

# WR 323: ENGLISH COMPOSITION

Ecampus. 3 Course Credits. CRN 59539. Prerequisite: WR 121 and WR 121H

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Office Hours: TR by Zoom

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## CRITICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF



## COURSE DESCRIPTION

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This course offers a critical examination of *The Twilight Zone*, a television series created by Rod Serling that aired from 1959 to 1964. Students will learn about the golden age of American television, how *The Twilight Zone* squared both artistically and politically with other mid-century commercial media, and about the creator of the show himself, an underappreciated force of genius who forever changed the face of television. Students will critically examine select episodes from the series and contribute thoughtfully to the online discussion forum. Keep in mind, however, that this is a writing class. For this reason, a considerable portion of the course will be devoted to the generic study of the television and film review, which embodies a distinct style. Students will learn to mimic that style, paying close attention to the tone, diction, and pace of their writing in order to produce entertaining and insightful reviews.

**Attention Earthlings, I'm required by the university overlords to include this next set of data on the syllabus, but that does not mean it is unimportant. On the contrary, it is vitally important. (*Please ... don't respond ... not now ... they might be listening*)**

#### **Baccalaureate Core Writing II Requirements**

This course fulfills the Baccalaureate Core requirement for the WR II category. It does this by following the "Outcomes Relative to Course Content" and "Assessment Methods" listed in the matrix below.

- Apply multiple theories, concepts, and techniques for creating and evaluating written communication.
- Write effectively for diverse audiences within a specific area or discipline using appropriate standards and conventions.
- Apply critical thinking to writing and writing process, including revision.

#### **WR 323 Course-Specific Learning Outcomes**

Successful students in WR 323 will demonstrate their ability to understand, read and write at the 200-level in the following areas:

##### **Rhetorical Knowledge**

- Understand and respond to a variety of public rhetorical situations and audiences, using appropriate format, claims, support, evidence, and appeals; and voice, tone, and level of formality.

##### **Critical Thinking, Reading, and Writing with Increasing Information Literacy**

- Use writing and reading for inquiry, learning, thinking, and communicating.
- Find, read, evaluate, analyze, and synthesize appropriate sources in print and online.
- Engage with the ongoing conversation and integrate "I say" with what "they say" ethically with documentation to give credit for others' ideas.

##### **Writing Processes**

- Use multiple informal and formal drafts to create, re-think, revise and complete a successful text.
- Develop flexible strategies for generating, revising, editing, and proof-reading.
- Collaborate in the writing process and critique personal and peers' works.

##### **Knowledge of and Skill Using Conventions**

- Use appropriate formats and genre conventions.
- Document sources appropriately with MLA works cited pages plus in-text citation (footnotes, etc.).
- Use correct syntax, word choice, grammar, punctuation, and spelling, etc.

**Are you still there? Ah yes, there you are. Take a breath and fear not. This next bit is also required, but it's the last of it, I promise. The overlords title this section "Resources."**

**Student Conduct Expectations:** <https://beav.es/codeofconduct>

**Academic Calendar:** Keep in mind that all students are subject to the registration and refund deadlines as stated in the Academic Calendar:

<https://registrar.oregonstate.edu/osu-academic-calendar>

**Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities:** Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at <http://ds.oregonstate.edu>. DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.

#### **Ecampus Reach Out for Success**

University students encounter setbacks from time to time. If you encounter difficulties and need assistance, it's important to reach out. Consider discussing the situation with an instructor or academic advisor. Learn about [resources that assist with wellness and academic success](#).

Ecampus students are always encouraged to discuss issues that impact your academic success with the [Ecampus Success Team](#). Email [ecampus.success@oregonstate.edu](mailto:ecampus.success@oregonstate.edu) to identify strategies and resources that can support you in your educational goals.

*If you feel comfortable sharing how a hardship may impact your performance in this course, please reach out to me as your instructor.*

- For mental health:

Learn about [counseling and psychological resources for Ecampus students](#). If you are in immediate crisis, please contact the Crisis Text Line by texting OREGON to 741-741 or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

- For financial hardship:

Any student whose academic performance is impacted due to financial stress or the inability to afford groceries, housing, and other necessities for any reason is urged to contact the Director of Care for support (541-737-8748).

