

Fall 2012  
Croxall  
ENG 181-010

Class Number: 2253 Course Name and Section: ENG 181 010 Instructor: Croxall,Brian Lynn  
 Maximum Enrollment: 16 Total Enrolled: 17 Number of Evaluation Forms: 16

Class	Expected Grade	Major
First Year	A	Invalid/Unreadable
Second Year	A-	
Third Year	B+	
Fourth Year +	B	
Graduate	B-	
Non-Degree	C+	
Unreported/Unreadable	C	
Total	C-	
	D+	
Sex	D	
Male	D-	
Female	F	
Unreported/Unreadable	S	
Total	U	
	Unreported/Unreadable	3
Percent Classes Missed	Total	16
0		
1-5%	Reason Taking Course	
6-10%	College Requirement	16
11-15%	Major	1
16-20%	Prerequisite	1
21-25%	Pre-Prof Reqmt	
26-30%	Interested	1
31-40%		
41-50%		
51-60%		
61-80%		
81-99%		
Unreported/Unreadable		2
Total		16

Comparison Key:  
 A - Same Size Sections (1-20) 652 sections  
 B - Same Level (100) 404 Sections  
 C - Same Format (LEC) 800 Sections  
 D - Same Subject (ENG) 46 Sections

	SCALE OF RESPONSES									NA	Total	Median	COMPARISONS			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9				A	B	C	D
Evaluation of the Instructor																
How well organized was the class?			1	1	2	3	4	4	1		16	7.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Was the instructor enthusiastic about the material?	1				1	1	4	2	7		16	8.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
How concerned was the instructor with what students learned from the course?			1		3		2	6	4		16	8.0	9.0	8.0	8.0	9.0
How clearly did instructor explain specific concepts relevant to the course?	1				2	1	4	5	3		16	7.5	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
How clearly did instructor communicate course objectives and requirements?		1			1		5	3	6		16	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
How well did the instructor respond to the students' questions?			1		2	1	4	3	5		16	7.5	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
How accessible was the instructor for individual discussion about the course?					1	9	2	4			16	7.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
How well did the exams and/or assignments reflect the course material?			1			1	4	6	4		16	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	9.0
Was feedback on exams, papers, performance useful?	1			2	2	3	2	3	3		16	6.5	8.0	8.0	8.0	9.0
Were the grading criteria for the course clear?	1	1	1	1	2	2		4	4		16	7.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
How much did the course promote your progress on these learning objectives?																
Acquiring factual knowledge.					5	4	4	1	1	1	16	6.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Understanding basic principles and concepts.		1			1	3	5	3	3		16	7.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Being able to apply facts, concepts, and principles to specific questions.	1		1		1	2	6	1	2	2	16	7.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Being able to assess or critique ideas and arguments.					1	2	7	2	4		16	7.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	9.0
Being able to integrate and synthesize information.						6	5	1	4		16	7.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0



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Instructor: **Brian Croxall**

1. Write a short letter to future students in the class, letting them know whatever you think is most important about the instructor, the course, the assignments, *and* the reading.

instructor:

You have to be aware that he is a ridiculously hard grader and will never give your grades back in a timely fashion. He will also leave very mean and sometimes not useful comments on your papers. He is fine to meet with one-on-one, but be warned that he will tell you your essay is fine and then give you a bad grade.

course: the course generally relates to the class theme of technology. Discussions are good and I really enjoy class time. Make sure to participate.

Assignments:

Blogging was a cool idea and so is the final project. Definitely ties into the class theme. The essays were obnoxious to write and I never understood exactly what the professor wanted to read.

Reading:

I disliked almost every reading we did ~~and some~~ but they all had to do with literature and technology.

