

ENGS 002 Written Expression Syllabus and Course Description

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A Call to Adventure

Written Expression introduces students to the complex process of writing. Students will be asked to write on a variety of topics ranging from the personal and autobiographical to the objective and analytical. Emphasis will be placed on the essential phases of the writing process: exploration, drafting, revision, editing, and feedback. During the semester, students will do quite a bit of journal writing in-class and will collaborate in groups on their own formal writing.

As we enjoy the self-discovery that comes from writing, we will attempt to become more closely acquainted with the writing of one very skillful composer of the written word: J.R.R. Tolkien. We will use Tolkien's novel *The Hobbit* as a springboard for discussion as well as points of departure for various writing exercises. We'll begin with his earliest drafts in order to examine the revision process. Workshops [in class and group format] will be an important element of this class.

Students will be placed into groups in which they will share their writing, their difficulties, and their discoveries. Because of this, attendance is extremely important. **After three unexcused absences, a student's grade average will be lowered 2 letter grades, i. e., B becomes D. After a total of five unexcused absences, students will not receive credit for this course.** Students are expected to attend class and come prepared to share their work with their peers. Students who come unprepared during peer review workshops may receive an absence for the day. [Obviously circumstances surrounding COVID will receive sensitive consideration.]

Evaluations:

Portfolios 70%

Students will submit their work to the instructor twice during the semester. Portfolios will be collected at the end of the semester. Individual papers will not receive a grade. Students will write many papers in and outside of class. Papers should be typed and double-spaced. Please use 12 point, Times New Roman font. Your margins should be 1 inch on all sides of the page. Students will need to purchase a soft three-ring binder and 4-5 soft dividers. All of your work must be formatted and include citations in MLA Style. [See <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02>]

Participation 30%

Students are expected to work together, offer feedback, share their work, and participate in class discussions.

Texts:

The Hobbit. J.R.R. Tolkien

The Hobbit and Philosophy. Gregory Bassham and Eric Bronson

Little Seagull Handbook. Norton. Second Edition.

Strunk and White. *Elements of Style*. Fourth Edition - 9780205309023

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of the semester, if you've successfully completed the work in this course, you should be able to:

- Write, research, and revise in English, substantially and meaningfully, with more fluency and confidence.
- Respond thoughtfully and thoroughly to other writers in order to aid their substantive revision.
- Complete multiple rounds of invention, research, and revision to produce fully developed and polished pieces of writing in English.
- Reflect on your writing practices using the terminology of U.S. academic discourse.

Foundational Writing and Information Literacy Goals

ENGS001/002 fulfills your Foundational Writing and Information Literacy (FWIL) requirement at the University of Vermont. As such, you will also gain practice in the following areas:

- **Rhetorical discernment:** To write for varying purposes and audiences, develop texts with sufficient detail, astute organization, and appropriate documentation, diction, and style.
- **Critical reading:** To read critically by engaging with ideas and texts, properly summarizing, paraphrasing, and quoting others' ideas while effectively integrating them with and developing one's own ideas.
- **Information literacy:** To access and work effectively and ethically with print and digital sources, including: learning to discern searchable key words within a complex research question; distinguishing between primary and secondary and scholarly and popular resources; critically evaluating sources for relevance, currency, authority, and bias; and managing and appropriately documenting information sources.
- **Substantive revision:** Through persistent inquiry and informed by feedback from peers and/or the instructor, to compose and revise so that texts and ideas grow in effectiveness and complexity.

What to Expect:

In class, expect to work with your classmates every class session. Sometimes you will discuss the readings together, sometimes you will discuss and edit one another's work in progress, and sometimes you will collaborate on a common response to share with the class. The success of this class depends on interactions every time we meet, so make sure you have had some breakfast and are ready to work with your peers!

Syllabus:

Week 1: (Cluster One/ Social Narrative)

Mon (1/17): No class

Wed (1/19): Introductions, *Hobbit* drafts "Pfyrfan" and "Bladorthin"

Peer Review workshop Assignment

Homework writing: Growth through Adversity

Fri (1/21): Class workshop circles.

Draft of paper due. Bring 4 copies for in-class review.

Week 2:

Mon (1/24): Kinds of Writing –Little Seagull (p. 43-48, 62-65).

The Hobbit (chapters 1-4), Essay "Big Hairy Feet"

Elements of Style (chapter 1)

Wed (1/26):

Walking-writing assignment due.

