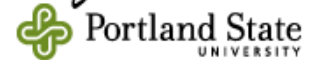


The Rhetoric and Composition Program



Challenge Exams

Credit/Waiver by Examination

Students have two ways you can challenge the writing courses WR 121 and WR 323 if you feel confident about your writing skills and can fulfill the prerequisites. The English Department offers the exams on the third Friday of Fall, Winter, and Spring quarters. Or Independent Study offers the exams at the student's convenience.

Challenge Exam details: WR121 – Page 2; WR323 – Page 3.

What you need:

1. Your portfolio of writing
2. Photo ID
3. Receipt from PSU cashier indicating you have paid for the exam
4. Dictionary/Thesaurus (optional)

You will have two hours to complete the exam and will have the results within two weeks.

How The Exams Are Evaluated

Evaluators will look at the quality of your writing. To pass any of the exams, you must earn at least a "C-".

For the WR 121 and 323 Credit by Examination: If you pass, the assigned grade and four credit hours will be recorded on your transcript. You may change your letter grade to a "Pass" if you wish. If you do not pass, you must take the actual course. This decision is final. You may not take the examination twice.

For the WR 323 Waiver by Examination: If you pass, your transcript will show that you have met the WR 323 requirement. If you do not pass, you must take the WR 323 class or a Writing Intensive course. You may not take the examination twice.

For further questions, call the Department of English at 503-725-3521. You can also obtain informational forms, waiver forms, general advice on the challenge exams and Writing Intensive Courses.

Hildy Miller, Director of Writing (milleh@pdx.edu) can offer advice about the exam you wish to take.

Independent Study Credit By Examination

If you wish to take the exam through Independent Study, where you can take it at your own convenience, call 503-725-4865 or visit web page <<http://www.extended.pdx.edu>> or go to Office of Independent Study:

Extended Studies Building (XSB)
1633 SW Park Avenue
Portland, OR 97207

The exam, its evaluation, and the procedures are the same as for English-except that you may take the exam at your own convenience.

WR 121 Challenge Exam Details

This examination (a sit down essay with a portfolio of samples of your writing), if passed, will earn you 4 credit hours on your transcript and exempt you from having to take Writing 121. You should pick up a Credit by Exam form from the English Department Office in Neuberger Hall 405; pay a \$40 fee to the Cashier's Office in Neuberger Hall (save your copy of the receipt); and prepare to take the exam on the third Friday of the new term at 9:00 am in Cramer Hall 188F (The Writing Center). You'll need to bring with you a portfolio of your writing and your receipt.

Specifications for the WR 121 Credit By Examination Writing Portfolio:

- 8-15 pages of your own writing in a manila folder containing:
 - One essay of your choice (book report or personal narrative, for example)
 - Either an argumentative or expository essay
- Table of Contents indicating which piece fulfills which of the above specifications

WR 323 Credit or Waiver by Examination

WR 323 Credit by Examination

This examination (a sit down essay to be turned in with a portfolio of samples of your writing), if passed, will earn you 4 credit hours on your transcript and exempt you from having to take Writing 323. You should pick up a Credit by Exam form from the English Department Office Manager in Neuberger Hall 405; pay a \$60 fee to the Cashier's Office in Neuberger Hall (save your copy of the receipt); and prepare to take the exam on the third Friday of the new term at 9:00 am in Cramer Hall 188F (The Writing Center). You'll need to bring with you a portfolio (see below) of your writing and your receipt.

WR 323 Waiver by Examination

If you already have six credit hours of Composition, are currently enrolled at Portland State University, and do not need the credit hours, you may take a waiver exam. Your transcript will show that you met the WR 323 requirement. This is a good option for students who do not need the credit hours and who need to not exceed a certain number of credits for financial aid purposes. Please keep in mind that you will not receive any credits on your transcript once you pass this exam, just the waiver.

Pick up a Waiver by Exam form from the English Department Office Manager in Neuberger Hall 405; pay a \$20 fee to the Cashier's Office in Neuberger Hall (save your copy of the receipt); and prepare to take the exam on the third Friday of the new term at 9:00 am in 188F Cramer Hall. You'll need to bring with you a portfolio of your writing and your receipt.

WR 323 Course Substitution

Keep in mind that students who are required to take WR 323 classes can substitute a Writing Intensive Course . These courses are offered every term and designated with a "W" in the schedule. A Writing Intensive Course fulfills the requirement for WR 323.

WR 323 Writing Portfolio Specification (Credit or Waiver Exam)

12-20 pages of writing in a manila folder, which must include:

- An argumentative essay
- An essay responding to a text

- Your choice (may include a personal experience narrative, poetry, fiction, journalism, technical writing, published works, other)
- If possible, include preliminary drafts of one of these essays
- Table of Contents indicating which paper falls into each of the above categories