

Oakland University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Writing and Rhetoric
WRT 1050, Composition I, 4 credits

select and replace each term: Semester & Year of Syllabus, CRN

Instructor: *fill in*
Office Address: *fill in*
e-Mail Address: *fill in*

Class Time: *fill in*
Office Phone: *fill in*
Office Hours: *fill in*

Catalog Description:

A course emphasizing the rhetorical and stylistic demands of college writing through focus on experiential, analytical, and expressive writing. Students learn to generate, organize and develop their ideas and to make choices as writers that are appropriate to the rhetorical situation. A grade of C or higher must be achieved to advance to WRT 1060. Prerequisite: Placement by faculty evaluation of writing or successful completion of WRT 1020.

Course Objectives:

Students in **WRT 1050, Composition I** will learn to

- Analyze rhetorical situations (writer, text, context, purpose, audience) in a variety of genres and media.
- Define and enact appropriate rhetorical strategies, including kairos, ethos, logos, pathos, to communicate ideas in a variety of genres.
- Apply rhetorical knowledge to gain a better understanding of a professional discourse community.
- Develop strategies for reading rhetorically, evaluating, and responding to a variety of texts, including visual, electronic, written and verbal texts.
- Reflect on their own writing processes, evaluate their own learning, transfer and adapt their learning to new settings, and develop the habits of mind of effective college writers.
- Employ writing as a process of making meaning, requiring multiple drafts and revision.
- Demonstrate syntactic fluency and control of language conventions, including awareness of sentence and paragraph structure.
- Exhibit accurate use of and rhetorical purpose for documentation systems, generally MLA.

Required Text(s) and Supporting Course Material:

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

Course Procedures: *Indicate here what format your class meetings take: lectures, discussion groups, seminar presentations, field trips, etc.*

OU Excused Absence Policy and 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 specific policy (TR, MWF, or once a week) below]

[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 (F).

[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 (F).

[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 (F).

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/>

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 your policies if any for tardiness, participation, etc.

Professionalism/Civility Policy: *Fill in your policy, if any.*

Grade Determination: *List the work you will grade and the weight each component has for the full course grade (such a list might include written/multimedia projects, quizzes and exams, homework/exercises, Moodle discussion Forums, oral projects, participation, library Moodle quizzes/exam).*

Your revision policy and procedures should be part of the “Grade Determination” section.

Late submission of work: *Fill in your policy, if any.*

Grading Scale: As of Fall 2018, Oakland University uses a letter grade scale (previously a 4-point scale).

Oakland University Grading Scale

Scale as of Fall 2018	Old Scale
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
F	0.0

If you are using a point or percentage system for daily work, be sure to inform students how it will be converted to the letter grade scale.

Here is sample language from CETL you can use or modify to explain what letter grades mean in your course. You can change this to your own description if you have it:

- **A range:** Comprehensive mastery of all objectives and required content, critical and higher level thinking, original and creative work, sound use and development of writing abilities
- **B range:** Competent, thorough coverage of basic content and concepts, adequate use and development of writing abilities
- **C range:** Slightly below average work, has met minimum basic requirements but with difficulty
- **D range:** Has not met many requirements of assignments/course, has significant difficulties in many areas
- **F:** Has not completed most requirements and has not officially withdrawn from course before drop date

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.

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 this course.

Accommodations: Students with disabilities who may require reasonable accommodations should make an appointment with OU's Disability Support Services office by calling (248) 370-3266 or TTY: (248) 370-3268; faxing (248) 370-4989; or e-mailing dss@oakland.edu. The DSS provides Faculty Notification Letters detailing approved services. Students are responsible for delivering these letters to their professors and are encouraged to discuss specific arrangements for reasonable accommodations with their professors. Please see the DSS website at www.oakland.edu/dss for more information.

Writing Center: The Oakland University Writing Center is open to OU students, faculty, and staff in all disciplines at any stage of the writing process. The center provides writers with an interested and supportive audience of well-trained consultants who help both novices and experts develop ideas and revise drafts into polished products. Students in WRT classes are strongly encouraged to visit the Writing Center.

WRT 1000, Supervised Study: At the beginning of the semester your course instructor will ask you to provide a writing sample, which s/he will use to determine if you would benefit from enrolling in WRT 1000, Supervised Study. But you do not need a referral from a WRT instructor to enroll in this elective class: any student who wants additional help with his/her writing in any of our introductory writing courses or in any of the university's writing-intensive courses may elect to enroll in WRT 1000. This 1-2 credit course provides students with one-on-one tutorial instruction from a WRT faculty member based on the areas of writing the student wishes to work on.

Time Schedule and Topical Outline (*modify the heading wording if you want*): The class schedule, below, indicates class dates, major paper/project due dates, exam dates (if relevant), specific topical material to be covered, and reading/homework assignments. The instructor reserves the right to make minor adjustments to this schedule.

A detailed class schedule must be provided. To be fair to students by helping them plan ahead, at the very least, please provide a page listing all class meetings and due dates for major assignments. The more detail for the term you give students, the better they can juggle other classes and work. This list does not preclude your modifying dates as the term unfolds, of course, but again with your students' lives in mind the fewer changes, the better.