
CHERRI PORTER



Cherri's email is cporter@yccd.edu.

Student work and grades posted to Canvas at de.yccd.edu.

The calendar is available at cherriporter.com/51.html.

To make an appointment send Cherri an email.

Fragrance-Free Zone

Long story very short, fragrances of all sorts make my brain think it's being poisoned. Perfumes, colognes, body sprays, soaps, scented lotions, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, and pretty much any-smelly-thing can trigger asthma, migraines, and other unpleasantries. Please, for my health, wear no scented products in this classroom.

COURSE DETAILS

Description and Student Learning Outcomes

English 51 develops awareness of and practice with academic writing and reading processes. Writing for the course (5000+ words) varies in style and modes, drawing from a variety of texts, and covers basic writing elements and mechanics. Prereq is Engl 105 (or equivalent).

On completion of course, students will meet the critical thinking SLO of interpreting and responding to assignments and articles, and the communication SLO of writing works that develop and support a clear thesis statement.

Required Materials

- Sherman Alexie's novel, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. 978-0316013697. You may purchase a digital or print version.
- A pen, notebook, and folder with which to take and keep notes and materials for this class.
- YCCD email you check or forward to [an email account you do check regularly](https://wcc.yccd.edu/student/email) <https://wcc.yccd.edu/student/email>.
- Canvas use. Set your Canvas notifications wisely.
- Regular access to a computer with internet. Most assignments are typed; some are printed; many are downloaded, uploaded, attached, and posted. Computer proficiency is part of college success. See more about the technology requirements at the end of this syllabus.

Themes

College composition is largely an inquiry into how we make meaning, and the content of this course is the world at large. As such, we will discuss the vast and diverse subjects of life using the vast and diverse languages of life. Life is messy, lovely, unpleasant, brilliant, depressing, grotesque, hilarious, and every other thing under the sun. Life is decidedly "M" rated, too, as is this class. If you choose to stay in this class, do so knowing that the language and subject matter herein are for mature audiences, and successfully navigating them require a good bit of patience and empathy. Although **the themes** we'll be working with are varied, they meet at the intersection of learning and language, and the attitude and effort required to master both.

- It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences. — Audre Lorde, *Our Dead Behind Us*
- The way that you think about your current financial situation is going to determine your future financial situation.... If you want to know what you life's gonna be like in the future, look at your thoughts in your head now." — Brooke Castillo, July 2015 Webinar
- Doesn't everything die // at last, and too soon? // Tell me, what is it you plan // to do with your one wild // and precious life?— Mary Oliver, "Summer's Day"

Calendars

The course calendar with assignment due dates and directions is published online (accessed through cherriporner.com/51.html) for each project. It's your responsibility to check this calendar regularly and do the work on time. You might also need WCC's [academic calendar](#), featuring deadlines and holidays.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Attendance & Lates

- Plan to attend every class, and do your best to avoid absences. However, I understand that life happens. Sick students should stay home. Email me if you have concerns. Please contact a peer to exchange notes as you are responsible for any class content you miss.
- You may miss class 3 times without it negatively affecting your enrollment, though any absences may affect your performance. The day of your 4th absence you will be dropped from the course.
- A seating chart will be established and attendance is taken at the start of every class.
- Do not arrive late. If you cannot make it to your seat by the start of class each day, this class time is not for you.
- Late work is not accepted. Missed in-class work cannot be made up.

Participation

- Read all of the assigned materials and do the homework even if it is ungraded. Some days we may not discuss those materials explicitly in class, yet the lessons I plan are predicated on the foundation of those materials. It's all connected; look for the connections.
- Try to figure out the solutions to the problems you encounter yourself, first. Then ask your peers, and then ask me. All learning takes place because of your actions; identifying what help you need, and asking for it, is part of that learning process.
- Contribute to our classroom by sharing your insights, interests, and expertise.
- Take notes during lectures, discussions, and activities.
- No class may be audio/video recorded without the written permission of the instructor.
- Don't use phones, computers, tablets or other devices during class unless directed to. The research on this is clear: devices distract students and lead to lower grades.

