

English 299: Writing with Clarity & Power
California State University Channel Islands Composition Program

Catalog Description

Focuses on learning how to edit one's own writing for errors and developing more sophisticated ways to make arguments, cite evidence, and convey opinion in academic writing. Supports development of more effective writing and editing. For students concurrently enrolled in ENGL 102, ENGL 105, ENGL 107, or ENGL 206. *Repeat 2 times up to 4 units*

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be proficient in the following areas:

- Identify effective writing processes and practices
- Recognize common usage errors
- Explain basic editing rules or principles
- Apply effective proofreading techniques and strategies
- Employ varied and complex sentence structure
- Use the appropriate register (formal vocabulary, phrasing, word usage) of college writing

English Program Learning Outcomes

- Express original and creative ideas in writing and speech
- Practice effective editing, including appropriate use of English grammar and usage conventions
- Analyze a diversity of texts, ideas, and problems from multiple perspectives (multicultural, interdisciplinary, international, experiential, theoretical and/or educational)
- Find, evaluate, and synthesize scholarship, research, and information from a variety of sources and disciplines

Course Materials

There is no textbook to purchase for this class. All resources will be made available via Canvas.

Digital Accessible Course Materials–ALLY

CSUCI is committed to providing you the best learning experience possible. With this goal, we have activated ALLY in your Canvas courses. ALLY is a product that focuses on making digital course content more accessible to all students. You will now be able to download most course files in the format that fits best with your learning needs; PDF, HTML, .EPUB, and Audio files are now available for most content items. To learn more about formats available as well as what each format offers visit [Ally Support](#). Should you have any questions or experience issues while using ALLY, please contact Shared Services Solution Center at (805) 437-8552.

Course Theme & Topics: “Owning Your Writing, Upping Your Game”

Through extensive revision and editing practice, you will learn how to craft your own writing to create polished work that reflects your knowledge and is appropriate for your intended audience. The instructor will adapt the content as necessary to meet both the needs of the group and the needs of individual students. We’ll check in individually and collectively as the course progresses to determine how much time and emphasis to dedicate to various topics, including:

- Clauses, sentence building blocks, and sentence combining
- Avoiding common grammatical problems: run-ons, comma splices, fragments, and awkward constructions
- Advanced sentence structure: parallelism and modifiers
- Editing for clarity and concision
- Integrating and citing sources
- Strengthening arguments
- Revising for style and voice
- Formality and writing for various audiences
- Other editing concerns as they arise

In this class, students will do the following:

- Submit a piece of writing and answers to a questionnaire on writing practices.
- Engage in the identification and practice in effective writing and editing processes, according to need.
- Receive explicit instruction in increasing the academic register, according to need (ex: role of thesis/structure/topic sentences; options for academic vocabulary; deconstructing writing prompts; avoiding hit and run quoting; etc.).
- Engage in sentence combining practice to increase syntactic variety, fluency, and sentence boundary understandings.
- Receive explicit instruction in particular academic writing conventions, according to need (ex: subject verb agreement; parallel structure; capitalization; possessives; etc.).
- Apply the above to the revision and editing of their own writing assignments.

| Week | Focus |
|------|--|
| 1 | Writing in High School vs. Writing in College |
| 2 | Understanding Assignments and Common Errors in College Writing |
| 3 | Comma Usage |
| 4 | Run-On Sentences |
| 5 | Fragments and Punctuation |
| 6 | Transitions and Pointing Words |
| 7 | Prepositional Phrases |
| 8 | Advanced Sentence Structure |
| 9 | Revision: Sentence Combining I |
| 10 | Proofreading and Editing |
| 11 | Source Integration |
| 12 | Revision: Sentence Combining II |
| 13 | Citing Sources |

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|----|-------------------------------|
| 14 | Revision: Conciseness |
| 15 | Maintaining the Editing Habit |

Course Workflow

Beginning in Week 3, students will work on a piece of writing each week. We will work together to workshop the piece, identifying and focusing on specific areas of improvement each week.

