

Dr. Elizabeth Grace Winkler
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ENGLISH 302 – Fall 2015 - Online

Welcome! I hope I get to meet you in person. Feel free to stop by the office and introduce yourself if you are ever on the BG campus.

Objective: To create a basic educational and linguistic understanding of the grammar of English, so that students will pass the Praxis as well as be competent to teach and be a model of standard grammar and writing.

It does not matter if you will not be a language arts teacher – you will teach writing, and you must be a model of good writing or the students, parents and employers won't be impressed with you.

WARNING: This class will take about 5-7 hours a week of work depending on your current grammatical competence and how fast you read. Ignore the urban myth that says online classes are easier than face-to-face ones. You are responsible for getting things in on time each week and for coming to me (or emailing me) when you need help.

NO TEXT REQUIRED FOR THIS CLASS. Frankly, all the materials that you need can be accessed electronically, which is more useful. You can access info on your phone rather than wait to go home and look it up in a book. Besides, your student loans are big enough anyway! Optional Text: English Grammar: Language as Human Behavior by Anita Barry.

Knowledge of Blackboard required as well as other computer skills: The required readings, homework assignments, and supplemental materials will be posted on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to do the readings and take sufficient notes. Simply reading the material will not be enough to get a good grade. The students who did most poorly in previous semesters were those who refused to truly STUDY the readings. Those who end up with D/F grades almost never prepare sufficiently or ask for help until the last week of the semester when it is too late.

Although this is an online class, you are welcome to come to office hours for help. For those of you who cannot come into town, we can use the Office Hours feature of Blackboard for real time communication. I promise that I don't bite! Helping you is what I get paid for, so you are NOT a bother when you ask questions. Lots of emails are fine!

Extra Credit: NONE. If you are unwilling or unable to do the required work, there is reason to give you an unearned grade via extra credit. Grades are EARNED by you not GIVEN by me. One of the hardest things you will have to learn to do as a teacher is to maintain standards. You cannot pass students who have not met the minimum requirements.

Internet Access: If you do not have good access to the Internet or are not savvy at doing computer work, you **DO NOT** want to take this class. If you have never done an online class that is NO PROBLEM, you can take IT: **Blackboard Student User Training** under the IT training link at the top of the Blackboard page. It provides good training for first-time Blackboard users. I am happy to answer questions, but questions about the format I will send you to the IT people.

All assignments are to be posted on Blackboard. I accept no assignments as email attachments.

Tests will be taken at a testing center. If you are not on the main campus, you need to make arrangements elsewhere. Contact the testing center at the branch campus nearest to you.

Class Communication: You must have a WKU email account that you check every couple of days. I send announcements via email. It is your responsibility to keep your WKU email running.

Your failure to check email or empty your trash causing your account to reject incoming mail is not an excuse for not getting information from me.

Course Outcomes:

1. Students will obtain competence in understanding the structure/function of language including:
 - *Parts of speech and verb tenses
 - *Morphology and its importance for teaching reading and grammar
 - *Common grammatical errors, including punctuation issues
 - *How grammar has evolved over time; i.e., the history of English
2. Students will garner an appreciation for dialectal diversity and understand its place in academic and nonacademic settings.

Class Format: discussions and practice of topics. A significant part of your grade is based on participation in Discussion Board. There will be a set of requirements provided to elaborate on your participation **throughout** the week. Use formal English in your posts and written work.

This is not a class when you can work when you want. There are weekly discussions that you will need to do several days during the week (3 separate days between Monday and Friday, spread out). You can do them at 3 am if you like, but you will be required to "attend" class several days throughout the week. I have a family, and I already do too much work on the weekends already; I'm not going to do Discussion Board then. 7 days a week is not good!

If you want to work at your own pace, then I suggest that you drop this class and sign up for ENG 302 via Independent Learning. The class you are signed up for is just like any face-to-face class except that the method of delivery is online. **THIS CLASS IS HARDER THAN THE FACE-TO-FACE class** because you are not getting face-to-face attention 3 days a week.

Assignments: Homework assignments are due on the date and time specified. There will be a 5-day spread (Tues-Sat) to take the tests.

Evaluation: Discussion Board: 20%* Homework: 30% 2 Exams: 50%
****Participation includes the quantity and quality of your discussion postings. See handout.***

Grades: Grades on assignments will be given in percentages. Grades **are not** open to negotiation. Final grades are based on this scale:

A = 90-100% B = 80-89% C = 70-79% D = 60-69% F = below 60%

Academic theft: Copying from the library, the Internet or other students will not be tolerated. Students will receive failing grades on assignments with any plagiarized or copied sections. If you copy an assignment from another student, I will fail both of you. If the behavior is repeated, a failing grade will be received in the course, and you may be reported to university judiciaries.

Military Policy: If you are either reserve or active duty military personnel and are deployed during this course, bring me your orders, and I will make every effort to help you complete this class via Internet or snail mail.

Students with Disabilities: In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities that require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in Downing University Center, A200. Phone number is 270-745 5004.

Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services. Course requirements will not be waived, but I will be happy to assist you in making the accommodations you need as documented by the OSDS.