In-class writing: Bilbo's Transformation

One on one tutoring – 3 students.

Fri (1/28): Class workshop circles.

The Hobbit (chapters 5-7)

Week 3:

Mon (1/31): Sentence clarity and Variety –Little Seagull (pp. 252-260)

The Hobbit (chapters 8-11), Essay "Road Goes Ever On and On"

Elements of Style (pp. . . ., assigned during the course)

Wed (2/2): In-class writing: A good person

One on one tutoring –3 students

Fri (2/4) Class workshop circles.

The Hobbit (chapters 12-15)

Week 4: (Cluster Two/ Question Posing)

Mon (2/7): Style. Essay “Cosmopolitan Hobbit”

Revision Paper 1 due

The Hobbit (chapters 16-17)

Elements of Style (pp. . . , assigned during the course)

Wed (2/9):

In-class writing: Empathy

One on one tutoring-3 students

Fri (2/11) Class workshop circles

The Hobbit (chapters 18-19)

Week 5:

Mon (2/14): Verbs- Little Seagull (260-276) Citation options.

“Glory of Bilbo Baggins”

Elements of Style (pp. . . , assigned during the course)

In the zone assignment due

Wed (2/16): In-class writing topic: Bilbo’s Greatest Virtue

One on one tutoring-3 students

Fri (2/18): Class workshop circles

Week 6:

Mon (2/21): No class

Wed (2/23): Nouns and Pronouns- Little Seagull (277-81), “Pride and Humility in *The Hobbit*”

In-class writing: Theme of Greed

One on one tutoring -3 students

Fri (2/25): Class workshop circles

Week 7:

Mon (2/28):

Class Workshop on Screen, “My Precious”

Elements of Style (pp. . . , assigned during the course)

What are Hobbits Like assignment due

Wed (3/2): In-class writing: Examples of Possessiveness

One on one tutoring- 3 students

Go to <http://researchguides.uvm.edu/english1> and complete the library tutorial assignments.

Fri (3/4) ** Library visit on the research process **

Spring Break: March 7th-11th

Week 8: (Cluster Three/Lit Review)

Mon (3/14): Adjectives, Adverbs, and Prepositions –*Little Seagull* (308-311, Essay- Tolkien’s Just War”

Revision Paper 2 due with Portfolios; (Mid-term Participation grade)[Revised]

Wed (3/16): In-class writing: Illustrate Tolkien’s environmentalist position.

One on one tutoring – 3 students

Fri (3/18) Class workshop circles

Week 9: Mon (3/21): Thesis statement Assignment. Essay “Pretty Fair Nonsense”
How art impacts your life assignment due

Wed (3/23): In class writing: Art integral to plot?

One on one tutoring – 3 students

Fri (3/25) Class workshop circles

Week 10: Mon (3/28): Clauses, Phrases, Sentences –*Little Seagull* (285-286),
Essay “Hobbitus Ludens” Summary and Analysis
Essay summary due (descriptive)

Wed (3/30): In-class writing: Analysis of “Hobbitus Ludens”

One on one tutoring -3 students

Fri (4/1) Class workshop circles

Week 11: Mon (4/4): Commas –*Little Seagull* (258-260), “Magic and Machines”
Writing Center workshop on Literature Review [Revised]
Literature Review outline due (Research topic) [Revision]

Wed (4/6): In-class writing: Literature Review

One on one tutoring -3 students

Fri (4/8) Class workshop circles

Research- *Little Seagull* (80-97)

Week 12: (Cluster Four/ Research Paper)

Mon (4/11): Punctuation Review-*Seagull* (324-346), “Inside *The Hobbit*”

Revision Paper 3 due.

Wed (4/13): In-class writing: Research paper draft 1 (3-5 pages)
One on one tutoring-3 students

Fri (4/15) Class workshop circles

Week 13: Mon (4/18): Other mechanics-*Little Seagull* (347-351)

Citation Strategies and Methods. Bibliography due.

[See <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02>]

Wed (4/20): In-class writing. Research paper draft 2
One on one tutoring-3 students.

Fri (4/22) Class workshop circles

Week 14: Mon (4/25): [Class revision on screen]

Wed (4/27):

Fri (4/29)

Week 15: Mon (5/2): [Class revision on screen]

Research Papers due with Portfolios

Wed (5/4): One on one tutoring

Fri (5/6): One on one tutoring