

English Composition 101-24
T/Th 12:30-1:45, MHRA 2208
Spring 2009
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Office Hours W/Th 2:00-3:30 or by appointment

I. Course

A. Goals (per, UNCG course information)

- 1) Interpret and evaluate written and/or oral arguments
- 2) Locate and evaluate relevant information
- 3) Construct and communicate cogent arguments
- 4) Adapt modes of communication to the audience and/or purpose

B. Description

English Composition is designed as an introductory course to college level writing. Composition treats writing as a way to learn as well as a skill. Throughout the semester you will be asked to analyze written text as a way to better understand the way an argument is constructed; through your own writing, you will become more adept at creating an argument and communicating the tenets of your support. Because composition is process oriented (as opposed to product), much of the course is devoted to the process of writing, both inception and revision. All formal assignments will be submitted as drafts, to be critiqued by peers in small groups and by me, as your instructor. Drafts will be revised at least twice (once for the final essay and a second time for the portfolio). The composition is about continued improvement; writing is not a skill that can be learned in one semester but we become better writers through the continued practice of writing, critiquing, and revising.

C. Materials

Lunsford, Andrea, John Ruszkiewicz and Keith Walters. Everything's an Argument: With Readings. 4th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007.

E-Reserve readings on Blackboard, as assigned.

D. Other Requirements

Access to Blackboard, UNCG email, and a printer.
A folder to keep handouts, drafts, and readings.
A 3-pronged folder for the portfolio.

II. Class Policies

A. Decorum

Be respectful of yourself, your peers, me, and the course. This means 1) active participation in class 2) arriving on time 3) having course materials in hand and read/written and 4) not introducing distractions such as cell phones, laptops, or side conversations during class time.

B. Attendance

More than four absences for any reason will result in an "F" in the course. Please arrange a conference with me before attendance becomes an issue.

C. Conferences

Two conferences are required during the semester. During the first, we will discuss broad issues that came up during the first essay assignment and any questions about revision. During the second conference toward the end of the semester, we will discuss your last essay and concerns you have about the portfolio. As class is cancelled for two days to accommodate schedules, conferences are mandatory. Failure to show at a conference counts as missing two days of class.

III. Assignments

A. Grading

1) Participation 25%

Your participation grade is made up of 1) reading responses as Blackboard posts; 2) class discussion; 3) group assignments; 4) informal or in-class writing; and 5) conferences.

2) Formal essays 25%

There are five essays (around 5 pages each). Each essay is worth 5% of your final grade, half for turning in the draft and half for turning in the final. You will be given a provisional grade for the final draft; however, the final grade is not assigned until the portfolio.

3) Portfolio 50%

The portfolio is composed of 25 pages of polished (revised) writing, all previous drafts, and a reflection piece. The portfolio is due at the end of the semester, though it is often helpful to begin the revision process early. Please keep all versions of

your essays, as well as any peer critiques from workshops, until the end of the semester.

B. Guidelines

1) Late assignments will not be accepted. If you are absent on a due date, the assignment still needs to be turned in. Please make arrangements with me beforehand.

2) Essays are accepted as hard copy only. Papers should be formatted as follows:

Titled

Stapled!

Double spaced

One inch ruled margins

Size 12 New Roman or similar font

Pages numbered

Your name, course #, assignment, and date in upper right hand corner

For formal essays, please bring three copies on the day drafts are due: one you will keep; the other two will be distributed to your peer-reviewers. Peer responses are due the next class. Responses should be 1-2 pages typed, or fully answer the questions on a handout, and address helpful feedback for the writer.

3) Reading responses are posted to Blackboard and should be ready by 10:00 am of the day they are due. Posts should be at least 250 words and directly address the reading for the day. Responses should be thoughtful, well-crafted, and written in Standard English (no internet speak, please). You can also ask questions or raise concerns you had while reading. This is also a good opportunity to find connections between the readings. Posts can respond to my initial thread or feed off comments from other class members. Remember, however, that posts should demonstrate your understanding of the reading and should not be simple "I agree with what everyone else said" statements.

4) Peer critiques are an integral part of the writing process in a composition classroom. As such, you are expected to read and respond to essay drafts of peers in your workshop group. Your workshop group, composed of three people chosen at random, will meet to discuss your drafts; peer critiques give helpful feedback to the writer. However, critiques also help strengthen your skills as a reader, which in turn strengthen your skills as a writer. Peer critiques, while not turned in to me, will be checked during workshop and earn a grade.

5) Attendance at one outside event is required. This event can be cultural (a dance performance or play, for instance) or academic (a lecture or discussion group). After attending the event, you will write a 2-page response giving a brief (very brief) overview of the event as well as your thoughts and reactions. A listing of campus

events can be found at <<http://calendar.uncg.edu>>. The last day to turn in the response, worth 5% of your grade, is April 2.

C. Plagiarism

UNCG's "Academic Integrity Policy" can be found online at <<http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/policy/academicintegrity>> or in the Undergraduate Bulletin. Violations of academic integrity will be reported to university officials and may result in consequences for the course ranging in severity from re-doing an assignment to failing the course.

D. MLA Style

You are expected to follow the MLA format for citing sources. The Writing Center and library have helpful links for information about MLA style. The UNCG datebook also has a brief overview of MLA style in the back as a handy reference.

<http://www.uncg.edu/eng/writingcenter/citations.html>
<http://library.uncg.edu/depts/ref/qil/styles.asp>

E. Student Services

Students with disabilities who desire classroom accommodations should contact the Office of Disability Services at 334-5440 or <<http://ods.dept.uncg.edu/>>.

The Writing Center is located in 3211 of the MHRA building. They can help you at any stage of the writing process, from prewriting to polishing. Please schedule an appointment with them at any point during the semester if you need outside help with your writing. For more information visit <www.uncg.edu/eng/writingcenter/>.

Each visit to the Writing Center will be counted as an extra credit point added to your final grade.

Course Schedule (subject to change)

EAA = Everything's An Argument

BB = reading assignment on Blackboard

HO = in class handout

Assignments are listed on the day they are due! That means *before* the date on the syllabus, you should read the text and be ready to discuss.

Bring three copies of your essay on the day drafts are due.

Reading responses should be posted to Blackboard by 10:00 am the day they are due.

DATE	ASSIGNMENTS DUE	READINGS DUE
Tuesday 1/20	Introductions/Syllabus	Anne Lamott essay (HO) "shitty first drafts" and the writing process
Thursday 1/22	RR posted to BB	EEA Ch 1; Klass essay (BB) introduction to rhetoric; language and identity
Tuesday 1/27	RR posted to BB	EEA Ch 2 & 3 Aristotle's ethos and pathos
Thursday 1/29	RR posted to BB	EEA Ch 4 Aristotle's logos
Tuesday 2/3	Essay #1 draft due (literacy narrative)	
Thursday 2/5	Peer critiques due	Workshop day
Tuesday 2/10	Conferences - no class; essay #1 final due at conference	
Thursday 2/12	Conferences - no class; essay #1 final due at conference	