

Sample Syllabus Statement for Writing Intensive Courses

Advanced reading and writing skills are essential to your development as a critical thinker. The University of Portland requires you to take writing intensive courses such as this one in order to help you develop these crucial skills. Our goal is not to make you churn out essays, but rather to help you develop your ability to discern, judge, articulate, and reflect via the writing process. Writing is a complex human activity that includes creativity, research, close reading, analysis, drafting, and revision. When you use AI to perform these functions, you short-circuit the development of these skills. Furthermore, writing intensive courses are intended to help you cultivate critical literacy, or the ability to question and examine ideas and sources responsibly. When you rely uncritically on AI—which regularly fabricates misinformation and reproduces biases—you hinder the development of these skills.

For these reasons, use of AI tools is strongly discouraged in this writing intensive course. If you have a compelling reason to use them, be sure to cite any text produced by AI as you would other sources and to disclose your use of AI functions in your text, a note, or in an appendix. You are the author of your work for the course and authorship means you take responsibility for your words and claims. Any unauthorized or unacknowledged use of AI tools in your work will be considered an academic integrity violation and addressed accordingly. Please see me if you have any questions about this policy or the appropriate ways to cite and disclose AI use.