

English 2040: Critical Introduction to Writing Studies
Salt Lake Community College
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
English, Linguistics, and Writing Studies Department
Semester Year

Course Information

Section Information

Section:
Modality:
Day and Time:
Room:

Instructor Contact Information

Name
Best way to contact:
E-mail:
Phone:
Office:
Student Hours:

Course Description

Introduces the academic discipline of Writing Studies, which treats writing as both an activity and a subject of study. By reading and discussing contemporary scholarship and conducting primary research projects, students encounter threshold concepts key to understanding how writing studies scholars think and talk about writing. Intended for students exploring a major or minor in Writing Studies. 3 credits

Degree Requirements

English 2040 is a required course for the SLCC AS degree in Writing Studies.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of course, you will be able to:

- Describe the threshold concepts of writing studies.
- Identify the breadth of disciplinary approaches to studying writing.
- Analyze how rhetoric, literacy studies, and composition studies form the core of writing studies.
- Interpret foundational texts in writing studies.
- Analyze various roles of writing and writing education in higher education systems.
- Evaluate how writing works in the resistance to and preservation of institutional and social power structures.
- Conduct multi-source research into a specialized area.
- Select and present research to effectively share knowledge with others.

Course Requirements

Required Course Activities

Your grade for English 2040 will be based on the following learning activities:

- Short Writing Assignments (50%)
- Writing Studies Research Project (35%)
- Reflection Assignments (15%)

Reading Responses and Other Short Writing Assignments

Throughout the course, you will complete short reading, writing, research, and discussion activities. The short activities will help you analyze assigned readings, learn and remember key writing studies concepts, connect concepts to the course to your own experiences as a writer, and document your learning in the course. Some short activities will require you to read and respond to assigned writing studies texts. Other activities will ask you to share and respond to sources from independent research or share progress toward completing your writing studies research project. For online sections, most short assignments will be shared through a discussion board in Canvas. For hybrid and in person sections, some discussions and writing activities will take place during class, and you will complete other assignments on your own through Canvas. Instructions and grading criteria are available for each assignment in Canvas.

Writing Studies Research Project

Throughout the course, you will work on a research project that explores a complex issue related to writing studies. You will select a topic based on your own interests and educational or career goals and then connect your topic to a writing studies area of exploration. You may choose to do individual work or do a collaborative project with a partner or small group. Project activities will include finding and analyzing scholarly sources, designing and conducting informal original (primary) research, discussing sources with the class and analyzing them as examples of writing studies scholarship, sharing your research with the class, and writing a text in the genre of your choice to report on your findings. Project instructions and grading criteria will be available in the Course Assignments Module, and you will start the project during Module 3. Due dates for major parts of the project are listed in the online course schedule.

Reflection Assignments

You will complete two reflection assignments:

- A midterm reflection that connects your experiences with writing to course concepts (40% of the reflection grade);
- A final portfolio with a reflection essay that discusses your overall learning from the course with examples of your writing (60% of the reflection grade).

The reflection assignments will help you document your learning in the course and connect writing studies concepts to your own work as a writer. Instructions, grading criteria, and due dates for each reflection assignment are available in Canvas.

Grading Scale

The chart below shows how percentages translate into a final letter grade for the course:

- A: 94 to 100%
- A-: 90 to 93%
- B+: 87 to 89%
- B: 84 to 86%
- B-: 80 to 83%
- C+: 77 to 79%
- C: 74 to 76%

C-: 70 to 73%
D: 64 to 66%
D-: 60 to 63%
E: 0 to 59%

Required Textbook

Throughout the course, you will read short chapters from the following book about writing studies concepts:

- Naming What We Know: Threshold Concepts of Writing Studies, Classroom Edition edited by Linda Adler-Kassner and Elizabeth Wardle (Utah State University Press, 2016)
- Print version ISBN: 978-1-60732-577-2
- Digital version ISBN: 978-1-60732-578-9

Make sure that you buy the classroom edition, which is for undergraduate students. (NOTE: There is another longer version for graduate students and professors.) Because this book is relatively inexpensive, please consider buying it instead of renting it if you plan to complete a major or minor in writing studies or English. It's a book that you can draw from repeatedly in future writing studies courses.