Collaboration

- The writing we do in this class is public in that your classmates will be reading much of it, so do not submit work you wish to keep private. We work collaboratively, reading and discussing each others' ideas and writing. There are also many in-class tasks that require you to work directly with peers and report your findings back to the whole class.
- You can contact peers at any time during the semester using the People link on the navigation bar in CANVAS. Please be respectful when communicating with your peers. Feel free to set boundaries when necessary and let me know if problems arise.

Keep in mind, too, that all faculty and staff are mandated reporters, which means they are required by law to report the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of anyone under the age of 18, no matter how long ago such abuse occurred.

Academic Honesty

- Asking questions, sharing ideas, and collaborating are all parts of learning; copying and pasting, cheating, stealing, and buying are not. Dishonest or plagiarized work earns zero points and can result in other disciplinary measures. The tricky thing about plagiarism is that most often, we don't intend to do it, we are just sloppy about our paraphrasing and attribution. Sloppiness is still plagiarism, though, even if it is unintentional. [Always cite.](#)
- Consult Woodland Community College's [Student Code of Conduct](#) for more about the expectations and discipline for academic dishonesty. It is the student's responsibility to understand and practice academic honesty.
- You cannot turn in assignments you completed for other class and earn credit in this one; each new class you take requires new work on your part.
- Learning MLA citation is on the agenda this semester, but the responsibility is always on the student to [understand and apply the correct citation style](#) for the given assignment.
- In CANVAS there is an open, ungraded folder in which to [test your citations in Turnitin.](#)

Accommodations

I want you to succeed, and I do what I can to create materials and design lessons that are accessible to all students. Please let me know immediately if you encounter a required element or resource in the course that is not accessible to you. Also, let me know of changes we can make to the course so that it might be more accessible to future students. In addition:

- There are many resources available to you here at WCC to help you succeed—from Health Services, to the Child Development Center, to Veterans Services, to more academic-based services. [Click here](#) to learn more about any and all of these programs.
- Our tutoring services you might have formerly found in a number of locations are now under one roof as part of the [Student Success Center](#), located on the lower level of the 800 building near the library. Visit all the reading, writing, & math tutors there.
- Students with disabilities may qualify for or require special accommodations. Individuals who request accommodations must be registered with the office of [Department of Supportive Programs and Services](#). These accommodations may or may not be needed in this class.

Preferred Names & Pronouns

The class roster provides me with your official name given at registration. Should you want to be called by a name that is not currently on the roster, please let me know. If you'd like to specify a gender pronoun, please send me an email or let me know the first day of class.

EVALUATION

This class practices reading and writing as recursive processes and emphasizes revision. *Process* acknowledges that it takes many drafts to achieve strong writing, thus revision is essential. As teacher and writer Don Murray explains, "writing *is* revision." Students will workshop their writing with peers regularly, and the course will focus on the *how-to* aspects of writing as much as the subject matters being written about. The assignments descriptions and calendar are separate from the syllabus, but here is information about how evaluation works.

Grade Breakdown Per Assignment	Percentage
Everyday classwork, including: reading responses, group work, essay prep, rhetoric, theory, and all assignments earning points listed on the calendar	45%
Essay 1. Best Practices essay—personal examples join cited readings	15%
Essay 2. <i>Absolutely True Diary</i> Essay	15%
Essay 3. News Media Essay	15%
Final Project	10%

- Responsibility for keeping track of your work and understanding your grade is yours.
- If there are errors in the gradebook, please email me with the exact date, the assignment title, and the error you believe to have occurred.
- All students must turn in Essays 1-3 to pass the class. If you do not turn in one of these essays, you automatically fail the course.
- This grading system values the hard work of students AND strong, revised writing. Both are necessary to earn high marks in this course.
- Learning is a messy space that doesn't translate smoothly to a letter grade. The comments on your assignments aren't there to justify a grade; they are there to show you how to improve your work. See the cherripor.com/grades.html for more information about how I comment and grade student work.

