

## ENGLISH 299-90 ENGLISH WRITING COMPETENCY EXAM

### DESCRIPTION

ENG 299-90 allows students to complete the Examination of Writing Competency (EWC), which is a **graduation requirement for all undergraduate students who were enrolled at the University prior to fall 2016**. It is an online three-hour proctored exam in which students write an essay that responds to a question from a general category. The Examination of Writing Competency meets the State Council of Higher Education's requirement for Virginia public colleges and universities to demonstrate student proficiency in written communication.

Students will need to register (or re-register) for the EWC with their department or by contacting the Registrar's Office at least one week prior to the start of the semester.

In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, if a student has a disability or thinks he or she may have a disability that requires accommodation to take this exam, the student should contact the NSU [Office of Accessibility Services/International Student Services \(O.A.S.I.S.\)](#)

The Due date for essay submission corresponds with the final grades due date published each semester by the Registrar in the Academic Calendar.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the completion of this course, student will demonstrate writing competency in the following areas:

#### Organization

Appropriate use of essay structure (Introduction, Thesis statement, Body paragraphs, Conclusion, Transitional devices, etc.)

#### Development & Analysis

Appropriate use of central ideas and concrete details that support the thesis and prompt

#### Sentence Structure

Appropriate use of the construction of complete, complex sentences

#### Grammar, Diction & Mechanics

Appropriate use of the conventions of grammar such as tense, POV, etc. as well as language usage, punctuation (internal and external), spelling, capitalization, etc.

### REQUIRED MATERIALS

This course requires access to the internet, download of the Respondus Lockdown Browser, a computer, and a web camera.

## DIRECTIONS

Write a well-developed, approximately 500–600-word, academic essay that responds to **ONE** of three questions below. Be sure to address the question throughout your essay.

- Include an introductory paragraph with a thesis statement, body paragraphs with transitions, and a concluding paragraph.
- Develop your essay with specific details and examples drawn from personal experience or observation, history, literature and/or current events.
- Read the quotations to stimulate your thinking. You do not have to include or address the quotation in your essay, but you may if you wish. If a quotation is used, make sure to cite it correctly in your essay.

However, you may make corrections on your final draft. Please make sure to proofread your essay quietly.

## SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

To take the exam, you must first download the Respondus Lockdown Browser on a computer where you have administrative rights. System requirements are Windows: 10, 8, 7 or Mac: MacOS 10.15 to 10.12, OS X 10.11, OSX 10.10. Chrome, Firefox, or Safari Browser required. **Note: Respondus WILL NOT work on a Chromebook. Tablets and cell phones are not recommended.**

### **Installation and Setup for Respondus LockDown Browser before accessing your exam**

1. Close all computer applications.
2. Click [Respondus LockDown Browser](#) to open your web browser then download and install the Respondus LockDown Browser Student Edition. You must only use the link in red to download Respondus LDB.
3. When the installation is complete, a Respondus Lockdown Browser ICON will be placed on your computer's desktop.

### **To access your exam after installation of the Respondus LockDown Browser:**

1. Launch Respondus Lockdown Browser from the ICON on your desktop.
2. When Respondus opens you will be presented with a Login choice. Choose "Registered User".
3. You will then be presented with the MY NSU Login Page. Enter your NSU username and password.
4. Click on the Blackboard ICON to enter Blackboard Learn and select ENG 299-90 from your course list.
5. Click on the "Assessments" menu item.
6. When you click on "Assessments" you will be presented with three writing prompts. Please select just one (1) of the prompts for writing your essay response.
7. Once you complete the exam click on the "Submit" button at the bottom of the exam page. **Your exam will not be scored unless the "Submit" button is clicked before you exit the exam.**

For assistance email [testingcenter@nsu.edu](mailto:testingcenter@nsu.edu).