

## **English 101, Section 30: Academic Reading and Writing**

Instructor: Jason Siegel

Office: 322

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Office Hours: MWF 11:00am-12:00 pm, or by appointment

Time and Place

TuTh 2:00-3:15 pm

### **Contacting me**

Please feel free to contact me whenever you have any questions about course materials or policies. You will probably find it most useful to meet with me during my office hours (You don't even have to make an appointment!), but for minor questions you can send me an email and I will get back to you within 24 hours. If you'd like to meet with me but cannot make it to my regular office hours, we can schedule a meeting time that will work for both of us.

### **Course Description**

English 101 is an introduction to freshman writing. Its main purposes are to prepare you for the demands of writing at the college level and to offer you the chance to think about writing beyond the classroom and in a variety of situations. Writing is both a way of learning and of communicating, and this course offers you an opportunity to explore concepts through personal writing, to form intelligent and critical responses to the writings of others, and to develop and analyze rhetoric. Writing is also a process and this course will teach you how drafting and revising can help you turn an interesting idea into an enjoyable and persuasive piece of writing.

To accomplish this, you will need to gain an awareness of the rhetorical situation in which you are writing. Who is your target audience? How should this affect the way you write? What are your purposes for writing? What do you hope to accomplish? These are the types of questions we will consider throughout the semester.

Most importantly, English 101 emphasizes critical thinking—the process of questioning and scrutinizing every idea and considering it from multiple perspectives in order to reach an informed opinion that will increase your understanding of the world and allow you to enlighten others.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

#### **Reading**

- Critically read, analyze, and discuss a variety of texts for meanings stated and implied, purpose, patterns of organization, and effectiveness of supporting evidence
- Describe the rhetorical situation/context of a piece of writing, and evaluate author's choices within that situation and genre

## **Writing**

- Apply critical reading skills in order to compose coherent, thesis-based texts
- Adapt content, form, and style to various audiences, purposes, and situations
- Use techniques to edit writing and make conscious choices about mechanics, grammar, and usage to meet the needs of audience, purpose, and genre

## **Process**

- Use recursive composing processes as tools to discover, rethink, and reflect on ideas and develop personal writing strategies
- Self-assess individual writing strengths and weaknesses to develop effective strategies that can be transferred
- Learn the difference between higher-order and lower-order problems and use that knowledge both to offer constructive feedback and to guide their own revisions

## **Information Literacy/Research**

- Understand that sources have different levels of credibility that should inform how students use those sources in their writing
- Select and use information from sources using paraphrase, quotation, and/or summary in a manner that avoids plagiarism

**Texts and Materials.** You'll need to purchase or rent the following course materials:

• *Patterns for College Writing, Fifteenth Edition*

• *Think Like a Freak*

## **Course Requirements/Grades**

Portfolio 1: 20%

Portfolio 2: 25%

Portfolio 3: 30%

Class Participation: 25%

**Grading Scale:** A=93-100; A-=90-92; B+=87-89; B=83-86; B-=80-82; C+=77-79; C=73-76; C-=70-72; D+=67-69; D=63-66; D-=60-62; F=0-59

If you are considering dropping the course for any reason, please see an advisor in the Solution Center in order to find out how it will affect your financial aid.

## **Attendance**

Attendance is absolutely required. English 101 is a seminar-like, discussion-based course, so your presence matters for your own learning, as well as for the contributions you can make to the learning of others. For this reason, you need to be in class on time and

prepared every single meeting. However, because I realize there are times when you must miss class due to illness, a family emergency, or other pressing matters, you will be allowed two free unexcused absences without penalty. If you know you have to miss class, send me an email ahead of time whenever possible. It is *your* responsibility to find out what you missed and to make up any work as required. Excessive or habitual tardiness may be counted as an absence.

The final course grade will be lowered for each additional absence beyond the first 2 absences (An A will become an A-, an A- will become a B+, and so on). An absence beyond 5 unexcused absences (not counting the two free absences) will result in a student failing the course.

Obviously, I will take into account *extraordinary* reasons for an absence such as a severe accident or illness, a family emergency or death, a recognized religious holiday, or jury duty. Just let me know!

