

**English 102**  
**Composition II: Writing About Utopias**

102.013 M/W/F 10:00-10:50 FH 108

102.024 M/W/F 11:00-11:50 FH 018

102.027 M/W/F 12:00-12:50 FH 107

Instructor      McKenna Rose  
 Office            FH 007, Desk 7  
 Campus Phone   682-6383  
 Email            mckennar@unr.edu  
 Website         <http://wolfweb.unr.edu/homepage/mckennar/>  
 Office Hours    1:00-3:00 M/W

**Course Description**

English 102 is a writing and research methodologies course designed to expand and deepen critical thinking and writing skills that can then be applied across the curriculum at the University of Nevada, Reno. This course is unified through critical inquiry into the definition, theory, and practice of utopias from the classic period to the present. According to Northrop Frye, “The utopian writer looks at his own society first and tries to see what, for his purposes, its significant elements are. The utopia itself shows what society would be like if those elements were fully developed” (205). As a starting point the class will read, analyze, and then write on Thomas More’s *Utopia*, Henry David Thoreau’s *Walden* & “Resistance to Civil Government,” and Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*. You will use the form and content from the first half of the semester to develop topics for the research paper that will be the exclusive focus of the second half of the semester. The class culminates in a presentation and showcase portfolio.

**Required Texts (Please note: you must purchase the texts specified below)**

Conrad, Joseph. Heart of Darkness: A Norton Critical Edition. Ed. Paul B. Armstrong. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2006.

More, Thomas. Utopia: A Norton Critical Edition. Ed. Trans. Robert M. Adams. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1992.

Thoreau, Henry D. Walden and “Resistance to Civil Government.” Ed. William Rossi. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1992.

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>Utopia</i> /Utopia	10%	A 3-5 page utopia drawn from your own ideas of what constitutes a perfect society that engages with More’s text to analyze and solve contemporary social problems.
Thoreau Comparison	10%	A 3-5 page comparative argument on <i>Walden</i> and "Resistance to Civil Government" that explores the relationship between an individual’s utopia and larger social forces at work on him.
Discourse Analysis	10%	A 3-5 page paper in which you make a claim about competing theories of spatial organization, and the problems each cause in context of the conversation surrounding <i>Heart of Darkness</i> .
Researched Paper	20%	A 7-10 page paper in which you propose a topic and then argue the topic is a utopia. The paper is part analysis and part solution. Arguments to be developed through multi-genre sources over the course of the semester.

Annotated Bibliography	5%	List of 10 sources followed by a summary of the main goal of the text and how you plan to use it in your research paper. Due throughout the semester with the major papers.
(3) Quizzes	10%	All quizzes are intended to facilitate the understanding of reading assignments and will be given at the beginning of class on the date the reading assignment is due.
Conferences	10%	Midterm independent conferences and Final group conferences focusing on collaboration, revision, class standing, and any specific questions you may have.
Presentations	5%	Small group readings of presentation papers.
Showcase Portfolio	10%	Researched paper, annotated bibliography, presentation paper, and a revised edition of one major paper. <b>Please note: I do not accept papers in the final portfolio not handed in on the date due.</b>
Participation	10%	Please arrive to class on time, with all reading and writing assignments completed and ready to discuss. Lack of participation and attendance will negatively impact your final grade.

Grade/Scale	Description
A 100-93 A- 92-90	Extremely high quality work, effort, and performance beyond minimum requirements. Excellent attendance and substantial contributions to discussions.
B+ 89 B 88-83 B- 82-80	Well-written work that continues to improve. A level of effort and performance beyond minimum requirements. Good attendance and contributions to discussions.
C+ 79 C 78-73 C- 72-70	Generally competent work and a level of effort that meets course requirements. Regular attendance and contributions to discussions.
D+:69 D 68-63 D-: 62-60	Work that is uneven in quality or suggests incompetence. Irregular attendance and minimal contributions to discussions.
F 59 and below	Incomplete or unacceptable work. No real effort to participate in class discussions. Four or more absences.

### Attendance

You have (3) absences to use at your discretion. After three absences points will be deducted from your total grade, and (6) or more absences will result in a failing grade for the course. If you must miss class for school activities (athletics, debate, band, etc.), you should bring, in advance of the event, a list of dates (signed by the appropriate faculty member) indicating when these activities will take place. Dentist and doctor appointments or vacations will not be excused, nor is it acceptable for you to arrive late or leave early due to job obligations. Please note, lack of attendance will negatively impact your grade generally, and your participation grade specifically.

### Late or Missing Assignments

All work is due on the date and at the time specified on the calendar. Late work may not be accepted. Quizzes and in-class writing assignments cannot be made-up.

