



## English 100: Introduction to College Writing

Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30pm

Instructor: Dr. Ben Shannon

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Program: Onward Odyssey - Division of Continuing Studies

Institution: University of Wisconsin-Madison

### **Course Description**

In this class we will explore the act of writing in a variety of ways. Each week, we will analyze examples of effective writing by different authors, using a range of styles and approaches. We will also practice various forms of writing, from creative to persuasive, with an emphasis on amplifying student voices. Finally, we will focus on the process and mechanics of writing, in order to develop the skills necessary for success in college and beyond. By the end of this course, students will be more confident and capable writers and will have a greater appreciation for the incredible power of writing!

### **Course Objectives**

Upon completing this course, students should be able to:

- Analyze and critically evaluate written texts for meaning, structure, and rhetorical effectiveness, and summarize findings for academic audiences.
- Develop an effective writing process, involving brainstorming, freewriting, outlining, drafting, revising, editing, and proofreading.
- Construct well-organized academic essays using appropriate tone, style, and structure.
- Conduct basic research, while effectively quoting and properly citing sources.
- Develop a personal and scholarly writing style that amplifies one's unique voice.

### **Student Workload**

This 3-credit course meets as a group for 2 hours per week (according to UW-Madison's credit hour policy, each 115-minute class counts as 2 hours). The course also carries the expectation that you will spend an average of at least 2 hours outside of class for every hour in the classroom. In other words, in addition to class time, plan to allot 8 hours per week studying for this course.

### **Grades**

Grades are based on the following scale:

100-93 = A  
92-88 = A/B  
87-83 = B  
82-77 = B/C  
76-70 = C  
69-60 = D  
59-0 = F

Final grades will be calculated accordingly:

In-Class Writing Assignments = 5%  
Assignment #1 – AI Report = 5%  
Assignment #2 – Descriptive Essay = 10%  
Assignment #3 – Personal Narrative = 10%  
Assignment #4 – Research Editorial = 10%  
Assignment #5 – Application Essay = 10%  
Discussion and Participation = 50%

(For the full version of this syllabus, please contact me at [btshannon@wisc.edu](mailto:btshannon@wisc.edu))