

WRI 103A: Writing for Science Undergraduates

3 credits, 3 hour lecture

This course provides intensive writing practice to help students improve their ability to communicate clearly in writing. By studying examples and applying principles of scientific writing to a variety of contexts, students will develop their skills in writing expository, analytical, technical, and persuasive prose. They will also learn to analyze and evaluate argumentation and to apply those skills to their own written and oral presentations.

Prerequisite: ENGL 30-1 or equivalent

Instructor

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Office Hours

Monday	1:00 - 1:50 AM
Tuesday	1:00 - 1:50 PM
Wednesday	11:00 -11:50 AM
Thursday	2:00 – 2:50
Friday	1:00- 1:50 PM

Hours of Instruction

Monday , Wednesday, 4:00-4:50 PM
Friday

Required Resources

Northey, M., Knight, D., & Draper, D. (2015). *Making sense: A student's guide to research and writing in geography and environmental sciences*. 6th ed. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0-19-901022-6 (Either the 6th ed. or the 7th ed. is acceptable)

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Adapt writing to different audiences and genres, with an environmental emphasis.
- Develop a proposal, review scientific literature and write a comprehensive report to demonstrate an understanding of environmental research.
- Plan, draft, review, edit and proofread written work to university standards.
- Apply guidelines to give and receive useful feedback during peer editing sessions in order to facilitate continuous improvement.

Evaluation

<i>Assignment</i>	Percentage	Draft Workshop	Due Date
Observation (500 words)	5%	September 25	October 5
Interview (750 words)	10%	October 16	October 23
Scientific Argument Proposal (500 words)	5%	n/a	October 30
Summary (500 words)	5%	n/a	November 6
Annotated Bibliography (variable, but includes at least 10 items)	10%	November 9	November 16
Visual analysis (1000 words)	15%	November 20	November 30
Scientific argument (2000 words)	25%	November 27	December 2
In-class writing (variable length)	10%	n/a	ongoing
In-class activities	5%	n/a	ongoing
Peer response workshops	10%	n/a	ongoing

A grade of C- is required for progression or transfer.

Draft Workshops

Throughout the term, you will participate in a total of five peer response draft workshops. These workshops will give you the opportunity to provide and receive feedback on an upcoming assignment.

Participation in each peer response draft workshop is worth 2% of your final grade.

Informal Writing

Throughout the term, a total of 12 in-class writing assignments will be given. These may take the form of paragraph responses, summaries of online research, short reports, notes, or other styles. In calculating your final grade, I will drop the lowest two. Informal writing will be submitted to the drop box on Moodle.

In-Class Informal Activities

Group work, quizzes, discussions, and other informal learning activities in class will contribute to the final grade. You will need to be present in class to receive credit for these activities on any given day.

Grading System

Descriptor	Alpha Grade	4.0 Scale	Percent	Rubric for Letter Grades
Excellent	A+	4.0	> 92.9	Work shows in-depth and critical analysis, well developed ideas, creativity, excellent
	A	4.0	85 – 92.9	

	A-	3.7	80 – 84.9	writing, clarity and proper format.
Good	B+	3.3	77 – 79.9	Work is generally of high quality, well developed, well written, has clarity, and uses proper format.
	B	3.0	74 – 76.9	
	B-	2.7	70 – 73.9	
Satisfactory Progression	C+	2.3	67 – 69.9	Work has some developed ideas but needs more attention to clarity, style and formatting.
	C	2.0	64 – 66.9	
	C-	1.7	60 – 63.9	
Poor Minimum Pass	D+	1.3	55 – 59.9	Work is completed in a general way with minimal support, or is poorly written or did not use proper format.
	D	1.0	50 – 54.9	
Failure	F	0.0	< 50	Responses fail to demonstrate appropriate understanding or are fundamentally incomplete.

Proposed Schedule of Topics

d. Other readings will be posted on Moodle. Informal writing is almost always due the same day it is assigned.