### **Participation**

Because the success of our seminar largely depends on your active participation, you are expected, not only to be here, but also to talk and/or ask questions on a regular basis. This means you have to keep up with the reading so that you will actually have something to say. You are also expected to treat me and your fellow students with respect and to comport yourself like an adult. You are free to disagree with any comments you might hear in class and to express your own views, but do so in a respectful, non-combative manner. For example, you might say, “Jason makes a good point, but E. B. White’s statement on page 5 seems to contradict what Jason just said.” I realize that speaking up during class is easier for some than others, so I am glad to help out if you are having trouble entering the conversation. Just talk to me during office hours or drop me an email.

### **Submitting Assignments**

Assignments for the course will be submitted to the “Assignments” section in Canvas by the appropriate due date. I will go over how to use Canvas before the first assignment is due.

### **Coursework**

The only way to learn to write is to practice, so this course will require you to write constantly. The course will be divided into three units, each of which will require you to write a short essay that you will then build upon to produce a longer essay. Each essay will go through multiple drafts, and your various drafts will be collected in a portfolio due at the end of the unit.

### **Late Work**

You will do a lot of writing and revising in this course and a lot of work with your peers, which means that all work must be turned in at the beginning of class on the date

specified. If a paper or draft is turned in late, the overall grade for that paper assignment will be reduced by a letter grade (i.e. A to A-) for every calendar day that the paper or draft is late. When a paper is one week late, it automatically receives a failing grade.

### **Academic Honesty and Plagiarism**

Plagiarism, or taking credit for words or ideas not your own, is a serious offence and will lead to dire consequences. The penalty for plagiarism ranges from failing the course to expulsion from the university. See the *Student Rights and Regulations* handbook for more information about plagiarism and its consequences. If I think you have plagiarized, I will meet with you and refer your name to a disciplinary committee responsible for overseeing the investigation of academic crimes. Except for acknowledged quotations, all of your work is to be written in your own words. You may not copy from a book, another student's paper, a webpage, or any other source.

## Calendar

Below is an outline of the semester calendar. Although the schedule might change, assume that it is correct unless I tell you otherwise. Please note that homework assignments are due at the *beginning* of class on the very next class date after which they are assigned (if it is assigned on Tuesday, it is due on Thursday, etc.).

In the list of readings below, PCW refers to *Patterns for College Writing*. Additional Readings will be available on Canvas.

### Unit 1: Personal Narrative as Argument

#### Tuesday 9/6

*In Class:* -Distribution of Syllabus  
-Introduction to Course  
-Getting to know one another  
-Begin Self-Assessment Essay

*Homework:* -Read Syllabus  
-Read "Narration" (PCW 97-102)  
-Read "Once More to the Lake" (Canvas)  
-Finish Self-Assessment Essay

#### Thursday 9/8

*In Class:* -**Self-Assessment Essay Due in the "Assignments" Section**  
-Discuss "Narration" (PCW 97-102)  
-Discuss White, "Once More to the Lake" (Canvas)

*Homework:* -Read Staples., "Just Walk on By" (PCW 231-34)

#### Tuesday 9/13

*In Class:* -Discuss Staples., "Just Walk on By" (PCW 231-34)  
*Homework:* -Read Forte, "My Field of Dreams" (PCW 106-10)

#### Thursday 9/15

*In Class:* -Discuss Essay 1  
-Discuss Forte, "My Field of Dreams" (PCW 106-10)  
*Homework:* -Read Twain, "Corn-pone Opinions" (Canvas)  
-Read Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant" (PCW 132-37)

#### Tuesday 9/20

*In Class:* -Discuss Twain, "Corn-pone Opinions" (Canvas)  
-Discuss Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant" (PCW 132-37)  
*Homework:* -Read Hasselstrom, "A Peaceful Woman Explains Why She Carries a Gun" (PCW 348-52)  
-**Essay 1 Due Tues 9/27 in the "Assignments" Section**

### **Thursday 9/22**

*In Class:* -Discuss Essay 2

-Discuss Hasselstrom, "A Peaceful Woman Explains Why She Carries a Gun"  
(PCW 348-52)