**Writing Center:** Writing and research consultants provide support with **any** type of writing project (class assignments, research papers, CVs/resumes, cover letters, job or scholarship applications, etc.) during **any** stage of the writing process. We're excited to work with you on your next writing project! <https://writingcenter.oregonstate.edu/>

**CONGRATULATIONS—YOU MADE IT THROUGH THE PIT!  
NOW PAY ATTENTION, EARTHLINGS, AS THESE NEXT  
SECTIONS ARE VITAL TO YOUR SUCCESS!**

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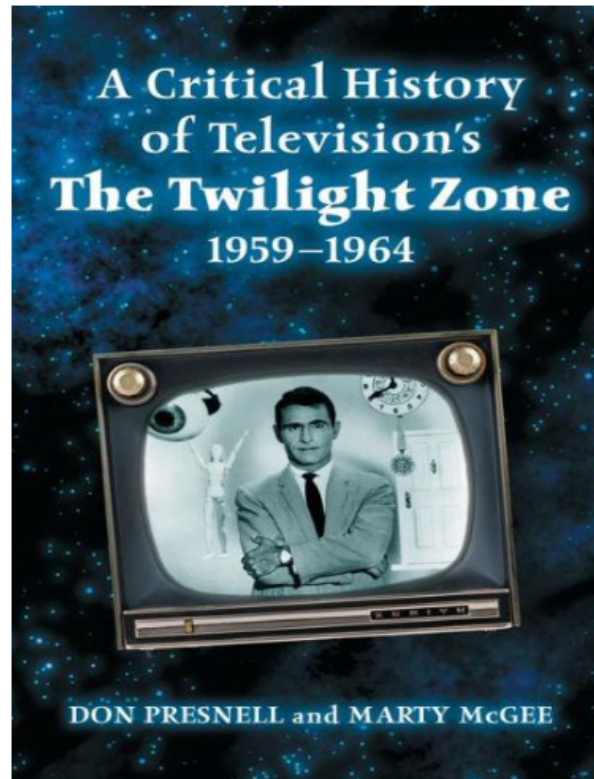
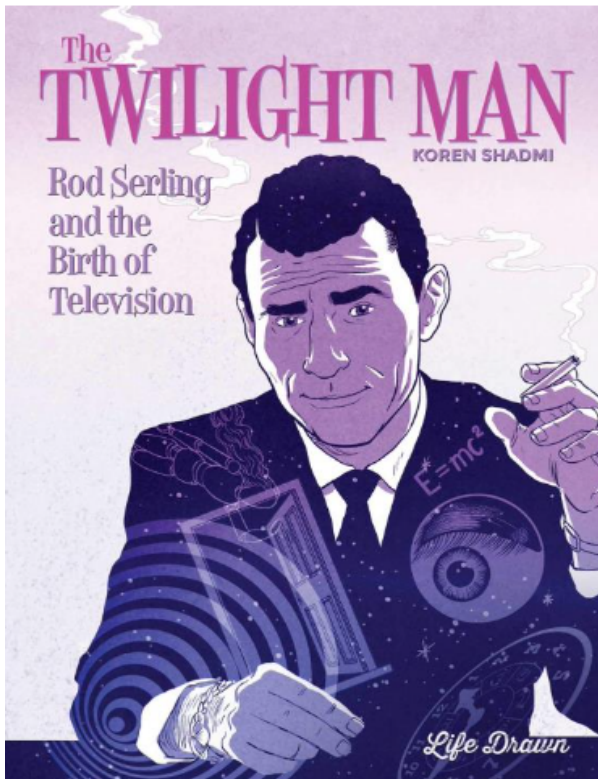


You unlock this door with the key of imagination. Beyond it is another dimension: a dimension of sound, a dimension of sight, a dimension of mind. You're moving into a land of both shadow and substance, of things and ideas. You've just crossed over into ... *the Twilight Zone Class*. The following set of tasks and assignments are **YOUR** responsibility.

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## REQUIRED TEXTS—YOU MUST BUY THESE!



Purchase at the OSU Bookstore —OR— find used versions online

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## HOW TO WATCH EPISODES

You must start a [Paramount Plus](#) account. The first month is free; you are then charged \$4.99 per month. That's just \$9.98 for the whole term! To avoid overpaying, don't forget to cancel your account at the end of the term.





