

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith

5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649
479-788-7000

General Syllabus

ENGL 10203 Composition II

Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory or other types of Hours: 0

Prerequisite(s): ENGL 10103 Composition I

Effective Catalog: 2026-2027

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Provides further instruction in rhetoric and writing, analysis of texts, critical thinking, and academic research methods. (ACTS: ENGL 1023)

B. Additional Information—None.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Compose pieces of writing that are unified, coherent, and well-developed.
2. Edit one's own writing for conventions of standard usage and style.
3. Use library databases and other academic research methods to locate credible source material.
4. Compose pieces of writing that properly use and incorporate credible source material.
5. Format writing assignments and document use of source material following MLA and APA conventions.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze a variety of texts for their rhetorical and/or literary features, as well as analyze the rhetorical situation to which the texts they produce respond.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will practice communication skills through discussions, presentations, and a variety of required written assignments.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will practice critical response to the writing of others, responsible use of research materials and intellectual property, and the ethical use of persuasion.

Global & Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze the rhetorical situation, produce texts for a variety of audiences, and avoid the use of biased language.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Recursive writing processes (e.g., invention, drafting, peer review, instructor feedback, revision, editing, and proofreading)
- B. Analysis of the rhetorical situation (e.g., audience/purpose/text/context)
- C. Rhetorical strategies (e.g., logos, ethos, pathos)
- D. Structure, organization, and development of paragraphs and essays (e.g., topic sentences/thesis statements; introduction/body/conclusion; organizational patterns)
- E. Argumentative, analytic, and evaluative rhetorical structures (modes)
- F. Rhetorical reading strategies (identifying speaker, occasion, audience, purpose, style, and tone.)
- G. Pragmatic reading strategies (modeling reading efficiencies such as using abstracts; skimming and scanning; power-skimming by reading the conclusion first, then the introduction, then the section headings, then the topic sentence of each paragraph; identifying and defining unfamiliar terms; etc.)
- H. Academic research (e.g., use of library databases; introduction to research tools such as Zotero)
- I. Evaluation of sources and source material (e.g., sources located using internet search engines and library databases)
- J. Summary, paraphrase, and quotation of source material
- K. Use of source material to support and develop ideas
- L. Incorporation of source material, (e.g., signal phrases, quotation marks, and parenthetical citations when appropriate; works cited page)
- M. Academic honesty and avoidance of plagiarism
- N. MLA conventions for formatting a paper and documenting the use of source material
- O. Introduction to APA conventions for formatting a paper and documenting the use of source material
- P. Editing for mechanical/grammatical correctness and style (e.g., sentence variety, word choice, tone)