*Homework:* -Read "Body Paragraphs" (PCW 54-59)

-Read Nguyen, "Goodbye to My Twinkie Days" (PCW 171-73)

**-Draft One of Project 1 Due Thurs 9/30 in Class (3 physical copies)**

### **Tuesday 9/27**

*In Class:* -**Essay 1 Due in the "Assignments" Section**

-Discuss "Body Paragraphs" (PCW 54-59)

-Discuss Nguyen, "Goodbye to My Twinkie Days" (PCW 171-73)

*Homework:* -Bring in one question about grammar or punctuation

**- Essay 2 Due Tues 10/4 in the "Assignments" section and in the  
"Peer Review 1" Section of the "Discussions" area**

### **Thursday 9/29**

*In Class:* -Discuss Grammar and Punctuation

-Discuss Peer Review process

--Work on examples from experience for Writing Project 1

*Homework:* - **Essay 2 Due Tues 10/4**

### **Tuesday 10/4**

*In Class:* -**Essay 2 Due in the "Assignments" section and in the "Peer Review 1"  
Section of the "Discussions" area**

-No Class: Conferences and Peer Review

*Homework:* -**Portfolio 1 Due Thurs 10/20 in the "Assignments" Section**

### **Thursday 10/6**

*In Class:* -No Class: Conferences. Peer Review Comments due by 1159 pm

*Homework:* -Work on Revisions

**-Portfolio 1 Due Thurs 10/20 in the "Assignments" Section**

### **Tuesday 10/11**

*In Class:* -No Class: Conferences.

*Homework:* -Work on Revisions

**-Portfolio 1 Due Thurs 10/20 in the "Assignments" Section**

## **Unit 2: Reading and Responding**

### **Thursday 10/13**

*In Class:* -Introduce Unit 2

-Discuss Essay 3

*Homework:* -Watch Santiago, "Are Video Games Art?" (Canvas)

-Read Ebert, "Video Games Can Never Be Art" (Canvas)

**-Portfolio 1 Due Thurs 10/20 in the "Assignments" Section**

### **Tuesday 10/18**

*In Class:* -Discuss Santiago, "Are Video Games Art?" (Canvas)

-Discuss Ebert, "Video Games Can Never Be Art" (Canvas)

*Homework:* -Read Tannen, "Sex, Lies, and Conversation" (PCW 408-12)

**-Portfolio 1 Due Thurs 10/20 in the "Assignments" Section**

### **Thursday 10/20**

*In Class:* **-Portfolio 1 Due in the "Assignments" Section**

-Discuss Tannen, "Sex, Lies, and Conversation" (PCW 408-12)

*Homework:* -Read Amselem, "No, Your Student Loans Should Not Be Forgiven"  
(PCW 578-80)

-Read Levitz, "We Must Cancel Everyone's Student Debt" (PCW 582-584)

**-Essay 3 Due Tues 11/1 in the "Assignments" Section**

### **Tuesday 10/25**

*In Class:* -Discuss Amselem, "No, Your Student Loans Should Not Be Forgiven"  
(PCW 578-80)

-Discuss Levitz, "We Must Cancel Everyone's Student Debt" (PCW 582-84)

*Homework:* -Read King Jr., "Letter from Birmingham Jail" (PCW 562-74)

**-Essay 3 Due Tues 11/1 in the "Assignments" Section**

### **Thursday 10/27**

*In Class:* - Discuss King Jr., "Letter from Birmingham Jail" (PCW 562-74)

*Homework:* -Read Levitt and Dubner, *Think Like a Freak*, Ch. 1 (1-17)

**-Essay 3 Due Tues 11/1 in the "Assignments" Section**

### **Tuesday 11/1**

*In Class:* **-Essay 3 Due in the "Assignments" Section**

-Discuss Essay 4

-Discuss Levitt and Dubner, *Think Like a Freak*, Ch. 1 (1-17)

*Homework:* -Read Levitt and Dubner, *Think Like a Freak*, Ch. 2 (19-48)

-Read Levitt and Dubner, *Think Like a Freak*, Ch. 3 (49-64)