Additional Online (OER) Texts for Analysis and Discussion

You will also complete additional online readings on literacy and writing studies concepts. Some readings will be available through links in Canvas, and others will be available through the SLCC online library databases (especially JSTOR). For some assignments, you will select texts to read and discuss from sources that you find for your writing project. For other modules, the entire class will read and discuss the same texts. Make sure that you download or print any articles on topics that you might want to use later for your writing studies research project. If you have difficulty accessing any texts that you would like to read, please contact the instructor.

Required Technology for Course Activities

Before starting the course, make sure that you have access to the following technology:

- **A computer (or other electronic device and a keyboard) with internet access.** Refer to "SLCC Technology Services for Students" for information about computer lab locations.
- **Microsoft Office 365** (available for free to SLCC students) or google documents. Read "Office 365 Information for Student Personal Devices" for instructions on how to download a free copy of Microsoft Office.
- **Adobe Acrobat Reader.** To download it for free, go to <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>.
- **Technology for Watching YouTube Videos.** See the YouTube System Requirements page for information about the technology required for playing videos on your computer or other device. If you are unable to watch or listen to videos, transcripts are available through the YouTube or TED Talks page for each assigned video.
- **A microphone and a camera for your computer** (if you are enrolled in a synchronous online section).

Course Guidelines and Other Information

Potential Changes to Course Information, Assignments, and Schedule

Course assignments, syllabus information, planned course topics, and/or the schedule may be revised to correct errors or to support the needs of students in the course. If any changes occur, you will receive a written notice through a Canvas announcement.

Course Communication Plan

For help with the class or to make an appointment, contact the instructor through the Canvas inbox. You will usually receive a response to a message within 24 hours during weekdays and by Monday morning for weekends. Expect to receive a grade for most short assignments within one week of the due date or within one week of when replies to classmates are due for an online section. Feedback for major assignments will be available within one to two weeks of the due date.

Confidentiality

When you contact the instructor for assistance, your concerns and requests for help will be treated with respect. Any private information that you share with the instructor will remain confidential except when mandatory reporting is required by law or by Salt Lake Community College for safety reasons.

Attendance and Participation for In Person Sections

Expect to participate actively in reading discussions and other activities during class. In person learning activities, discussions, and occasional scheduled Zoom or in person instructor conferences are a required part of this course. When you are unable to attend class, make sure that you review materials from class discussions in Canvas and complete all of the activities that classmates worked on during your absence. Please contact the instructor for help if you experience illnesses or personal emergencies that make it difficult for you to attend class regularly.

Attendance and Participation for Online Sections

Participating in in-class discussions for in Online discussions are an essential, required part of this class. For each module, you will submit a detailed response to one or more online discussions and respond to ideas from classmates. You will need to participate in these discussions at least two or three times a week to participate in the course and document your online attendance. Your participation in an online discussion or peer review workshop activity is equivalent to attending a class period in a face-to-face course. However, this course is structured around [asynchronous learning activities](#), which means that students will be working at their own pace and at different times to engage in discussions.

Due Dates

Each assignment is due to the appropriate section of Canvas (the discussion board or assignment dropbox) by the deadline included with the assignment instructions. Due dates are also available through the Canvas calendar, the Canvas to do list, and weekly announcements. Please remember that you may have two different due dates for online discussion activities: a) an initial deadline for posting your own work and b) a later deadline for responding to classmates.

Late Work

The deadlines listed in the course schedule and calendar indicate when the class will stop working on an activity and move on to other coursework. If an illness or emergency prevents

you from completing an assignment on time, please contact the professor to schedule an alternative due date. Explain where you are in the process for completing the assignment and state when you will submit the assignment to Canvas. Within a few days of missing a deadline, you will receive an incomplete (zero credit) grade for the assignment. Incomplete grades will help you monitor your progress in the course, and they are temporary if you complete and submit late work. You will receive an updated grade when you submit missing assignments. Depending on the situation and timing in the course, students who submit late work might not receive written feedback, but they can schedule an instructor appointment to receive help. Late assignments from the first part of the course are due in the middle of the course for a midterm grade. Work from the second half of the course is due no later than the last day of class before finals week.