Descriptions of Grades

- An "A" assignment is: outstanding, exceptional, rich in content and unique in style; nuanced, interesting, lively, sophisticated, and superior to its peers.
- A "B" assignment is: very good, strong; better than competent but may lack depth, uniqueness, liveliness or thoroughness present in an "A" response.
- A "C" assignment: is satisfactory, acceptable, competent and meets many expectations.

Excellence and Enthusiasm

Students who earn "A" grades never half-ass it, nor do they miss homework assignments, nor do they start their essays at the last minute. Do not expect extra credit late in the semester. If you want a high grade, do quality work from day one. Excellence and enthusiasm are necessary for success and earning high marks. Students earning "A" grades:

- engage in the course with curiosity, respect, and attention
- engage in writing and reading as a processes, revising regularly
- demonstrate critical thinking, analyzing, and evaluating information
- use the thinking tools and writing strategies addressed in the class
- complete all course work on time, with care and accuracy
- practice reflection and self-discovery as key aspects of learning
- ask for help and utilize support services when necessary
- collaborate with peers, demonstrating respect for all.

Classroom Culture

The Etiquette of Communicating Online and Offline

Kindness should rule all of our communications with each other. And when we fail at this, humility and apologies come in very handy. Saying "please" and "thank you" is nice, too.

Ask questions. We're here to learn, and questions are a necessary tool for learning. Ask and answer—with kindness.

Help each other. Don't wait around for me to solve all your problems—if you know the answer to a peer's question or have a suggestion to a query—jump into the fray.

Yet, **respect each others' spaces.** Just because you can follow your peers on every social media platform and favorite every post they make, doesn't mean you should. If you earn someone's phone number, use it wisely. (If someone asks you for your number and you don't want to give it, it's okay to say no.)

Be patient. We're all busy people with a lot going on. We may not be able to respond to your queries questions immediately and that's okay.

Learning is a process of change, and change is not usually comfortable; sometimes it's downright painful. However, beyond the normal and necessary discomfort that is a natural part of the learning process, this classroom is a **safe zone** in that no hate speech, intimidation, or harassment will be tolerated. If you are aware of instances of hate, harassment, or trolling, happening online, in class, or on campus, please inform the me or another faculty or staff member to whom you feel comfortable confiding.

Use complete sentences and standard English whenever possible. This is a writing class. We're practicing our rhetorical savvy as we engage in the work of the course. Re-read and edit your work before posting. I recommend you write all classwork in a word processing document, revise and edit as you would any assignment, and then copy and paste them into the discussion board and emails.

Yet, **errors are human** and expected and not cause for drama. There are errors in this syllabus and errors on my website. Errors aren't to be ridiculed; they are a natural and normal part of communicating through writing.

All of that being said, let's **have some fun**, too. My hope is this class is a challenging and fun space in which to practice the crafts of academic reading and writing.

MLA Formatting

All typed documents uploaded to CANVAS should be in MLA format. I recommend you download this [preformatted MLA rtf document](#) or copy this [preformatted MLA googledoc](#) to use for each assignment you write. MLA formatted documents:

- Set margins to 1 inch around the entire page
- Use 12 pt Times New Roman font
- Set line spacing to double
- Set spacing to zero before and after the paragraph
- Set header/page numbers to top, right
- Alignment: document left, header right, title center. No bolds. No underlines.
- For this class, also put word count below the date and underline your thesis.