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- This was a very enjoyable class. The professor was very enthusiastic, and the topics were great. The professor is a tough grader, however it is appropriate for the class, for its goal is to improve our writing. The professor also made himself very accessible to students with office hours, which were extremely helpful.
- I really enjoyed blogging, thought it really helped improve writing, along with papers  
OK course
- Class discussions were great.
- One recommendation for future students → this is not the class to procrastinate in, it is definitely tough putting complex research papers together, the night before they're due

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Dear future student,

This class is organized, thought-provoking and interesting, however be ready for a lot of work and time. Each week be prepared to have a significant amount of reading and be able to synthesize this information. After you complete your readings, you will need to write a blog post. These blog posts need to be original and may require a large chunk of time. You will be graded on a scale of 1-4 and it is always a mystery what you received and why since the professor doesn't give feedback on why you received that grade. Additionally, plan ahead of time as the blogs are due at 9 pm. Another important assignment is the format paper I have never before spent as much time on. Papers I did for this class, but it is probably some of my best writings. I would really suggest going to Croxall's office hours as his feedback during those sessions is really helpful. At the end of the semester, I feel really accomplished after taking this class and succeeding. Be ready to put in a lot of time and effort, but the product is fulfilling.

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~~This course~~

Dear students,

This course requires you to think critically about the books you read and issues related to them. If you are not accustomed to reading, you will be obligated to in this course. The essays were not too long, however, the instructor is a really hard grader. He will provide you with what he is looking for in the essays, but you will probably not get the grade you anticipate. ~~His grading of the essays~~ The way he grades the essays is difficult to understand. Some of the books you read will probably be hard to understand and not be your favorite, but in the end you'll realize it was a good book overall. The instructor will take a significant amount of time to grade your essays, which will not give you much time to go back and look at what you did wrong, and avoid it in your next paper. Good luck if you decide to enroll in the course.

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To future students,

I would only recommend taking this course if you are willing to work very hard. The class has a heavy workload, with a lot of reading and writing, in addition to a weekly blog requirement. The professor is also a harsh grader, and your papers require a lot of work. However, with that said, his staff will try to get an A in the class. I feel that I have greatly improved as a writer because of this class. The professor cares a lot about the improvement of his students and is easily accessible during office hours to look over your paper. I would highly recommend going to the professor's office hours once or twice per paper, as it has drastically helped my grade in the class as well as my writing technique. Class participation is required, and is a great grade booster. Overall, the class was very challenging and required a lot of work, but I feel as though I have greatly improved as a writer.



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Instructor - hard grader, make sure you go to his office hour before assignment is due because its helpful. You can also talk to him about your grades and thoughts for the class because it makes you feel better for having a C in class.

Course - this course does help me improve my writing skill even though it is really hard / tough to get a good grade in this class.

Assignment - they are in a reasonable amount of work load. Its just that I wish the time for the blog post to be due can be later so I can have a better grade / thought in correspond to the amount of reading.

Reading - sometimes can be overwhelming and too much so that I dont have enough time to prepare for my blog post. It is very hard to get a good grade on blog post / assignments. I wish we could have more interesting readings.

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Dear Future Student,

Overall I think that you will enjoy the class. You may not end up enjoying all the readings, but there will be at least one that you do. However, no matter what you think about the literature, it's important that you thoroughly read all the assigned readings and annotate. I say this because you are going to have to blog about the readings, but more importantly write a paper. If you read carefully and write notes in the margins, it will make writing the essay that much easier.

In general the class is good, the instructor is available if you need extra help. Don't be afraid to ask questions.

That's all

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Future Students,

English 181-~~like~~ Literature and Technology is a great course. I encourage you to take it for reasons that all of us current students can agree with. The professor is very honest, and does what he can to help. He might be a bit sarcastic but usually you can laugh or enjoy ~~the~~ the weight of honesty and truthfulness behind what he is talking about. Wow! The discussions here, ~~are~~ are the best. We delve deep into the books and seek out great topics for essays, for discussions, arguments and many more. Although, the books can be the ~~most~~ greatest part of the work load, you enjoy them after as you get into ~~them~~ them. ~~It makes~~ The class is very much stimulating intellectually and ~~we~~ enjoy it. I am sure you would enjoy it too.

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The course involves a lot of work but it is worth it. My essay writing skills have improved a lot since the beginning of the semester. Professor Croxall very available if you have questions and he is very enthusiastic about the literature. This class was definitely a class worth taking.

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Dear Future Students,

Professor Croxall is very passionate about the topics we discussed this semester, and I could really tell that he ~~cares~~ cares about teaching. The course is somewhat fast-paced, but manageable. The professor is a hard grader, but he tries his best to articulate exactly what he wants. Also, everything is explained on the website, so if I had simple questions I could always go there. The blogging helped me think about what I was writing, but I don't think it is that necessary. The essays are fair, but there is not a lot of time given to write them, as a rough draft is required in class less than a week. While ~~the~~ peer editing is helpful, it makes me feel rushed and stressed sometimes. The reading is not too loud. The first book New Romances was hard to understand the deeper meaning, but the rest of the texts are really good and not too hard, though they are not exactly easy either. Overall, a great freshman English experience.