Makeup Work for Missed Peer Review Workshops

The writing workshop activities for your course project require time sensitive interaction with classmates. To participate and receive course credit, you must submit your work on time and then give feedback to classmates by a specific deadline. Because the purpose of a peer review workshop is to discuss your work with other writers, you won't be able to submit late work. Instead, you can receive credit for a missed writing workshop by discussing your work with a tutor or professor in the [SLCC writing center](#) through an in person or online appointment.

Alternatively, you may schedule an appointment with the instructor. Information about how to receive makeup work credit for a writing center visit will be included with the workshop assignment instructions in Canvas.

Accessibility for All Students

Your instructor is committed to creating an environment that will help all students do their best learning. Please contact the instructor if you encounter any issues with Canvas or barriers in the course that make learning difficult for you. The instructor can also help you access SLCC resources for supporting your work as a college student, for staying safe on campus, and for dealing with any stressful life situations that make learning challenging for you.

For Students Who Need Accommodations

Information about accommodations for disabilities is available through the [SLCC Accessibility and Disability Services](#). If you have an accommodation plan, the instructor can help you learn how to use it in this class and in other courses. As an adult college student, you will be able to decide how and when to use an accommodation plan. Please let the instructor know how you would like to use your accommodation plan in this course. Many college students who don't have accommodation plans qualify for them because of a physical disability, learning disability, neurological disability, mental health issues, or chronic health issues. If you think that you might qualify or want additional information, the instructor is available to help you get started with the process for seeking accommodations through the Disability Resource Center.

Some students with temporary health issues do not qualify for an accommodation plan through the Disability Resource Center. If you have an extended illness or injury while taking this course, the instructor can provide you with support in figuring how to complete the course successfully or receive an incomplete grade if you need extra time to finish required activities. The federal government requires all college instructors to [excuse absences and provide late work accommodations](#) for students who have medical issues related to pregnancy, childbirth, and recovering from childbirth. The instructor is available to help you plan for any support with this course that you might potentially need related to pregnancy and childbirth.

Learning How to Avoid Plagiarism

Plagiarism means taking someone else's work and presenting it as your own. In this course, you are not permitted to turn in an assignment that you did not write or have someone else do your coursework for you. The consequences for plagiarism in a college class are serious and may include receiving a failing grade for an assignment or the course. (For more information, see the [SLCC Student Code of Conduct](#).) However, many students are still learning about how to avoid plagiarism in their first year or two of college. For this reason, you will receive feedback in this course that will help you avoid plagiarism and show readers the difference between your work and the ideas of others. If you don't understand how to avoid plagiarism, the instructor can provide you with individual help as you learn how to use sources for college writing. Please contact the instructor if you need help introducing sources or if you don't know what plagiarism means.

Using Generative Artificial Intelligence for Writing

Please avoid using generative artificial intelligence (GAI) tools like ChatGPT for course activities as a replacement for your own writing. Assignments for this course require you to explain your own thinking about assigned texts, videos, and other resources. You also need to make connections between concepts from texts and your own lived experiences with writing, which isn't something that you can do with GAI. If you have a logical reason for using ChatGPT or a similar tool for a course assignment, include a citation to let the class know that the information comes from generative artificial intelligence. Please be aware that GAI tools often provide users with inaccurate results, false information, and fake citations. Free versions cannot access most readings for this course. The results can also be biased or offensive. As a college student, it is your responsibility to make sure that you evaluate any information that you receive from a GAI tool and ensure that you use technology in an ethical, credible (trustworthy), and accurate way.

Incomplete Grades

An [incomplete](#) grade option is available for students who have successfully completed most of the course but have an illness or personal emergency near the end of the course. To request an incomplete grade, you must have completed at least 70% of the course **and** you must be passing the course at the time of your request. You must make arrangements with the instructor to receive an incomplete grade before the class ends and submit a required SLCC form. Incomplete grades are not available after you have already received a course grade. If you think that you might need to receive an incomplete grade, please contact the instructor before the last day of class to discuss your options.

Additional Online Course Information

The following information is available through the course Canvas site in the orientation module and online syllabus:

- An orientation to the course
- Information about how to use the course Canvas site
- Instructions for how to complete course activities
- A course schedule
- Student and instructor responsibilities
- SLCC technology resources
- SLCC institutional policies and statements
- SLCC resources for students