**-Essay 4 Due Thurs 11/10 in the "Assignments" section and in the "Peer Review 2" Section of the "Discussions" area**

### **Thursday 11/3**

*In Class:* -Discuss Levitt and Dubner, *Think Like a Freak*, Ch. 2 (19-48)

-Discuss Levitt and Dubner, *Think Like a Freak*, Ch. 3 (49-64)

*Homework:* - Read Levitt and Dubner, *Think Like a Freak*, Ch. 4 (65-86)

-Read Levitt and Dubner, *Think Like a Freak*, Ch. 5 (87-104)

**-Essay 4 Due Thurs 11/10**

### **Tuesday 11/8**

*In Class:* -Discuss Levitt and Dubner, *Think Like a Freak*, Ch. 4 (65-86)

-Discuss Levitt and Dubner, *Think Like a Freak*, Ch. 5 (87-104)

*Homework:* **-Essay 4 due Thurs 11/10**

### **Thursday 11/10**

*In Class:* **-Essay 4 Due in the “Assignments” section and in the “Peer Review 2”  
Section of the “Discussions” area**

-No Class: Conferences and Peer Review

*Homework:* **-Portfolio 2 Due Tues 11/22 in the “Assignments” Section**

### **Tuesday 11/15**

*In Class:* -No Class: Conferences. Peer Review Comments due by 11:59 pm

*Homework:* -Work on Revisions

**-Portfolio 2 Due Tues 11/22 in the “Assignments” Section**

### **Thursday 11/17**

*In Class:* *In Class:* -No Class: Conferences.

*Homework:* -Work on Revisions

**-Portfolio 2 Due Tues 11/22 in the “Assignments” Section**

## **Unit 3: Rhetorical Analysis**

### **Tuesday 11/22**

*In Class:* **-Portfolio 2 Due in the “Assignments” Section**

-Introduce Unit 3

-Discuss Essay 5

*Homework:* -Read Levitt and Dubner, *Think Like a Freak*, Ch. 6 (105-135)

-Read Levitt and Dubner, *Think Like a Freak*, Ch. 7 (137-165)

**-Essay 5 Outline Due Thurs 12/1 in the “Assignments” Section**

**NOVEMBER 24-25 THANKSGIVING BREAK—NO CLASS**



**Tuesday 11/29**

*In Class:* -Discuss Levitt and Dubner, *Think Like a Freak*, Ch. 6 (105-135)

-Discuss Levitt and Dubner, *Think Like a Freak*, Ch. 7 (137-165)

*Homework:* -Read Levitt and Dubner, *Think Like a Freak*, Ch. 8 (167-88)

**-Essay 5 Outline Due Thurs 12/1 in the “Assignments” Section**

**Thursday 12/1**

*In Class:* -**Short Assignment 3 Due in the “Assignments” Section**

- Discuss Levitt and Dubner, *Think Like a Freak*, Ch. 8 (167-88)

*Homework:* -Read Levitt and Dubner, *Think Like a Freak*, Ch. 9 (189-211)

**-Essay 5 Due Thurs 12/8 in the “Assignments” section and in the “Peer Review 3” Section of the “Discussions” area**

**Tuesday 12/6**

*In Class:* -Discuss Levitt and Dubner, *Think Like a Freak*, Ch. 9 (189-211)

*Homework:* -**Essay 5 Due Thurs 12/8**

**Thursday 12/8**

*In Class:* - **Essay 5 Due in the “Assignments” section and in the “Peer Review 3” Section of the “Discussions” area**

-No Class: Conferences

*Homework:* -**Portfolio 3 Due in the “Assignments” Section 12/16**

**Tuesday 12/13**

*In Class:* --No Class: Conferences. Peer Review Comments due by 11:59 pm

*Homework:* -Work on Revisions

**-Portfolio 3 Due in the “Assignments” Section 12/16**

**Thursday 12/15**

*In Class:* -No Class: Conferences

*Homework:* -Work on Revisions

**-Portfolio 3 Due in the “Assignments” Section 12/16**

**Portfolio 3 Due in Canvas Friday, December 16 at 4:45 pm**