



*Mitchell College is a transformative and inclusive learning community.
We create a radically supportive, empowering environment where each individual's growth is nurtured and celebrated.*

First-Year Experience

Course Title: Writing for College and Beyond

Course ID#: CW101A.

Credits: 3

ABE Dominant Ability to be Assessed: Communication **Level:** 1

Instructor: Kelvin Ake

Class Time: Monday 10-11:20am

Class Location: Duques 108

Office Hours: Monday 1:30 - 2:30pm

Contact: ake_k@mitchell.edu

Catalog Course Description:

This course introduces students to the writing, reading, research, and critical thinking skills necessary for success in college and life. Assignments will emphasize composition processes, writing for different genres, reading and responding critically, and the conventions of formal written English. NOTE: A minimum grade of C (74%) is required to meet graduation requirements and to enroll in CW102.

Prerequisites: None

Required Course Text: Readings will be assigned in Moodle

Learning Outcomes:

Course Learning Outcomes	Activities and/or assessments to achieve course outcomes:
#1 Integrate credible textual evidence, such as quotes and paraphrases, in their academic writing (APA).	All Essays.
#2 Develop ideas through the process of writing, which includes reading, prewriting, drafting, peer review, editing, revision, and timely submission.	All Essays.
#3 Identify the role of Generative AI in their writing and research processes.	All Essays.
#4 Compose clear and accurate writing that uses Standard English conventions.	All Essays.

Ability Based Education:

ABE partners the intellectual abilities cultivated by the liberal arts and sciences with the professional skills and personal development required to compete in the global economy. As students' progress through their programs of study, they will collect evidence (papers, videos, presentations, projects, etc.) that document their level of mastery. There are three levels of mastery:

1. Developing
2. Competent
3. Distinguished

Students must achieve at least Level 2, Competent, in 5 of 7 abilities. The seven abilities to be assessed prior to graduation from Mitchell College are:

1. Analysis and Problem Solving
2. Communication
3. Critical & Creative Thinking
4. Diversity and Global Perspectives
5. Information and Communication Technology Literacy (ICT Literacy)
6. Social Interaction
7. Values, Ethics & Social Responsibility

ABE Ability Assessed in this Course	Ability Level	ABE Assessment(s)
Communication	L1	Portfolio

Grading:

Attendance & Participation 10%
 Five Essays (12% each) 60%
 Midterm Exam 10%
 Research Paper 10%
 Reflection (Final) 10%

Grading Scale:

The final course grade will be based on the grading system delineated below.

A+ 100-97 C 76-74
 A 96-94 C- 73-70
 A- 93-90 D+ 69-67
 B+ 89-87 D 66-64
 B 86-84 D- 63-60
 B- 83-80 F 59-0
 C+ 79-77

College Attendance Policy: Mitchell College requires students to attend all classes punctually and to participate actively. When a student is absent from class it disrupts the learning community. Faculty will record attendance for all class meetings. The college recognizes that students may occasionally have to miss classes (e.g., sickness, personal matters, or mental health). Excessive absences, however, will impact learning and a student's ability to pass a course. Course-specific attendance policies as defined by each instructor are outlined in course syllabi. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the attendance policy in each class. In the event of an absence, regardless of the reason, students should communicate with the faculty; the student remains responsible for all missed coursework and related materials.

FYE ATTENDANCE POLICY:

If a student misses 3 classes (unexcused), the instructor will inform the student's academic advisor. Once a student misses a total of 5 classes (excused and/or unexcused) the instructor may require **support sessions** with one or more of the following: the instructor, the Compass Mentor, the advisor, the Accessibility Services Coordinator, or the Director of FYE. Poor attendance may lead to a grade of C- or lower and the student having to repeat the course (*effective August 2023*).

Absences may be excused in the following ways:

- Note from an appropriate medical professional provided within a week of absence (not Campus Health & Wellness)
- Official Academic Affairs email (quarantine; family emergency; etc.)
- Mitchell College Athletics emails (only the timespan in the athletic dismissal email will be excused)
- Religious holidays (emailed communication from the student to the instructor before the absence)

Late Work Policy: Ideally, assignments should be delivered on or before the due date listed on Moodle or discussed in class. If an assignment is delivered late, the following penalties will apply:

- Up to 1 week late: **10% Penalty**
- 1-2 weeks late: **20% Penalty**
- 2+ weeks late: **Not accepted**

Assignments will close two weeks from the original due date, so they cannot be delivered more than two weeks after that date.

Grades will be posted shortly after the original due date, including grades of 0 for missing work. If an assignment is delivered within the 2-week penalty period, the 0 will be replaced by the grade (with the relevant penalty). If no assignment is received within the 2-week penalty period, the 0 will be final.

Make-up Policy: While it is crucial to keep up with schoolwork by handing in assignments on time, there are situations in which students may need to arrange make-up assignments. If an assignment is missed, either due to missing class or an acceptable excuse per the absence guidelines above, reach out to the instructor to arrange a make-up date.

Policy on Academic Honesty: Penalties and procedures regarding academic dishonesty are defined in the College Catalog. Academic dishonesty includes the following but is not limited to: using the work of another individual – including another student – as one's own, using non-approved resources during quizzes or exams, submitting the same essay assignment for multiple classes, or the unauthorized use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Please refer to the College Catalog for the procedure required when an instructor has evidence of Academic Dishonesty.

As described in the Mitchell College policy manual, “students at Mitchell College are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic conduct.” By enrolling in this course, students agree that they understand and swear to adhere to those rules. Failure to adhere to these rules will affect a student’s grades. Academic dishonesty will result in a score of zero for that assignment

and the incident will be reported to the Office of Academic Affairs. Academic dishonesty on the final exam will result in course failure.