### Revision

If you are unhappy with a grade you received on one long writing assignment, you are welcome to revise it according to class criteria. You must meet with me to workshop the draft you wish to revise and create a revision plan. The paper revision must be substantive. Your claim/thesis,

evidence, interpretation, organization, etc. must be significantly different from the first draft to qualify as a revision. Your revised draft will then be included, with a copy of the graded draft, in your final portfolio.

### Plagiarism

Any evidence of plagiarism in your work will result in a failing grade for the assignment and, possibly, the class. Plagiarism is intentionally passing off sentences, paragraphs, or entire papers written by someone else as your own original work. Submitting papers already written and submitted in other courses also constitutes academic dishonesty. We will discuss how to adequately document sources early in the semester to avoid any inadvertent mistakes. Please consult the University policy on plagiarism at [www.unr.edu/stsu/acdipol.html](http://www.unr.edu/stsu/acdipol.html)

### Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability, please contact me at the beginning of the semester. The English Department and I will do everything possible to accommodate your needs. You can also contact the Disability Resource Center: Face to face at Thompson Building, Suite 101, or online at [www.unr.edu/acsv/acsv/drc/drchome.html](http://www.unr.edu/acsv/acsv/drc/drchome.html).

### Content Issues

Ideas and materials presented during this course may prove challenging. Talk to your instructor if you anticipate any difficulties; accommodations may be made.

### Calendar

(Please note all assignments are listed on the days they are due, and the calendar is subject to change)

	<b>Wednesday, January 23</b> Introduction- <i>Utopia</i>	<b>Friday, January 25</b> "I have Dream"
<b>Monday, January 28</b> <i>Utopia</i> 1-19	<b>Wednesday, January 31</b> <i>Utopia</i> 19-44	<b>Friday, February 1</b> <i>Utopia</i> 44-66
<b>Monday, February 4</b> <i>Utopia</i> 66-85 Quiz 1	<b>Wednesday, February 6</b> Frye 205-211, Ovid 89-90, & Plato 90-92	<b>Friday, February 8</b> Cokayne 99-101, Vespucci 105-7, & Bellamy 229-238
<b>Monday, February 11</b> Research Methods	<b>Wednesday, February 13</b> Workshop 1	<b>Friday, February 15</b> Workshop 2
<b>Monday, February 18</b> No Class-President's Day	<b>Wednesday, February 20</b> Intro- <i>Walden &amp; Resistance</i> Paper 1 & Annotations Due	<b>Friday, February 22</b> <i>Walden</i> 1-31
<b>Monday, February 25</b> <i>Walden</i> 31-54	<b>Wednesday, February 27</b> <i>Walden</i> 55-67 & 75-87	<b>Friday, February 29</b> <i>Walden</i> 104-140 Quiz 2
<b>Monday, March 3</b> "Resistance to Civil Government" 226-245 Quiz 3	<b>Wednesday, March 5</b> Research Methods	<b>Friday, March 7</b> Independent Conferences No regular class meeting
<b>Monday, March 10</b> Independent Conferences No regular class meeting	<b>Wednesday, March 12</b> Paper 2 Workshop	<b>Friday, March 14</b> Paper 2 & Annotations Due Intro <i>Heart of Darkness</i>

<b>Monday, March 17</b> <i>Heart of Darkness</i> 31-54	<b>Wednesday, March 19</b> <i>Heart of Darkness</i> 31-54	<b>Friday, March 21</b> <i>Heart of Darkness</i> 54-77 Quiz 4
<b>Monday, March 24</b> Spring Break-No class	<b>Wednesday, March 26</b> Spring Break-No class	<b>Friday, March 28</b> Spring Break-No class
<b>Monday, March 31</b> Said 422-429	<b>Wednesday, April 2</b> Achebe 336-349 and Hawkins 365-375	<b>Friday, April 4</b> Torgovnick 396-404 and Hawthorn 405-15- <b>Cancelled</b>
<b>Monday, April 7</b> Workshop 1	<b>Wednesday, April 9</b> Workshop 2	<b>Friday, April 11</b> Paper 3 & Annotations Due Research Project Intro.
<b>Monday, April 14</b> Religious Communities/Cults Discussion	<b>Wednesday, April 16</b> Institutions Discussion	<b>Friday, April 18</b> Travel/ Tourism Discussion
<b>Monday, April 21</b> Housing/City Planning Discussion	<b>Wednesday, April 23</b> Primary Texts Discussion	<b>Friday, April 25</b> Research Paper Workshop
<b>Monday, April 28</b> Research Paper Workshop	<b>Wednesday, April 30</b> Group Conferences No regular class meeting	<b>Friday, May 2</b> Group Conferences No regular class meeting
<b>Monday, May 5</b> Final Presentations Portfolios Due	<b>Wednesday, May 7</b> No class-dead day	<b>Friday, May 9</b> Final Presentations Portfolios Due English 102.013 9:45-11:45 English 102.027 12-2
<b>Monday, May 12</b> Final Presentations Portfolios Due English 102.024 9:45-11:45		