Disabilities Statement

If you are a student with a disability requesting reasonable accommodations in this course, please visit Disability Accommodations and Support Services (DASS) located on the second floor of Arroyo Hall, or call 805-437-3331. All requests for reasonable accommodations require registration with DASS in advance of needed services. You can apply for DASS services here. Faculty, students and DASS will work together regarding classroom accommodations. You are encouraged to discuss approved accommodations with your faculty.

Academic Dishonesty

By enrolling at CSU Channel Islands, students are responsible for upholding the University's policies and the Student Conduct Code. Academic integrity and scholarship are values of the institution that ensure respect for the academic reputation of the University, students, faculty, and staff. Cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration with another student, knowingly furnishing false information to the University, buying, selling or stealing any material for an examination, or substituting for another person may be considered violations of the Student Conduct Code. If a student is found responsible for committing an act of academic dishonesty in this course, the student may receive academic penalties including a failing grade on an assignment or in the course, and a disciplinary referral will be made and submitted to the Dean of Students office. For additional information, please see the faculty Academic Senate Policy on Academic Dishonesty, also in the CI Catalog. Please ask about my expectations regarding academic dishonesty in this course if they are unclear.

Emergency Intervention and Basic Needs

If you or someone you know is experiencing unforeseen or catastrophic financial issues, skipping meals or experiencing homelessness/housing insecurity (e.g. sleeping in a car, couch surfing, staying with friends), please know that you are not alone. There are resources on campus that may assist you during this time. The Dolphin Pantry is currently located in Arroyo Hall and offers free food, toiletries and basic necessities for current CI students. For additional assistance, please contact the Dean of Students office. Please visit the Basic Needs website for the most up to date information.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

CAPS is pleased to provide a wide range of services to assist students in achieving their academic and personal goals. Services include confidential short-term counseling, crisis intervention, psychiatric consultation, and 24/7 phone and text support. Please visit the [CAPS website](#) for details.

Title IX and Inclusion

Title IX & Inclusion manages the University's equal opportunity compliance, including the areas of affirmative action and Title IX. Title IX & Inclusion also oversees the campus' response to the University's nondiscrimination policies. CSU Channel Islands prohibits discrimination and harassment of any kind on the basis of a protected status (i.e., age, disability, gender, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, medical condition, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion or religious creed, sexual orientation, and Veteran or Military Status). This prohibition on harassment includes sexual harassment, as well as sexual misconduct, dating and domestic violence, and stalking. For more information regarding CSU Channel Islands' commitment to diversity and inclusion or to report a potential violation, please visit the [Title IX website](#).

Preferred Pronouns

I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate/preferred name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. You may also update your pronouns or preferred name in myCI Student Center. Visit the [Registrar's Gender Identity and Pronouns page](#) for instructions.

Class Recording Policy

Students may not record (audio or video) in this class except in accordance with approved ADA accommodations. Any recordings made in connection with a disability accommodation are for the student's personal academic use only and may not be distributed in any manner to any other individual.

Writing & Multiliteracy Center

The Writing and Multiliteracy Center (WMC) provides all CI students with FREE support services and programs that help them become more effective writers and communicators. *Peer consultants* help students at any stage of the composition process in any discipline for writing or speaking (such as slideshow presentations). Tutors can also help those who want to talk about or wish to learn new skills in speaking in academic contexts, whether it's oral presentations, in-class discussions, or talking with professors during office hours. Please visit the [WMC website](#) for details.

Evaluation

This is a practical course, which means that we will focus primarily on active editing practice on your own work. You should be prepared to work on your writing every week. You should also

be prepared to share your work with others and provide supportive feedback to classmates as part of a peer review process.

This is a credit/no credit course. In order to receive credit for the course, you must regularly attend and actively participate in our class activities and assignments.

Useful Resources

[Composition Website](#)

[English Program Learning Outcomes](#)

[CSUCI Writing & Multiliteracy Center](#)

[CSUCI Student Writing Guide](#)

[CSUCI's Broome Library](#)

[CSUCI's IT Solutions Center](#)

[The Purdue Online Writing Lab](#)

[Writing Spaces](#)