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS GIVEN	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Sept. 2-4	Introduction to course		Informal writing 1 Sept. 4	
Sept. 9-11	Audience and purpose in scientific writing	Northey, Draper & Knight, Chapter 1	Observation assignment given Sept. 11 Informal writing 2 Sept. 11	
Sept. 14-18	Writing the observation	Chapter 11 Ackerman, Why leaves turn color in the fall (Coursepack)	Informal writing 3 Sept. 18	
Sept. 21-25	Writing the observation			Observation draft workshop Sept. 25
Sept. 28-Oct. 2	Writing the interview	Quammen, Being Jane Goodall	Interview assignment given Sept. 28 Informal writing 4 Oct. 2	
Oct. 5-9	Reading a scientific paper		Informal writing 5 Oct. 9	Observation due Oct. 5
OCT. 12	THANKSGIVING	DAY	COLLEGE	CLOSED
Oct. 14-16	Writing the summary		Scientific argument	Interview draft

			assignment given Oct.14 Summary assignment given Oct. 14	workshop Oct. 16
Oct. 19	Library class		Informal writing 6 Oct. 19	
Oct. 21-23	Writing the annotated bibliography	Chapter 7	Annotated bibliography assignment given Oct. 21 Informal writing 7 Oct. 23	Interview due Oct. 23
Oct. 26-30	Assessing research sources	Chapter 2	Informal writing 8 October 30	Proposal due Oct. 30
Nov. 2-6	Analyzing a visual argument	Chapter 12	Visual analysis assignment given Nov. 2 In-class writing 9 November 6	Summary due Nov. 6
Nov. 9				Annotated bibliography draft workshop Nov. 9
NOV. 11	REMEMBRANCE DAY	COLLEGE	CLOSED	
NOV. 13	READING	DAY	NO	CLASSES
Nov. 16-20	Ethics in scientific writing	Chapter 13	Informal writing 10 Nov. 16	Annotated bibliography due Nov. 18 Visual analysis draft workshop Nov. 20
Nov. 23-27	Developing a scientific argument		In-class writing 11 Nov. 25	Scientific argument draft workshop Nov. 27
Nov. 30-Dec. 2	Editing and proofreading a scientific argument	Chapters 14-17	Informal writing 12 Dec. 2	Visual analysis due Nov. 30 Scientific argument due Dec. 2
Dec. 7-18	FINAL	EXAMS	<i>Do not book travel until you know your exam schedule!</i>	

Please Note: Date and time allotted to each topic is subject to change.

Performance Requirements

Student Responsibilities

It is your responsibility as a student to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the forms for Withdrawal or Change of Registration, and any other forms. Please refer to the list of important dates as noted in the Academic Schedule in the [Keyano College credit calendar](#). The Keyano College credit calendar also has information about Student Rights and Code of Conduct. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Code of Conduct Policies.

Student Attendance

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a student's learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and notes that may be due.

Academic Misconduct

Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as one's own;
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating);
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work;
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications;
- The willful distortion of results or data;
- Substitution in an examination by another person;
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment; and
- Breach of confidentiality.

The consequences for academic misconduct range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the College. More specific descriptions and details are found in the Student Rights and Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Code of Conduct Policies.

In order to ensure your understanding of the concept of plagiarism, you must successfully complete the online tutorial found on ilearn.keyano.ca. Then print the certificate, sign it, and show it to each of your instructors. Your course work may not be graded until you show this signed certificate.

Specialized Supports

The Student Services department is committed to Keyano students and their academic success. There are a variety of student supports available at Keyano College. Due to the continuing situation with the Covid-19 pandemic, the offered support services will be implemented differently this semester by being provided mostly virtually. In-person service can be requested as needed. All Alberta Health Services guidelines will be followed for in-person appointments—wear a mask, maintain two meters of physical distance, use hand sanitizer, and stay home if you are unwell.

All student services are available during Keyano business hours: Monday to Friday, 8h30-16h30. The Library has evening and weekend hours. Please check keyano.ca/library for current hours.

Accessibility Services: provides accommodations for students with disabilities. Students with documented disabilities, or who suspect a disability, can meet with a Learning Strategist to discuss their current learning barriers and possible accommodations. Students who have accessed accommodations in the past are encouraged to contact us to request them for the semester. Please note that requesting accommodations is a process and requires time to arrange. Contact us as soon as you know you may require accommodations. For accessibility services supports and to book a virtual appointment, please contact accessibility.services@keyano.ca.

Accessibility Services also provides individual and group learning strategy instruction for all students, as well as technology training and supports to enhance learning. Meet with a Learning Strategist to learn studying and test-taking strategies for online classes. Schedule an appointment with the Assistive Technology Specialist to explore technology tools for learning. Book an appointment today by emailing accessibility.services@keyano.ca

Academic Success Coaching: offers you support and access to resources for your academic success to help you to find the Keys to your Success. The Academic Success Coach will work with you to develop an academic success plan, develop your study and time management skills, and connect you with the right resources here at Keyano. Academic.success@keyano.ca is the best way to access resources during virtual service delivery.

