WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
COURSE SYLLABUS

FACULTY MEMBER: Scott O'Neil   **TERM:** Spring 2015

COURSE TITLE: English 365 – Academic Writing Skills

COURSE NUMBER: ENG 365

OFFICE HOURS/METHOD OF CONTACT: Regular online office hours will be held via Skype (ProfONeil) from 4-6pm on Saturdays (or by appointment). You may always contact me via e-mail at scott.m.oneil@wilmu.edu. I generally have a very quick response time to e-mail.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course seeks to develop skills in advanced composition, critical reading, and research: evaluation of sources and incorporating others' research into student writing. It is designed to improve students' abilities to create a persuasive argument, and to use outside sources through quoting, paraphrase, summary, and synthesis. Students will use the outside sources to reinforce their own persuasive arguments correctly and effectively. Students will also concentrate on APA style and how it can be used to ensure correct use of sources and academic integrity.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
The student will be able to:
1. Develop skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing.
2. Learn to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions).
3. Learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.
4. Analyze and critique essays and other expository prose in preparation for writing.
5. Develop fluency in the various elements that constitute good writing including organization, unity, coherence, conciseness, and clarity.
6. Develop fluency in grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation.
7. Perform information searches, utilizing recognized journals, books, and other academic sources within the student's chosen field.
8. Evaluate the information obtained for currency, accuracy, and usefulness.
9. Make use of the research sources in various ways, including quoting, paraphrasing, and summarizing, in order to ensure readability of work.
10. Utilize APA style for paper formatting and correct use of sources.
11. Explore and employ various rhetorical modes as strategies for supporting a persuasive argument essay, which will be written through process-based milestones that build to a 14-20 page persuasive research paper.
12. Engage in the revision process, using feedback from self, peers, and the instructor.

SUPPLEMENTAL OBJECTIVES:

METHODOLOGY:
    A. **Teaching Methods:** Various teaching methods will be used to complete the course objectives:

individual activities/assignments, readings, practice exercises, discussion board postings, self and peer review, and essay writing.

B. **Evaluation Procedures:** The instructor will use rubrics to grade all assignments in the course. Please see the rubrics and grading criteria section of the Blackboard course page for more information.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND CHECKLIST:

Class Period	Major Weekly Topics*	Assignments Due Checklist (Due Date Specified)	Points
Week 1	Researched Argument Overview APA Plagiarism Information Literacy Thesis Statements Subject-Verb Agreement	o Week 1 Discussion Board Posts (Wednesday/Sunday)	**20**
		o Plagiarism Self-Assessment (Sunday)	**20**
		o APA Self-Assessment (Sunday)	**30**
		o Information Literacy Assignment (Sunday)	**100**
		o Initial Thesis Statement	**5**
Week 2	Academic Writing and Essay Structure Introductions Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement	o Week 2 Discussion Board Posts (Wednesday/Sunday)	**20**
		o Researched Argument Outline (Sunday)	**80**
		o Draft of Introduction (Sunday)	**15**
		o Self-Evaluation of Introduction	**30**
Week 3	Paragraph Development Incorporating Outside Sources Body/ Discussion Section Parallel Structure	o Week 3 Discussion Board Posts (Wednesday/ Sunday)	**20**
		o Body/Discussion Section Part 1 (Sunday)	**15**
		o Self-Evaluation of Body/Discussion Section Part 1 (Sunday)	**30**
Week 4	Logical Fallacies Body/Discussion Section Peer Review Conciseness and Passive Voice	o Week 4 Discussion Board (Wednesday/Sunday)	**20**
		o Body/Discussion Section Part 2 (Sunday)	**15**
		o Self-Evaluation of Body/Discussion Section Part 2 (Sunday)	**30**
		o Week 4 Peer Review Activity (Monday/Sunday)	**20**
Week	Opposing Viewpoints Style, Diction, Tone, and Voice	o Week 5 Discussion Board (Wednesday/Sunday)	**20**
		o Opposing Viewpoints section (Sunday)	**15**

5	Commas, Semicolons, and Colons	o Week 5 Discussion Board (Wednesday/Sunday)	**20**
	Peer Review	o Opposing Viewpoints section (Sunday)	**15**
		o Self-Evaluation of Opposing Viewpoints Section (Sunday)	**30**
		o Week 5 Peer Review Board (Monday/Sunday)	**20**
Week 6	Conclusion	o Week 6 Discussion Board (Wednesday/Sunday)	**20**
		o Conclusion section (Sunday)	**15**
	Abstract	o Self-Evaluation of Conclusion (Sunday)	**30**
	Title Page	o Abstract (Monday/Sunday)	**10**
Week 7	Editing and Revision	o Week 7 Discussion Board (Wednesday/Sunday)	**20**
		o Final Draft of Researched Argument (Sunday)	**350**
		Total Points Possible	**1000**

* Please note that there are various resources and readings to review each week that will support each week's   activities. Be sure to review the contents of each week's folder on Blackboard.

SUPPLEMENTAL COURSE POLICIES:

LATE WORK
No late work is accepted in ENG 365. Because each assignment builds on previous assignments, and because you will be working with other students to meet specific deadlines, all work must be submitted on time. Students must also submit work on time in order to receive feedback that will affect future assignments in the course.

TUTORING
Students are urged to use Wilmington University's Student Success Center and the Smarthinking online tutoring service that is accessible through the course page on Blackboard.

MECHANICS, USAGE, and GRAMMAR (MUGs):
MUGs will be assessed in your writing throughout the entire course. The first five weeks will have a different MUGs focus.

PEER REVIEW ASSIGNMENTS
You will be engaging with each other's writing as the course progresses. As writers, it is important to

get feedback from readers; therefore, the primary goal of the peer review assignments is to get feedback from your reader(s). Secondarily, it is important to see how other people write (i.e. their diction and rhetorical choices).

TECHNOLOGY PROBLEMS
Technological problems are not acceptable excuses for late work. Be sure to save and back-up your data in the event of a crash. E-mailing drafts to your own e-mail account is a good way to back up your data if you don't have a detachable storage device.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
All students are urged to review Wilmington University's Academic Integrity Policy found through this link: https://www.wilmu.edu/studentlife/acadintegrity.aspx

SAFEASSIGN
You will be required to upload each section of the Researched Argument through SafeAssign. The SafeAssign submission link for each section of the Researched Argument is located in the appropriate weekly folder (i.e., if a section is due during Week 5, the SafeAssign submission link will be located in the Week 5 folder). The final revised copy of the Researched Argument will also be submitted via SafeAssign in the Week 7 folder.