

Syllabus for ENGL-101: Introduction to College Writing

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Office hours: By appointment Monday to Thursday

Class schedule: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00-11:45 A.M.

What is College Writing? Course Goals

This course will help you grow as a writer, reviser, and researcher. It will help you develop the skills necessary to meet the demands of college writing while focusing on experiential, expressive, and analytic writing. This involves learning the principles of writing and revising essays within different rhetorical situations, to include purpose and audience; adapting writing for an audience; finding, summarizing, analyzing, and synthesizing information from single and multiple texts; organizing information into a persuasive and coherent essay; understanding elements of style and grammar; and giving effective oral presentations that present a point through a skillful combination of argument and the exposition of appropriate supporting information.

Since this is mostly a workshop class, we will spend a large portion of our time together writing, revising and researching within the context of a positive, non-stressful, collaborative yet academic environment. The more effort you put into your work and your reflection on the work of others, the more benefits you will derive from this experience.

You will have to write weekly, preparing drafts of your essays and revising your work, which you will share with both your peers and your instructor. Your classmates and I will give you ample written and oral responses that you could take into consideration at the moment of revising your essays.

Required Materials

Course packet

An English-English dictionary

Two CDs, or a memory stick to save all your writing and your final oral presentation

Course Structure

Since this class is all about active learning, for the most part, it will be structured as a writing workshop. While maintaining a positive, collaborative environment, you will work in groups of three or four students. Be prepared to show your group a new piece of writing or substantial revisions frequently. Critical reading is one of the goals of the course, and you will have an opportunity to practice it as you respond to drafts in various stages of development.

Besides talking about writing, through selected readings in different areas, we will build common experiences and a common store of knowledge around a set of themes. Moreover, we will work with handouts on grammar, mechanics and writing skills as well as on writing short essays before we move on to the portfolio essays which are the main concern of this course.

In this course you will write three **portfolio essays**. For the first essay, based on personal experience, you need to convey a clear dominant impression to a clearly defined audience as you narrate and describe a dream, encounter with nature, or memory in vivid detail. For the second essay, based on research, you need to carefully consider different points of view as you discuss the different sides of an issue or try to persuade an audience to favor your standpoint; this essay requires writing preliminary notes. For the third and final essay, based on a movie, you and the other members of your group need to collaboratively watch, research, and write a critical response to a film.

In addition to the three portfolio essays, you will be expected to write **one in-class essay** and do both collaborative work and individual work involving the development of skills pertinent to college writing. For all your work you will be given ample time, information, and direction. You will also be required to give an oral presentation about the collaborative film essay at the end of the semester.

Participation

This course requires a serious commitment to reading, studying, researching and writing on a weekly basis.

Attendance and Activity

Your regular attendance is vital, for you are expected to do in-class writing as well as contribute to class discussions, peer-editing groups, and other class activities. **Regular class attendance is not an option; it's a course requirement.**

Bear in mind that you have the responsibility to contact me in case of unavoidable absence, and that make-up work will be arranged at my discretion.

Even though I understand that (on occasion) unavoidable events may prevent you from attending class--for example, major illness with proper written documentation or a death in the family, absences are not to be labeled "excused" or "unexcused." Please note that any student with five (5) or more absences will receive a grade of **F** for this course.

Your physical presence, full attention and participation in class discussions, peer editing, and any other class activities is required for the entire class period. Every time that you are late or leave early (no more than fifteen minutes in either case) will count as half an absence. Being present and participating in class also means willingness to thoughtfully and respectfully discuss your own writing, that of your classmates, and any other class readings or assignments.

English Only!

Please use English only while in class. Using other languages wastes your time and defeats the purpose of the class.

Prohibition against the Use of Electronic Devices

Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, laptops, notebook computers, tablet PCs, PDAs, and other electronic devices when class is in session. Laptops, notebook computers, and tablet PCs may not

be used in this class (unless you have been authorized by the instructor to use all or any of them for class purposes).

Writing Workshop

On the day of writing workshop sessions, you must submit typed copies of your draft to your group members and me. You will also be required to complete and turn in Editor's Comment Sheets for other group members at the end of the class. Estimated due dates for workshops are listed in the calendar below.

Handing in Papers/Assignments

Papers/Assignments must be handed in at the beginning of class. Any papers/assignments not given to me in person, whether before or after the day they are due, will not be accepted and will not be graded. No papers/assignments will be accepted over email. Moreover, be forewarned that under no circumstances will I accept a final copy of a paper for which I have not seen the prior drafting stages and/or approved its topic.

Late Policy

All papers and other assignments must be handed in at the beginning of class on the day they are due; otherwise, they will be considered late. Be forewarned that I will not accept papers/assignments that are more than one class meeting late. Your grade for a late essay/assignment (not more than two days overdue) will go down by ten points for each day it is late and you will automatically forfeit your option to rewrite that essay. For example, a late 91 paper will receive an 81 and its writer will have no right to rewrite his/her essay for a higher grade.

Academic Integrity

The integrity of the work done in this class is crucial, and it has a direct influence on the value of the work done and the validity of student evaluations. In the event of any violations of UofL's academic integrity policy—plagiarism, fabrication and falsification, cheating, complicity in academic dishonesty, abuse of academic materials, or multiple submissions, among others—the offender will get an **F** in the course **and a letter written into his/her file**. This same policy applies to group projects: consequently, all the members of a group submitting a group project must make sure that the work that they submit does not violate academic integrity in any way.