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## ASSIGNMENTS

**Discussion Board Entries: 20%**

**Genre Essay: 20%**

**Review Essay 1: 20%**

**Review Essay 2: 20%**

**Review Essay 3: 20%**

**\*Late assignments will receive a 10% grade reduction.**

### Grade Scale

97-100	A+
94-96	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
77-79	C+
74-76	C
70-73	C-
67-69	D+
64-68	D
60-63	D-
59 and below	F



### Discussion Board Entries

Every Wednesday and Friday, you must submit to *Canvas* a summary of/response to at least one of the assigned readings or viewings of that day. In order to receive full credit, your summary must be at least four complete sentences, and, likewise, your response must be at least four complete sentences. That's eight sentences total. In addition, you must write a

five-sentence comment on one of your classmate's discussion board entries for that day. Here's a visual breakdown of your responsibilities, due every Wednesday and Friday on Canvas:

**4-sentence summary of at least one assigned reading or viewing**

**4-sentence response to the same reading or viewing**

**5-sentence comment on a classmate's entry**

**13 sentences total**

Make sense? If not, ask me to clarify now because I will be meticulously counting sentences and you don't want to miss out on valuable points. If you want some advice on how to complete this assignment successfully, it's simple: SPEND TIME CAREFULLY CONSIDERING THE READINGS AND/OR VIEWINGS FOR THAT DAY. The rest will come naturally.

## **Genre Essay**

Using the materials from Weeks 3 and 4, make an argument about what a Television Review should look like. What are its generic conventions? What content should it cover? What style should it be written in?

Remember, a Television Review should be informative, but it should also be entertaining, so you should think carefully about this last question regarding style. What makes prose enjoyable to read? What makes it entertaining? How does a writer convey things like personality, tempo, and mood?

Utilize the essays to flesh out your perspective and pull from the sample reviews to help illustrate your points. Think of this paper as a *how-to* manual that you can turn to for guidance on your future assignments. Your Genre Essay should be 3 pages in length. Use Times New Roman, 12-point font, one-inch margins, and include a Works Cited page.

See the grading rubric on *Canvas* for a detailed explanation of how your essays will be assessed.

## Review Essays

All three Review Essays should mimic the form and style of the film and television reviews sampled in Week 4. Refer to your Genre Essay for guidance on how to write a review, paying close attention to the personality, tempo, and mood of your prose. As a general rule of thumb, reviews should be informative, thoughtful, and entertaining. Keep these principles in mind as you attempt to mimic the more specific aspects of the genre. Refer to *A Critical History of Television's The Twilight Zone, 1959-1964* for details regarding the episode's production.

Review Essay 1 should be written on a single episode from Week 5 or 6.

Review Essay 2 should be written on a single episode from Week 7 or 8.

Review Essay 3 should be written on a single episode from Week 9 or 10.

Each new essay should be better than the last, so I urge you to make use of my feedback and constructive criticism.

Each Review Essay should be at least 3 pages in length, using Times New Roman, 12-point font, and one-inch margins. Essays will be graded on the quality of prose, the depth of thought, and their ability to meet generic expectations. See the grading rubric on *Canvas* for more information.







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**BELOW IS YOUR COURSE SCHEDULE. KEEP IT HANDY  
AND REFER BACK TO IT OFTEN—I BEG OF YOU. WE  
SIMPLY CAN'T RISK YOU GETTING LOST ... IN *THE  
TWILIGHT ZONE***

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## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

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**WEEK 1**

## WEDNESDAY

YouTube, ["The History of Television"](#)

YouTube, ["Flashback to 1959"](#)

YouTube, ["The Effect of TV on the 1950s Family"](#)

History.com, ["The Most Influential Classic Shows from TV's 'Golden Age'"](#)

YouTube, ["Tales of Tomorrow"](#)

### [Lecture 1](#)

## FRIDAY

YouTube, ["The Origins of the Twilight Zone"](#)

YouTube, ["How Rod Serling Writes Characters"](#)

YouTube, ["The Twilight Zone: What Do We Fear?"](#)

YouTube, ["Twilight Zone: The True Story"](#)

Don Presnell and Marty McGee, *A Critical History of Television's The Twilight Zone*, 1-28.