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Dear future student,  
Make sure you know what you're getting into. Professor Croxall is a very good professor, but he is very demanding. The in-class time is very enjoyable, but there is a lot of work to do at home. The amount of reading due before each class is huge so make sure you have time for that. If you're trying to get this class "out of the way" writing wise, don't take it; you're not just writing papers, there's a weekly blog that takes some time and effort too. The papers, however, are fairly easy. Just don't expect them to be returned to you because professor Croxall is an extremely slow grader. However, he is thorough, so you get good feedback. As for the reading, most of them are okay but the first one you'll read, *Neuromancer*, is horrible, so just grin and bear it.  
Good luck.

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Dear future student of Dr. Croxall,

I thought Dr. Croxall was a good instructor and definitely made the course interesting. However, compare to other eng 181 courses I have heard about, Dr. Croxall is an extremely difficult grader. He makes it appear that it is impossible to get an A and I also think his extremely harsh in his grading for incoming freshman students. Dr. Croxall however is extremely entertaining and for the most part, his class was too. He made students feel comfortable to openly analyze the books we read in class and not to be afraid to make a comment about a thought we may have. The course itself is extremely time consuming as you have to read almost every night to prepare for class discussions and it is a lot of work. Blogging once a week along with 4 papers and a project might not seem like a lot of work, but you are not just taking this class, you are taking 3 others. Just to be aware, pay attention to every instruction Dr. Croxall says. He does have a twitter account and is not afraid to use it and say something stupid about what you did (obviously he doesn't use your name). Overall though, I enjoyed him as an instructor and I would recommend this course but please be aware of what you're signing up for.

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Instructor

- Take advantage of his office hours, his comments can make a large difference on your papers' clarity.
- It is better to get a spoken critique rather than a written critique.

Course

- Considering how it is discussion based, always come with some sort of insight
- If you have a superficial standpoint of the readings, it will result in your comments being irrelevant
- If everyone is prepared, the class flows well

Assignments

- Follow the rubric!
- Blog once a week!
- Do not skip a week of blogging, it will become a habit.
- Take your papers to the writing center (I never did this, but I regret it)
- Get advice from the instructor.

Reading

- Fairly simple. Do not need to stress on being overloaded with reading
- Do analyze the documents and take notes on the side.



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In this class it is very important to keep up with the reading so that you can write the blog posts. There is a lot of reading assigned in short periods of time. The essay assignments are very difficult because they are much more complicated than simple analytical essays. It was especially hard to write the first essay because it was hard for me to understand exactly what the teacher wanted from me. The teacher is very enthusiastic about the material and tries his best to make the class interesting. However, I thought he could have given much better feedback. He does not tell us how we can improve our blog posts and the grades are not mathematical so it is hard to know how you are doing. In addition, he assigns new essays before he has given the previous back. I didn't like this because I would have liked to know what he thought of my first essay so I could make improvements on the next assignment. Since the assignments were somewhat unconventional, I think the teacher could have given better feedback.

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Hello,

First off, I would highly recommend this course and instructor. The thing that impressed me most was the organization of the class and overall theme. The way we read Frankenstein in a book than a more technologically advanced device really pulled the class together. I also feel my writing has significantly improved over this course, and I know I am writing some of my best papers ever in this class. Now, the bad news... Professor Croxall is a very tough instructor. He makes you work for your grades. He tells us he will give us homework like we are only enrolled in his class for the semester, so expect 80 pages in two nights (in the Inception-equivalent novel). Another thing that caused my biggest ulcer this semester was his grading policy. I could know every one of my grades and still have no idea what the final grade will be. Even if that

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The course is going to be very hard in terms of the work load. The professor is a strict grader and gives out A's and B's only to very good work. The student will have to be very organized about the assignments. To do well in the class, the student should try not to fall behind on the readings or any coursework. The professor assumes that the students do not have any other classes to attend and that is how he assigns work at times. He is a good professor at the end of the day and I personally learned how to write better. He is very enthusiastic about teaching.