



COURSE OUTLINE - Winter 2026

EN1201(A3): Composition and Rhetoric - 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Heather Joyce **PHONE:** 780-539-2977
OFFICE: C418 **E-MAIL:** hjoyce@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Mondays 3:00 p.m.-4:15 p.m. and by appointment

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course will help students become more sophisticated users and producers of written texts. Instruction will include basic academic essay writing skills and the various rhetorical approaches used when addressing specific audiences. The main goals of the course are to help students integrate reading and writing and to become familiar with the conventions of college- (and university-) level writing. This includes producing coherent, logical texts that are relatively free of surface errors. To achieve these goals, the course encourages students to think critically, to read closely and analytically, and to compose responses to a variety of texts, both written and visual.

PREREQUISITE(S): English 30-1

COREQUISITE(S): None

REQUIRED MATERIALS: All required readings will be posted on myClass (D2L). It is your responsibility to ensure that you are able to access and read these works in advance of the class in which they will be discussed.

DELIVERY MODE(S): This course is delivered on campus. Students are required to attend lectures, participate in class discussions, and complete the assessments listed below.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: After taking this course, successful students will be able to

- analyze texts through close reading
- express ideas clearly and respond critically to written works through writing
- describe the constituent parts of an effective essay (thesis statement, topic sentence, etc.) and reproduce these elements in their own writings
- recognize and use a range of paragraph structures and patterns
- plan, outline, and draft a piece of writing that develops a specific thesis
- revise a text, adjusting style and content for specific purposes and audiences
- recognize varied rhetorical strategies in a range of texts and employ these strategies in their own writing
- proofread writing for surface errors and correct the majority of these errors.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferralberta.alberta.ca>

**** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

Tasks – 15%

In-Class Writing Assignment – 15%

Writing Assignment – 15%

Test One – 15%

Test Two – 15%

Final Exam – 25%

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most institutions will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Grading Chart

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	C	2.0	63-66

A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Weeks 1-2: Critical Reading Practices (Strategies for Active Reading)

Weeks 3-5: Considering Audience, Occasion, and Purpose (Planning Strategies, Research, and Documentation)

Weeks 6: Grammar and Style (Syntax, Diction, Style, Sentence Structure)

Week 7: Development Patterns I: Illustration and Narration

Weeks 8-9: Development Patterns II: Description, Definition, Classification

Weeks 10-11: Development Patterns III: Comparison and Contrast, Argument

Weeks 12-15: Rhetoric in Action

A complete schedule of readings will be posted on myClass (D2L).

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. This course will be delivered on campus. Some course components (tasks, the in-class writing assignment, tests, and the final exam) require onsite attendance.
2. Tasks will be completed during class. Missed assessments can be completed only in extenuating circumstances. The instructor should be notified by e-mail of the impending absence as soon as is reasonably possible. Students may need to provide documentation. Missed assessments should be made up within two weeks of the missed class (unless extenuating circumstances preclude that possibility).
3. Students must complete the in-class writing assignment, tests, and the final exam during the allotted times. Alternative dates will be considered only in extenuating circumstances. Documentation may be required
4. Assignments are to be uploaded to myClass (D2L) and submitted directly to me in hard-copy form. I will not accept assignments submitted via e-mail. Assignments will not be considered received until both hard-copy and electronic versions have been submitted.
5. It is the student's responsibility to retain a copy of ALL assignments submitted for grading; in the unlikely event of loss, a duplicate copy must be made available upon request.

6. Written assignments are to be submitted on time. Late assignments will incur a penalty of 5% per day with weekends counting as two days.
7. Extensions will be granted for written assignments in extenuating circumstances. Documentation may be required.
8. Students are required to check the myClass (D2L) site for this course before each class to stay informed.
9. The myClass (D2L) site for this course contains everything students need to be successful. Students should resist the temptation to go outside of the course to consult literary guides, other websites, etc.
10. **Students are not permitted to use any AI resources (including but not limited to ChatGPT, Grammarly's AI tools, etc.) when completing in-class and out-of-class assignments for this course. All of the work you submit also **MUST** be your own.** We will discuss academic integrity in class, covering both what constitutes academic misconduct at NWP and the research and citation practices that can help students ensure they avoid charges of academic dishonesty and the associated penalties. Please note students are required to accept the Turnitin user agreement when submitting assignments via myClass (D2L).
11. You are welcome to contact me via e-mail to ask questions, etc. Please note that you are more likely to receive a quick response if you contact me during regular working hours (Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). My response time on weekends will be slower. I will respond to most e-mails within 48 hours (depending on the volume of e-mails I receive). If you have a complicated question or are seeking specific assignment advice (if you would like me to read drafts, make suggestions regarding essay structure, etc.), you should drop in during my regular office hours or contact me via e-mail and ask to meet outside of those hours.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.