The University defines plagiarism as “representing the words or ideas of someone else as one's own in any academic exercise.” Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated in this class. Please read the article “Preventing Plagiarism” on the UofL website at the following address.

<http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/writingcenter/plagiarism.htm>

Disability Statement

The University of Louisville is committed to providing access to programs and services for qualified students with disabilities. If you are a student with a disability and require accommodation to participate in and complete requirements for this class, contact the Academic Dean of Quality Leadership University, Mariana León, for verification of eligibility and determination of specific accommodations.” Please speak to me about any concerns you may have.

Grades

Your work will be graded using the University of Louisville Grading System.

GRADE	GRADE POINT PER UNIT	
A+	4.0	97 – 100
A	4.0	94 – 96
A-	3.7	90 – 93
B+	3.3	86 – 89
B	3.0	83 – 85
B-	2.7	80 – 82
C+	2.3	76 – 79
C	2.0	73 – 75
C-	1.7	70 – 72
D+	1.2	66 – 69
D	1.0	63 – 65
D-	0.7	60 – 62
F	0.0	59 and lower

Your final grade in this course will be determined by the following criteria:

Three portfolio essays--65%

Narrative Essay--25% (10% for pre-writing, draft/s, and ECSs)

Collaborative Film Essay--15% (5% for pre-writing, draft/s, and ECSs)

Researched Argumentative Essay--25% (10% for pre-writing, research material, notes, draft/s and ECSs)

In-class essay--15% (5% for pre-writing, draft/s, and ECSs)

Individual fulfillment of requirements and active participation (includes **class attendance, class work, informal assignments, quizzes, homework, group work, active participation in class discussions**)--10%

Final oral presentation--10%

Grading Criteria:

A+. A and A- for EXCELLENT college level work

B+, B, and B- for VERY GOOD college level work

C+, C, and C- for GOOD college level work

D+, D, and D- for FAIR (minimally acceptable) college level work

F for POOR (incomplete, low quality) college level work

Course Schedule

Tuesday, September 02	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Introduction to class-The Writing Process<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Brainstorming, gathering material, editing, and rewriting-Kinds of writing-The organization of an essay-Writing thesis statements and topic sentences-Writing supporting material-Pre-writing: Applying invention techniques
Thursday, September 04	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-In-class 5-paragraph essay <p>Due: <i>Pre-writing and handwritten draft of in-class 5-paragraph essay</i></p>
Tuesday, September 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Descriptive and narrative writing-Guidelines for personal experience essay-Guidelines for the Writing Workshop-Workshop <p>Due: <i>Complete typed draft of in-class 5-paragraph essay (together with pre-writing and handwritten draft)</i></p>
Thursday, September 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Descriptive and narrative writing-Description: Building images <p>Due: <i>Final typed copy of in-class 5-paragraph essay (together with pre-writing, handwritten draft, typed draft, and ECSs)</i></p>
Tuesday, September 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Writing from Research-Finding a Topic <p>Due: <i>Pre-writing for personal experience essay</i></p>
Thursday, September 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Finding and filtering electronic sources-Guidelines for Argumentative/Dialogic Researched Essay
Tuesday, September 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Workshop <p>Due: <i>Complete typed draft of personal experience essay (together with pre-writing and rough draft)</i></p>
Thursday, September 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Gathering Data in the Library-Conducting research outside the library
Tuesday, September 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Understanding and avoiding plagiarism <p>Due: <i>Final typed copy of personal experience essay (together with pre-writing, rough draft, typed draft, and ECSs)</i></p>

Thursday, October 02	-Understanding and avoiding plagiarism -Finding and evaluating sources Due: <i>Pre-writing and research question for argumentative/dialogic researched essay</i>
Tuesday, October 07	-Organizing ideas and setting goals -Workshop Due: <i>Thesis statement and outline for argumentative/dialogic researched essay</i>
Thursday, October 09	-Writing effective notes -Workshop Due: <i>Sources and notes for argumentative/dialogic researched essay</i>
Tuesday, October 14	-Writing effective notes -Workshop Due: <i>Sources and notes for argumentative/dialogic researched essay</i>
Thursday, October 16	-Drafting the paper in an academic style -Persuading: Making a case
Tuesday, October 21	-Blending reference material into your writing -Workshop -Guidelines for collaborative film essay -Watch <i>films</i> for collaborative film essay
Thursday, October 23	-Revising, proofreading, and formatting the rough draft -Works cited: MLA style
Tuesday, October 28	-Workshop Due: <i>Complete typed draft of collaborative film critique/analysis (together with pre-writing and rough draft)</i>
Thursday, October 30	Due: <i>Final typed copy of collaborative film critique/analysis (together with pre-writing, rough draft, and ECSS)</i>
Tuesday, November 04	NO CLASS – Patriotic Holidays
Thursday, November 06	NO CLASS – Patriotic Holidays
Tuesday, November 11	-Student-teacher conferences about final paper -Workshop

- Thursday, November 13 -Student-teacher conferences about final paper
-Workshop
- Tuesday, November 18 Due: ***Complete typed draft of argumentative/dialogic researched essay (together with pre-writing, notes, and rough draft)***
- Thursday, November 20 -Oral presentations
- Tuesday, November 25 -Oral presentations
Due: ***Final typed copy of argumentative/dialogic researched essay (together with pre-writing, notes, drafts, and ECSs)***
- Thursday, November 27 -Oral presentations

THERE WILL BE NO FINAL EXAM

***Note:** This syllabus is subject to change. Modifications to it will be announced in due time if any may be necessary.