The First-Year Experience team believes that AI is a powerful technology that can be a useful tool for students. We also believe that students' primary focus as learners and writers should be to interpret information using critical thinking and to compose writing that is authentic and original. For instance, students may use artificial intelligence tools to create an outline for an assignment, but the final submitted assignment must be original work produced by the individual student alone. When used, AI should be cited using APA citation methods. If you have any questions about the use of AI applications for coursework, please speak with the instructor.

*****All written assignments will be submitted through Turnitin, which includes an AI Detection software. This method will be the basis for determining the use of Gen AI in submissions, though the instructor may use other detection services, as well.**

The Mitchell College Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement (*effective August 2021*): Mitchell College complies with the mandates created by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. In accordance with these laws, Mitchell College is committed to ensuring that no otherwise qualified student, on the basis of their disability, will be denied access to course content, materials or activities.

A student who believes they need accommodations should contact the Office of Accessibility Services at 860- 701-5790. Accommodations are not retroactive and cannot be provided by faculty based upon disability until the Letter of Accommodation has been issued by Accessibility Services. Letters of accommodation must be updated each semester. If students have questions or concerns, they should contact the Office of Accessibility Services. More information can be found in the Course Catalog and by visiting the Accessibility Services webpage at www.mitchell.edu/access.

Civility: It is the right of every college student to be educated in an environment that is free of distraction from the educational activities being conducted in the classroom. To support a student's right to a distraction-free educational environment, **students engaged in any type of disruptive behavior will be asked to leave the classroom and will be counted as absent from the class.**

Communication: Students are required to obtain and use a Mitchell College e-mail account for all departmental and College communications. All assignments/information will be posted as described by the instructor.

Important Dates

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

January 20	Tuesday, 1st day of classes, Spring Semester - Add/Drop begins
January 27	Tuesday, Add/Drop ends at 5:00pm
January 30	Friday, Student Attendance Census Mandatory Reporting by Faculty
February 13	Friday, Presidents' Day Recognition – No Classes – College Offices Closed
February 16	Monday, Presidents' Day – Classes in session
February 16	Monday, Early Academic Reports due to Registrar by 9:00 a.m.
March 6	Friday, Last day of classes before Spring Break
March 6	Friday, Mid Term Grades Due to Registrar by 9:00 a.m.
March 9–13	Spring Break
April 3	Friday, Last Day to Withdraw from a Class
April 30	Monday, Research Paper Final Draft due
May 1	Friday, Last day of classes before final examination period
May 4–8	Monday–Friday, Final Examination Period
May 4	Monday, Last day to submit outstanding assignments
May 11	Monday, Final Grades Due to Registrar by 9:00 a.m.

Course Schedule

To be adjusted as needed

Week 1 Monday, January 19, 2026	Thursday, January 22, 2026
MLK, Jr DAY - NO CLASS	1. Introduction. Review syllabus. In-class diagnostic writing
Week 2 Monday, January 26, 2026	Thursday, January 29, 2026
Academic vs. Non-academic writing.	2. Understanding the writing process
Week 3 Monday, February 2, 2026	Thursday, February 5, 2026
Different Types of Essays Reading: "Connections Are Everything"	Writing the Self in Public Spaces Assignment #1
Week 4 Monday, February 9, 2026	Thursday, February 12, 2026
Argumentative Essay Reading: Brenda Neff, "Living together" Assignment #2	Professional & Workplace writing In-class writing Assignment

Week 5	Monday, February 16, 2026	Thursday, February 19, 2026
	Compare and Contrast Essay Reading Assignment, Steve Dalton, “The mirror is not for makeup” And Rachel Crowley, “Women Stop for Directions”	Public Argument & Civic Writing Genres: Op-ed, public letter, advocacy post Assignment #3
Week 6	Monday, February 23, 2026	Thursday, February 26, 2026
	Descriptive Essay Nancy Vetters Presentation on Library DB Searching Assignment #4	Digital Writing & Multimodal Communication Assignment #5
Week 7	Monday, March 2, 2026	Thursday, March 5, 2026
	Illustration Essay	Midterm Exam
Week 8	Monday, March 9, 2026	Thursday, March 12, 2026
	SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS	SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS
Week 9	Monday, March 16, 2026	Thursday, March 19, 2026
	Introduction vs Conclusion	Headline & Hook Workshop
Week 10	Monday, March 23, 2026	Thursday, March 26, 2026
	Writing a thesis Reading: Lars Eighner, “On Dumpster Diving”	Writing to Change Minds 1 In-class writing assignment
Week 11	Monday, March 30, 2026	Thursday, April 2, 2026
	Paragraph Structure	Developing Supporting Arguments
Week 12	Monday, April 6, 2026	Thursday, April 9, 2026
	Incorporating quotations into your essay	Revision Reading: “The Maker’s Eye: Revising your own manuscript”

Week		
13	Monday, April 13, 2026 Introduction to Research What is Research? Turning interest into Research	Thursday, April 16, 2026 Developing Research Ideas Strong vs Weak research questions Assignment: Writing a Research Proposal
Week		
14	Monday, April 20, 2026 Finding and Evaluating Research Sources AI Literacy, Guidelines & Guardrails Avoiding Plagiarism	Thursday, April 23, 2026 From Research to Writing First Draft Due
Week		
15	Monday, April 27, 2026 Peer Review and Instructor Feedback	Thursday, April 30, 2026 Research Presentation Final Research Paper due
Week		
16	Monday, May 4, 2026 28. Final Exam	Thursday, May 7, 2026 NO CLASS
Week		
17	Monday, May 11, 2026 Final grades due to Registrar by 9:00am	