

ENGL 131 A7 - Winter 2021 - "Un Grading" Agreement & Writing Expectations



The Cryptonaturalist

21 mins •



Studying language isn't important because we need to learn about commas.

It's important because writing and reading stories is how we step into one another's perspectives.

Wisdom, honesty, and empathy are mighty hard to cultivate if you don't travel beyond your own experience.

Think of me NOT as the gatekeeper of grades or a judge determining your academic worth. That is, I don't decide how well you do in this class -- YOU do. I'm just here to record the progress for the work you put in. So, instead, think of me as your greatest resource. Take advantage of my presence. Ask me questions. Send me emails. This should be your lowest stress class of the quarter. It should be impossible to fail this class. I'm here to make sure of that, as long as we keep this Agreement:

As a member of ENGL 131 A7 Winter 2021, you agree to the following expectations and responsibilities:

Effort

- Sign on to class on your Pod day having read the readings, done necessary discussion posts, and reviewed the week's module
- Commit to due dates to the best of your ability
- Utilize the **three (3) hours** given back to you from the days your Pod does not meet as **extra work time**
 - Per [UW Academic Credit policies](#), 1 course credit = 3 hours of work a week; thus a **5-credit course = 15 hours of work a week** including class meetings, office hours, conferences, and work outside of class meetings. Budget and organize your time accordingly. At the very least, set aside the **three (3) hours** your Pod doesn't meet to work on specifically ENGL 131 content.
- Complete all assignments (see Assignments list below)
- Attend two (2) one on one conferences (sign up sheets will be provided)
- Contribute to conversation during your Pod day
- Most importantly, *contact Lenk if you feel you're struggling to meet these Effort agreements in any way!!*

Conduct

- Commit to respectful feedforward philosophy with your peers during discussion, conversation, and work collaboration/exchange
- Commit to the understanding that not understanding something is OK, but refusing to understand something is NOT
- Get comfy with being uncomfy in your ignorance
 - In other words, if you aren't sure how to feel about something, *learn about it*; if an idea, discussion, or reading feels difficult, *let's discuss why*
- Make the effort to de-center Prevalent American English or Dominant Academic Discourse as the correct, professional, formal, legitimate code(s)
 - You'll still have assignments that ask you to use these codes, but only as called for by genre
- Most importantly, *contact Lenk if you feel you're struggling to meet these Conduct agreements in any way!!*

Baseline Writing Expectations

- Complete all assignments in **Google Docs** and submit the Share link on Canvas via Text Box or Writer's Memo, whichever is applicable
 - Make sure the link is accessible to UW emails with Commenting permission enabled
- Use the appropriate code for the appropriate genre, especially if the assignment calls for it
 - For example: *Use Dominant Academic Discourse for this research paper assignment versus Translate this thesis statement into a Tweet*
- Discussion post paragraphs should be 3-5 sentences
- Written responses should be carefully considered and comprehensive (in other words, it'll be obvious if little effort was made)
- Be conscious of and communicate what you are looking to receive feedback on in space provided on assignment rubrics

As leader of ENGL 131 A7 Winter 2021, I agree to the following responsibilities and reciprocations:

Effort

- Respond to emails and messages within 24 hours
- Be available for office hours and to the best of my ability for one on one meetings
- Provide feedback and grades within a reasonable/timely manner
- Provide regular Announcements regarding due dates and other communications
- Publish accessible class material and content AT LEAST one (1) week ahead
- Make adjustments to syllabus when a need arises, such as adjusting due dates or canceling an assignment/reading
- Be available to discuss feedback and grades should you be concerned about either

- Make every effort to provide clear information, instructions, and feedback, and clarification when needed
- To open and manage a Writing Feedforward module where you can request specific feedback on past assignments
- Be available for concerns regarding universal design and accessibility of course content and material
- Most importantly, *to commit to your success as a student and as a writer!!*

Assessment

- Review your work and provide equitable feedforward evaluation based on the expectations of the assignment and of the assignment's code
- Provide grades on a scale of **to be improved** / **satisfactory** / **very strong**
 - Note: this does not mean Fail / Pass / A+. See previous and final bullet point.
 - See syllabus and/or assignment details for guidance translating point value to above scale.
- Record a final course grade reflective of demonstrated effort over the quarter and within the Final Portfolio (see grade chart on syllabus)
- Provide baseline rubrics for Short Assignments and Major Projects with room to emphasize any elements of your own writing you want feedback to focus on
- Most importantly, *to record a grade reflective not of VALUE or LANGUAGE "PROFICIENCY" but of your PROGRESS and POSITIONING within the [EWP Outcomes](#)*

GUIDE TO AGREED UPON ASSESSMENT EXPECTATIONS

A final course grade of **C (2.0) or higher** is required for ENGL 131 credit. The [UW grading system](#) seen on the syllabus (a requirement of the EWP, University of Washington's Expository Writing Program) operates on a 0.0 - 4.0 numerical scale.