Computer Help

Canvas Basics	• We are using CANVAS learning management system for accessing content and submitting work. You may click the hyperlink above or type in the direct address for this page, which is https://yccd.instructure.com/ .
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	<p>Please bookmark this page and check the course regularly for updates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can also set up your CANVAS notifications to email you as regularly as you'd like about updates to the class. However, do not get updates about the gradebook more than once a day as that will annoy us both.
<p>Canvas Help Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The YCCD helpdesk can be reached at helpdesk@yccd.edu or by calling (530) 741-6981. There is a self-paced CANVAS tutorial you can use to familiarize yourself with this program we will be using daily. The CANVAS website is a helpful resource. It also has a step-by-step CANVAS training module. It's free and open to any user. And, if you need to reset your password, go to this page. CANVAS does have a mobile app, but not all functions work in it.
<p>Technology Requirements</p>	<p>The minimum Technology Requirements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A computer. You cannot complete this class with only a cellphone. Many of the interfaces just don't work correctly with phones. The main campus computer lab is located in the Library. E-mail capability—set your YCCD email, forward it to your preferred account and check it daily. A Web browser – Tech support recommends the latest version of Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome when working in CANVAS. Safari and Internet Explorer are not recommended. For browser information, go to System Check. Word processing software <ul style="list-style-type: none"> YCCD students are eligible to use Microsoft 365 (which includes MSWord). There are multiple ways to access this program. You can get it through MyPortal, you can sometimes successfully download it to your home computer. You can also login using this link. Adobe PDF Reader Links to other browser plug-ins and software
<p>Save, Backup, & Format</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please SAVE regularly and BACKUP all of your writing this semester. I cannot emphasize this enough. Every semester students lose their writing because they did not save and backup their work. Popular backup methods include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Google Drive (through your apps account) Emailing documents to yourself Using a flash or external hard drive Using offsite storage like Dropbox (free version) For discussion posts, I recommend writing and saving them in a word processing document first, and then copying and pasting them into the discussion board. (I have lost my internet connection in the middle of posting countless times, or pressed some rouge combination of keys on the keyboard, losing my post with it. I've heard the same from students. Learn from our mistakes.) For MLA, download this preformatted MLA rtf document or copy this preformatted MLA googledoc to use for each assignment you write. The self-paced MLA Citation tutorial is available for you use as well. Learn how to make pdfs, screen grabs, and manipulate images.

<p>Profile Pictures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please post a profile picture of your face so we can begin to put names and faces together. If you do this by the end of the first week of class, you'll earn 10 extra credit points.
<p>#Protips</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Label everything with your name, number, and email. • Send effective emails. • When things don't seem to be working the way they should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reload the page and empty the cache. • Make sure you're using a computer with Chrome or Firefox. If you're on your phone, or using Safari, or an outdated browser, things won't work as they should. • If you're in the right browser, logout and begin again. • Try a different browser. What doesn't work in Chrome might work in Firefox, and vice versa. • Restart the whole computer. It's surprising how often this solves the problem. • If a link won't open: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try right clicking it and opening in a new tab • If it's in CANVAS or on cherriporter.com, email Cherri about it • If you need the information right away, hover over it and look at the bottom of the browser window. Sometimes you can see the error in the address and retype the corrected version into the browser. You can also copy and paste the name of the link into the search box and see if the link pops up. • Turn off your grammar check in MSWord. You can check the grammar on your final draft, but don't have this feature turned on while you're writing as it is a distraction and often wrong. • If you're going through ink or toner too fast, go into your printer preferences and change the default settings to: Black/white or grayscale AND / OR Draft or fast quality • Use PRINT PREVIEW. If you click through the pages in print preview and notice that the article you want to print is only on pages 2-4 and the rest is ads and comments, then only print pages 2-4. You can also copy and paste text into a doc before printing to save paper. • A Woodland app is available for IOS and Android. Search the app store.

Our Contract

By staying in this section you are agreeing to participate according to this syllabus, the calendar, and other documentation provided. If you think you will have a problem participating accordingly, please find another section of the class that will better meet your needs. The fragrance-free policy is part of this agreement.

Alternate Version of the Syllabus

There is a pdf version of this syllabus available on cherriporter.com/51.html and in CANVAS Content Module 0: Syllabus and Documents so you can click open the links throughout.