Wellness Services: offers a caring, inclusive, and respectful environment where students can access free group and individual support to meet academic and life challenges. Mental Health Coordinators offer a safe and confidential environment to seek help with personal concerns. All individual appointments will continue virtually.

Wellness Services welcomes students to participate in any of the virtual group sessions offered throughout the academic year addressing topics including mindfulness and test anxiety.

Individual virtual appointments can be made by emailing wellness.services@keyano.ca.

Library Services: provides students with research and information supports as they engage in their studies. Library staff are available to support you both virtually and in person during the fall semester. For library service supports and inquiries, please email askthelibrary@keyano.ca.

[Individual support with the Information Librarian will be provided virtually. Appointments can be requested by email or by placing a Book a Librarian request using the online form found here.](#)

Research and Subject Guides are helpful resources when conducting research or addressing your information needs. To view a subject or course specific guide, use the following [Subject Guides link](#)

To access additional research resources, including Citation Guides (APA, MLA, Chicago, or IEEE), go to the [Research Help Library page](#).

Skill Centre: provides academic support services to students registered in credit programs at Keyano College in the form of tutoring, writing support groups, facilitated study groups, workshops and study space. Tutoring services are **free** to Keyano students. Tutoring is available for Math, Writing, English, and Science subject areas.

While most courses are being offered online, the Skill Center will be offering mostly virtual tutoring services and in-person sessions as requested. Please email Skill.centre@keyano.ca to get in contact with our tutoring staff.

For the most up to date information on how to book a tutoring session, please view the [Keyano Skill Centre homepage](#).

E-Learning

Technology and internet will impact your online learning experience. It's important that you are able to watch an online video and other course materials, take online quizzes, and participant in a live class with your instructor and other students.

Keyano College operates in a Windows based environment and having the correct tools for online learning is important. Here's a list of recommended system requirements for Fall 2020.

Internet Speed

Minimum Internet speeds of 5 Mbps.

Recommended Internet speeds of 25 Mbps (especially if you are sharing your internet at home).

Check your internet speed with [Fast.com](#).

System requirements:

Microsoft Windows	Apple
<p>Minimum Requirements:</p> <p>A Windows 10 computer/laptop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Minimum 4GB of RAM. · 10GB+ available hard drive storage. · Enough available hard drive space to install the Microsoft Office suite (approximately 3GB). Microsoft Office software is free to all Keyano students and employees. · Microphone, webcam and speakers. A headset with a microphone is recommended. · System updates must be regularly installed. · Anti-Virus / Anti-Malware software 	<p>Minimum Requirements:</p> <p>A Macintosh (V10.14 and above) computer/laptop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Minimum 4GB of RAM. · 10GB+ available hard drive storage. · Enough available hard drive space to install the Microsoft Office suite (approximately 3GB). Microsoft Office software is free to all Keyano students and employees. · Microphone, webcam and speakers. A headset with a microphone is recommended. · System updates must be regularly installed. · Anti-Virus / Anti-Malware software.

<p>Recommended Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· 8GB of RAM· A method of backing up/synchronizing to local or cloud-based storage such as OneDrive is highly recommended. This is included if you complete the setup of KeyanoMail and download MS Office using your Keyano email for free.	<p>Recommended Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· 8GB of RAM· A method of backing up/synchronizing to local or cloud-based storage such as OneDrive is highly recommended. This is included if you complete the setup of KeyanoMail and download MS Office using your Keyano email for free.
<p>Chromebooks are not recommended as they are not compatible with testing lockdown browsers.</p> <p>A Microsoft Surface or iPad or iPad Pro may be possible alternatives in some program areas.</p>	

Specific department requirements:

Business and OA programs require Windows 10.

Other programs may utilize Windows based tools as well.

Computer Software

Students will be able to get access to Microsoft Office 365 for Free using Keyano Credentials by [clicking here](#).

Recording of lectures and Intellectual Property

Students may only record a lecture if explicit permission is provided by the instructor or by Accessibility Services. Even if students have permission to record a lecture or lecture materials, students may not publish any of the lectures or lecture materials, this includes any recordings, slides, instructor notes, etc. on any platform. Thus no student is allowed to publish or sell instructor notes without formal written permission. It is important to recognize that the Canadian Copyright Act contains provisions for intellectual property.

ITS Helpdesk

If you are having issues with your student account, you can contact the ITS Helpdesk by emailing its.helpdesk@keyano.ca or calling 780-791-4965.

Please watch your Keyano email for workshop announcements from our Student Academic Support Services team.