Here's how it breaks down for us in terms of the MINIMUM work expected for each grade, with 30% Participation and 70% Final Portfolio accounted for:

** This will be edited according to Week 1 Survey.*

To achieve a grade of 2.0

- Attend at least 7 of your 10 Pod days
- Attend both quarter Conferences
- Be ready to engage with course material and demonstrate the expectations of Effort, Conduct, and Baseline Writing Expectations above
- Complete at least 70% of the Discussion Posts
- Submit complete and on time:
 - 3 of the 5 Short Assignments
 - Peer Review
 - Major Project 1
- Submit Final Portfolio complete* and on time
- Complete all work required for this grade with no more than one (1) assignment being late

To achieve a grade of 3.0

- Attend at least 8 of your 10 Pod days
- Attend both quarter Conferences
- Be ready to engage with course material and demonstrates the expectations of Effort, Conduct, and Baseline Writing Expectations above
- Complete at least 80% of the Discussion Posts
- Submit complete and on time:
 - 3 of the 5 Short Assignments
 - Peer Review
 - Both Major Projects
- Submit Final Portfolio complete* and on time
- Complete all work required for this grade with no more than one (1) assignment being late

To achieve a grade of 3.5

- Attend at least 8 of your 10 Pod days
- Attend both quarter Conferences
- Be ready to engage with course material and demonstrate the expectations of Effort, Conduct, and Baseline Writing Expectations above

- Complete at least 90% of the Discussion Posts
- Submit complete and on time:
 - 4 of the 5 Short Assignments
 - Peer Review
 - Both Major Projects
- Submit Final Portfolio complete* and on time
- Complete all work required for this grade with no more than two (2) assignments being late

To achieve a grade of 3.8

- Attend at least 9 of your 10 Pod days
- Attend both quarter Conferences
- Be ready to engage with course material and demonstrate the expectations of Effort, Conduct, and Baseline Writing Expectations above
- Complete at least 95% of the Discussion Posts
- Submit complete and on time:
 - All 5 Short Assignments
 - Peer Review
 - Both Major Projects
- Submit Final Portfolio complete* and on time
- Complete all work required for this grade with no more than two (2) assignments being late

To achieve a grade of 4.0

- Attend all Pod days
- Attend both quarter Conferences
- Be ready to engage with course material and demonstrate the expectations of Effort, Conduct, and Baseline Writing Expectations above
- Complete 100% of the Discussion Posts
- Submit complete and on time:
 - All 5 Short Assignments
 - Peer Review
 - Both Major Projects
- Submit Final Portfolio complete* and on time
- Complete all work required for this grade with no more than two (2) assignments being late

** Submitting “complete” Final Portfolio means the portfolio includes ALL work you’ve completed over the quarter, even if it’s ONLY what is in the minimum grade expectations.*

** Note that grades do not correlate to grammar, spelling, etc. or “proficiency,” but to the effort put into class and writing.*

By demonstrating effort in the spirit in which work is assigned and doing so on time, students will receive no less than the agreed upon grade. Anything that falls between the expectations above will be graded at the discretion of the instructor but always in favor of a higher grade whenever possible.

Raising Your Grade

+0.1 - Take advantage of the Writing Feedforward module at least once

+0.1 - Complete small side assignment (discussed with instructor) to compensate for any absence beyond three (3) days

+0.2 - Submit a revision, rewrite, or response to Writing Feedforward

+0.1 to +0.2 - Submit missed assignment(s) by the end of Week 9 (7 March)

- At least 50% missed work: **+0.1**
- All missed work: **+0.2**

Absences, Late/Missed/Extensions, & Mental Health days

The lists above are the minimum expected work for each grade, BUT -- Unprecedented Times™ or not -- life happens. Work happens. Family happens. Too much work in other classes happens.

Miscommunication and bad mental health days happen. The absolutely unexpected *happens*.

As always, the most important thing is to communicate with me ASAP regarding any of the following.

Absences

Attending your Pod day is included in the minimum requirements for each grade. Because your Pod only meets once a week, it's crucial not just for participation but for you to understand and most successfully complete the week's work.

You'll see above the number of meetings you can miss for each grade. Please also see Mental Health Days below.

Late/Missed/Extensions

Late/Missed

Any late assignment (beyond the minimum requirements) is considered missed until Week 9. Refer to "Raising Your Grade" from above:

- Raising your grade **+0.1 to +0.2** - Submit missed assignment(s) by the end of Week 9 (7 March)
 - At least 50% missed work: **+0.1**
 - All missed work: **+0.2**

What this means is that if you miss an assignment or submit an assignment late beyond what's allowed in the minimum requirements, it will factor into the above "missed work" category. So -- if you miss an assignment, *still do it*. It doesn't disappear into the ether. It just slides on into the clause above.

Extensions

Taking into consideration the minimum agreed requirements, late/missed policies, and Mental Health days, extensions will be granted for Short Assignments and Major Projects on a case by case basis. If you feel you need an extension on any of those assignments, email me right away. Extensions won't be granted for Discussion Posts.

By staying in this course and attending class, you accept and commit to the expectations and grade obligations Agreed upon here (4 January 2021 - 19 March 2021); I (Lenk) also agree to abide fairly and equitably by the expectations of me.

*This contract has been adapted from Kaelie Giffel, Anselma Prihandita, Asao Inoue's grading contracts, among others.

Assignments

Canvas Discussion Posts (TBD)

Conferences (2)

Short Assignment 1

- Interrogation of a Word

Short Assignment 2

- Personal Abecedarius

Short Assignment 3

- Investigation: Myths & Monsters

Peer Review: Short Assignment 3

Short Assignment 4

- Cracking Codes

Short Assignment 5

- Annotated Bibliography

Major Project 1

- Personal Antiracist & Inclusivity Statement

Major Project 2

- Digital Research Portfolio

Final Portfolio

- Canvas ePortfolio of Revisions, Compendium, Class CV, and Critical Reflection