## WEEK 2

## WEDNESDAY

YouTube, ["The Mike Wallace Interview"](#)

YouTube, ["A Conversation with Rod Serling"](#)

Chris Yogerst, "Rod Serling's Vast Promised Land" (PDF Canvas)

### [Lecture 2](#)

## FRIDAY

YouTube, ["The Life and Sad Ending of Rod Serling"](#)

Koren Shadmi, *The Twilight Man: Rod Serling and the Birth of Television* (Read the entire book)

## WEEK 3

### WEDNESDAY

Tara Lamont, “How to Reach People—Finding the Right Language and Style” (PDF Canvas)

Paul Butler, “Reconsidering the Teaching of Style” (PDF Canvas)

YouTube, [“Rod Serling on Writing”](#)

### FRIDAY

MasterClass, [“How to Write a Movie Review”](#)

AnswerShark, [“How to Write a Great Movie Review Like a Professional Critic”](#)

Purdue OWL, [“Writing About Film”](#)

Purdue OWL, [“Film Writing: Sample Analysis”](#)

### [Lecture 3](#)

## WEEK 4

### WEDNESDAY

Nell Minow, [“Home Sweet Home Alone” \(Review\)](#)

Monica Castillo, [“C’m on C’m on” \(Review\)](#)

Brian Tallerico, [“Red Notice” \(Review\)](#)

## FRIDAY

Sheila O'Malley, ["The French Dispatch" \(Review\)](#)

Darin Franich, ["The New \*Twilight Zone\* is a Calamity" \(Review\)](#)

Daniel D'Addario, ["TV Review: 'The Twilight Zone'" \(Review\)](#)

## WEEK 5

### WEDNESDAY

"The Monsters are Due on Maple Street" (1.22 Paramount Plus)

"The Shelter" (3.3 Paramount Plus)

"Will the Real Martian Please Stand Up" (2.28 Paramount Plus)

### [Lecture 4](#)

## FRIDAY

"I Shot an Arrow into the Air" (1.15 Paramount Plus)

"The Rip Van Winkle Caper" (2.24 Paramount Plus)

"People are Alike All Over" (1.25 Paramount Plus)

**Due: Genre Essay**

## WEEK 6

### WEDNESDAY

"Eye of the Beholder" (2.6 Paramount Plus)

"Number Twelve Looks Just Like You" (5.17 Paramount Plus)

"The After Hours" (1.34 Paramount Plus)

## FRIDAY

“Five Characters in Search of an Exit” (3.14 Paramount Plus)

“Third from the Sun” (1.14 Paramount Plus)

“Probe 7, Over and Out” (5.9 Paramount Plus)

## WEEK 7

### WEDNESDAY

“The Lateness of the Hour” (2.8 Paramount Plus)

“The Lonely” (1.7 Paramount Plus)

“From Agnes, With Love” (5.20 Paramount Plus)

## FRIDAY

“The Chaser” (1.31 Paramount Plus)

“The Trade-Ins” (3.31 Paramount Plus)

“The Long Morrow” (5.15 Paramount Plus)

**Due: Review Essay 1**

## WEEK 8

### WEDNESDAY

“The Obsolete Man” (2.29 Paramount Plus)

“The Silence” (2.25 Paramount Plus)

“The Midnight Sun” (3.10 Paramount Plus)

## FRIDAY

“Long Live Walter Jameson” (1.24 Paramount Plus)

“Queen of the Nile” (5.23 Paramount Plus)

"A Nice Place to Visit" (1.28 Paramount Plus)

## Due: Review Essay 2

### WEEK 9

#### WEDNESDAY

"The Sixteen-Millimeter Shrine" (1.4 Paramount Plus)

"Static" (2.20 Paramount Plus)

"A World of His Own" (1.36 Paramount Plus)

#### FRIDAY

"Walking Distance" (1.5 Paramount Plus)

"A Stop at Willoughby" (1.30 Paramount Plus)

"A World of Difference" (1.23 Paramount Plus)

### WEEK 10

#### WEDNESDAY

"I Am the Night, Color Me Black" (5.26 Paramount Plus)

"The Encounter" (5.31 Paramount Plus)

"Nightmare at 20,000 Feet" (5.3 Paramount Plus)

#### FRIDAY

"To Serve Man" (3.24 Paramount Plus)

"The Little People" (3.28 Paramount Plus)

"One More Pallbearer" (3.17 Paramount Plus)

Brian Murray, "The Enduring Legacy of *The Twilight Zone*"  
(PDF Canvas)



Lecture 5

FINALS WEEK

Due: Review Essay 3