department of Writing and Rhetoric permits students to be absent from this course for **three** class sessions without penalty. This includes absences due to illness, car trouble, or schedule conflict. Participation for an online class session counts as class attendance.

For each absence beyond three, your final course grade will be lowered by 0.1 points on the 4.0 scale. Students who miss ten class sessions or more (over three combined weeks) will receive a final grade of 0.0 (U).

**[TR and spring/summer schedules]** For absences not covered by the university policy, the Department of Writing and Rhetoric permits students to be absent from this course for **two** class sessions without penalty. This includes absences due to illness, car trouble, or schedule conflict. Participation for an online class session counts as class attendance.

For each absence beyond two, your final course grade will be lowered by 0.15 points on the 4.0 scale. Students who **miss seven or more** class sessions (over three combined weeks) will receive a final grade of 0.0 (U).

**[Evening and weekend schedules]** For absences not covered by the university policy, the Department of Writing and Rhetoric permits students to be absent from this course for **one** class sessions without penalty. This includes absences due to illness, car trouble, or schedule conflict. Participation for an online class session counts as class attendance.

For each absence beyond one, your final course grade will be lowered by 0.3 points on the 4.0 scale. Students who miss four or more class sessions (over three combined weeks) will receive a final grade of 0.0 (U).

**Social Practices:** Throughout the semester you will be expected to maintain a high standard of social practices in this class. Expectations for your social practices consist of your engaged contributions to class discussions, peer review activities, online activities, and group projects; your commitment to submitting timely and complete work; your ethos as a respectful citizen of the classroom and as a thoughtful rhetor in class-related communications; your ability to “turn off” the world (phones, etc) when you are in the company of your classmates, course instructor, and embedded undergraduate writing fellow; and your capacity for successful collaboration with others.

**Peer Review and Sharing Your Work:** The grades you earn in your Writing and Rhetoric classes are confidential. However, the texts you produce in our classes may be shared with your classmates as a part of our regular peer review process. Our classes will prepare you to meet the needs of a variety of readers in college and beyond, and to do so, we provide ample opportunity for your compositions to be read and responded to by classmates and by the course instructor. You should, therefore, always assume that the work you compose in our classes is public, not private.

**Preferred Name/Pronoun:** If you do not identify with the name that is listed with the registrar, please notify me so that I may appropriately amend my records. In addition, if you prefer to go by a different pronoun, please inform me.

**Add/Drops:** The university add/drop policy will be explicitly followed. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of the university deadline dates for dropping the course.

**Faculty Feedback (Midterm Progress):** Students in all 1000-level and 2000-level WRT courses may receive “Faculty Feedback” through SAIL if professors identify areas of concern that could lead to failing the class. Faculty Feedback typically occurs during weeks 2–5 of the semester, but may also be given later in the term, ideally before the official withdrawal date. If Faculty Feedback is given, students will receive an e-mail message through the OU system documenting the issue(s) their instructor identified and suggesting possible resources for help with or study strategies approaches for addressing those issues.

**Placement and Assessment for WRT 1020:** Please make sure you understand the university’s placement procedures for WRT 1020 and that you were appropriately placed in this class. WRT 1020 is preparatory to WRT 1050 and WRT 1060. Most students who take WRT 1020 will still need to complete both WRT 1050 and WRT 1060. In some cases, students who successfully complete WRT 1020 and develop a placement essay, and whose work has been assessed as

excellent by a WRT faculty committee, will be permitted to enroll directly into the required Writing Foundation course, WRT 1060.

### **Classroom Expectations**

Help us to maintain a pleasant and well-functioning community of writers by observing a few simple courtesies.:

- Always be on time and do not pack up your books or leave class early. If you are tardy to class or if you leave class early on more than 3 occasions, you will receive an absence for the work and class time you missed.
- Please bring books and all supplies to class, and be prepared to work.
- Please turn cellphones off or to vibrate. Do not answer calls unless there's an emergency and you have informed me of this emergency before class time.
- Do not text, check Facebook, or engage in any other online or mobile communication activities in class unless you have been instructed to do so.
- Check your OU e-mail and our class Moodle page frequently during the week and weekends.

### **Resources**

**The Writing Center**, located on the main floor of Kresge Library, is a free service and open to any student desiring help with writing (not just writing classes but any class where a writing project has been assigned). You can schedule appointments or walk in at the Writing Center to discuss work for our class or writing work for other classes. Our class will also have a Writing Consultant, \* & \*, who will meet with us in our classroom once a week.

**The Student Technology Center (STC)** is the headquarters for the promotion, instruction and support of technology literacy. From beginners looking to learn the basics to experts seeking to hone their skills, the STC's training, education and hands-on learning experiences offers on-campus services to meet OU students' ever-increasing technology needs. Core services include technology mentoring and free equipment loans. By aiding students in their academic and personal pursuits, the services available through the STC build and enhance technological skills that lead to success – in the classroom, workplace and life. The STC is located in the basement of the Oakland Center.

**Disability Support Services** assists students with special needs. Advocacy and support services are provided through the Office of Disability Support Services located in 103A North Foundation Hall (248-370-3266, 3268 for TDD). Services include, but are not limited to, priority registration, special testing arrangements, assistive technology, referrals to outside service agencies, assistance in identifying volunteer notetakers and volunteer readers, assistance with sign language interpreter services and with any general needs or concerns. Students with special needs are encouraged to utilize these services. The University Diversity and Compliance office (148 North Foundation Hall, 248-370-3496) is also available to assist students with disabilities.

**The Graham Counseling Center** offers students personal counseling, testing, psychotherapy and consultations. The Counseling Center is located in the Graham Health Center (248-370-

3465). In addition to counseling and psychotherapy, the Counseling Center can provide evaluations regarding learning problems and disabilities.

**Free at OU** offers a number of free services to students, including free health, academic and career, financial, and recreation services. For more information about free services on campus, visit the Free at OU website at <http://www.oakland.edu/free>.

### **Tentative Course Schedule**