Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: https://catalog.uvu.edu/

Semester: Spring
Course Prefix: ENGL
Course Title: Academic Writing for English Majors

Year: 2025
Course and Section #: 3090-003
Credits: 3

Course Description

ENGL 3090 centers on scholarly research and writing in fields related to English Studies, drawing on students' areas of focus. It emphasizes analysis, rhetorical theories of writing, development, style, oral presentations, and primary and secondary research techniques. It prepares students to extend their abilities with researched writing in other upper-division courses and teaches students advanced scholarly attitudes toward researched writing.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:

☐ General Education Requirements
☐ Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
☐ Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
☒ Discipline Core Requirements in Program
☐ Elective Core Requirements in Program
☐ Open Elective
Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Estée Crenshaw

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, students should be able to . . .

- Assess literary and non-literary texts, according to their explicit and implicit meanings.
- Develop sound and critical arguments that are grounded in textual evidence.
- Appraise secondary sources based on current academic standards.
- Analyze texts with pertinent critical or theoretical concepts and methods.
- Write critical essays using current and correct MLA citation style.
- Engage with literary and non-literary texts, as well as critical, scholarly, or theoretical materials in complex, sophisticated ways.
- Connect informed and engaged ideas, questions, and interpretations of texts with peers through respectful comments that take into account multiple perspectives.
- Integrate information from outside sources through a dialogue between multiple texts and the student's our own writing.

- Employ skills such as formatting, editing, proofreading, and revising.

Course Materials and Texts

Dick, Philip K. *Blade Runner (Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?)*. Del Rey, 2017.

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

Attendance and Participation (15%)
Students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to engage in the class activities.
MLA Presentation (5%)
Each student will present on one aspect of the *MLA Style Handbook*, 9th Edition.
Close Reading Chart (10%)
Students complete a close reading chart as they read the course novel.
Short Interpretive Essay (15%)
Students complete a short interpretive essay about the course novel.
Theoretical Literature Review (20%)
Students summarize and synthesize a primary theoretical text and a secondary text that corresponds with their chosen theme from the course novel.
Annotated Bibliography (15%)
Students compile and annotate eight secondary sources.
Final Research Essay (20%)
Students write an academic research paper that incorporates textual evidence from the course novel and secondary sources in support of the student's argument.

Grade Scale:

A = 100–94	**B+** = 89.9–87	**C+** = 79.9–77	**D+** = 69.9–67	
A- = 93.9–90	**B** = 86.9–84	**C** = 76.9–74	**D** = 66.9–64	**E** = 59.9 and below
	B- = 83.9–80	**C-** = 73.9–70	**D-** = 63.9– 60	

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

Selected chapters from:

- Acheson, Katherine O. *Writing Essays about Literature: A Brief Guide for University and College Students*. 2nd ed. Broadview Press, 2021.
- Barnet, Sylvan, and William Cain. *A Short Guide to Writing about Literature*. 12th ed., Pearson, 2011.
- Culler, Jonathan. *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Eagleton, Terry. *How to Read Literature.* Yale University Press, 2013.
- *MLA Handbook*. 9th ed., Modern Language Association of America, 2021.
- Butler, Paul. *The Writer's Style*. Utah State University Press, 2018.

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Week 1: What is literature?
Week 2: Close reading
Week 3: Narrative openings
Week 4: Novel analysis
Week 5: Character
Week 6: Interpretive practices
Week 7: Theory review
Week 8: Article analysis
Week 9: Argument construction
Week 10: Spring Break
Week 11: Peer review
Week 12: Research skills
Week 13: Writing style & MLA
Week 14: Essay organization
Week 15: Cohesion
Week 16: Peer review
Week 17: Finals Week

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI
The UVU English department is also keeping up with artificial intelligence chat bots such as ChatGPT (and many other stand-alone programs or plug-ins). Believing the technology is here to stay, and will only grow, we feel it's important to understand both its strengths and limitations. AI is already proving its usefulness in brainstorming writing ideas, simplifying complex topics, and assisting with research. We believe AI is a tool with potential usefulness for writers. However, AI is also fraught with serious issues. It possesses accuracy problems while simultaneously sounding very confident about its incorrectness. It also frequently generates fake citations and quotations. It cannot understand the complexities and contexts of human communication. Finally, the way AI is trained on other texts poses several ethical questions about copyright and intellectual theft of property (along with uncritically inheriting the biases of the texts it's trained on).

To be clear, copying the exact wording of an AI chatbot is considered plagiarism and means that a student will be held accountable for violating academic integrity.

Using Remote Testing Software
☒ This course does not use remote testing software.

☐ This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the

student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities
Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity
At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their rights and responsibilities. In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in UVU Policy 541: *Student Code of Conduct*.

Equity and Title IX
Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a specially dedicated space for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.