

ENGL 629

Writing Transfer Theory & Practice



Northern Illinois
University

Class Information

Location: Reavis Hall, 210
Day/Time: MW 3:30-4:45
Readings: All readings available
through Blackboard

Instructor Information

Instructor: Ryan P. Shepherd
Email: rshepherd@niu.edu
Office: Reavis Hall, 215B
Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 2-3:30

Course Description

Learning transfer is using learning from one context in a different context. This class focuses on the history, theory, and practice of learning transfer as it applies teaching and learning writing--sometimes called writing transfer. We will specifically explore how to facilitate writing transfer across disparate contexts by looking at connections to reflection, key terms, theories of writing, multimodality, disposition, and other topics.

Course Outcomes

By the end of ENGL 629, you will be able to:

- Apply learning transfer theories to writing studies.
- Create assignments that facilitate writing transfer.
- Build on current learning transfer theory with new methods or practices.

Major Assignments

ENGL 629 includes a smaller mid-term project and a larger final project. ENGL 703 students will also complete one additional assignment.

Exploration Assignment

Choose (or find) one article or book chapter that covers an area of writing transfer that we're not already covering in class (or aren't covering fully). Present what you learned from the text and guide a discussion on your chosen topic.

Application Assignment

Grapple with the literature we've covered on writing transfer this semester and provide one of three possible final projects.

- Extend writing transfer theory in an article-style essay.
- Craft a research proposal for a transfer-based project.
- Apply writing transfer theory to a pedagogical setting.

All options are expected to be deeply connected to current research and to extend that research in some way.

Facilitation Project (ENGL 703 Only)

Students taking ENGL 629 as a doctoral seminar (ENGL 703) are expected to co-facilitate one class with Ryan. This involves choosing extra readings on a topic and preparing discussion and an activity for that class. A short reflection on the facilitation is required.

Class Policies

Attendance

You are expected to attend all classes. In-person attendance is expected except in specific exceptional circumstances. Reasonable accommodation can be made for a missed class if approved in advance. If you cannot attend due to an emergency, please let Ryan know as soon as you're able.

Out-of-Class Work

All assignments should be submitted to Blackboard at least 30 minutes before class time. Work will be accepted late with prior approval or in extreme circumstances.

Tech

You are encouraged to bring a laptop, tablet, or phone to each class. Please use your tech during class time for class-related subjects.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Using other people's words without giving credit—even reading responses—is not acceptable. The English department's plagiarism policy is available [here](#). If you are unsure if something is plagiarism, please ask us in advance—and always err on the side of caution.

Anti-racism & Inclusion

All students should feel safe and respected in this class and others. This includes a rejection of white supremacy, a commitment to LGBTQ+ rights, and every effort to include people of different cultural backgrounds, abilities, and beliefs. Hate has no home in this class. If you feel unsafe or disrespected in this class or any other, please reach out to us, and we will do all we can to help.

Preferred Names & Pronouns

You will be asked for your preferred name and pronouns on the first day of class. If these change during the semester, please let us know.

Grading Policies

I'm going to try something a bit different this semester. Grades for the class will be determined not by percentages but by completion of specific benchmarks. If you complete everything in the row below, you will receive that grade.

Grades	In Class	Homework	EXP Project	APP Project	703 Extra PhD Only
A	Attend all classes and participate actively	Complete all homework assignments	All A criteria met or exceeded	All A criteria met or exceeded	All A criteria met or exceeded
A-	“	“	All A- criteria met or exceeded	All A- criteria met or exceeded	All A- criteria met or exceeded
B+	One unexcused absence or inactive discussion	One incomplete homework assignment	All B+ criteria met or exceeded	All B+ criteria met or exceeded	All B+ criteria met or exceeded
B or lower	Two unexcused absences or no discussion	Two incomplete homework assignments	One or more B+ criterion not met	One or more B+ criteria not met	One or more B+ criteria not met

Resources

Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability and would like an accommodation for this class, please contact the [Disability Resource Center](#). The center is located in the Campus Life Building in Suite 180. They can be reached at 815-753-1303 or drc@niu.edu. I am happy to provide a productive learning environment in any way I can.

International Students

NIU welcomes students from all around the world. [International Student Scholar Services](#) can assist you if you are facing any problems, such as visas or cultural adjustment. They are located in Willston Hall and can be reached at 815-753-1346 or isfo@niu.edu.

**Language
Diversity**

You are welcome in this class regardless of your first language or fluency in English. If language barriers are causing problems for you in class in any way, please reach out to me.

**Undocumented
Students**

You are welcome in this class regardless of your documentation status with the US government. If you are undocumented and need help, you can contact [Undocumented Student Support](#) in the Campus Life Building in Suite 230. They can also be reached at undocumented@niu.edu.

NIU Land Acknowledgement

The four locations of Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Naperville, Rockford, and Oregon occupy the traditional homelands of Anishinaabe peoples— Niswi-mishkodewinan, also known as the Council of the Three Fires—comprised of the Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Odawa. Other Indigenous peoples who call this land home include the Sac and Fox, Kickapoo, Peoria, Miami, and Sioux. We acknowledge the presence and continued vitality of these and other Native communities in our state and Midwest region.

Syllabus Updates

This syllabus is subject to change with notification. Any changes made will be posted in Blackboard, and you will be notified.