

English 099, Fall 2020

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Course Description

English 099 is an individualized writing tutorial designed to help you improve your writing for at least one writing-intensive course and to teach you to become a better reader, writer, and thinker. The ultimate goal of this course is to give you the skills and knowledge to assess and revise your own writing effectively. Unlike most classes in which the instructor both teaches and assesses your work, in this class, my role will be that of a facilitator who helps you learn to help yourself. Each session, you will submit your written work, assignments, or readings from a first-year writing course, and I will help you develop strategies that you can use to approach these activities successfully. Working one-on-one with me and on your own, you will learn how to interpret assignments, read critically, and communicate effectively through your writing.

Course Learning Outcome

- Learn the characteristics of college-level writing and apply them to your own work
- Master the different steps of the writing process from brainstorming to revision
- Develop strategies to ensure that the content, form, and style of your writing is appropriate for the audience, purpose, and requirements of your writing assignments
- Familiarize yourself with the conventions of standard English and academic writing

Course Requirements

These activities are required of all students in all sections of English 099 across the UW Colleges:

1. Completing all of the formal writing assignments that are required for at least one other writing-intensive course
2. Discussing each major essay assignment (or other formal writing) for at least one other course with the tutorial instructor, including the assignment instructions, prewriting, one or more preliminary drafts, and the final polished essay
3. Doing informal and/or formal prewriting activities
4. Revising and editing formal writing assignments in response to feedback from the 099 instructor and (when available) the instructor who gave the assignment
5. Regularly self-assessing individual progress towards achieving the learning outcomes for first-year composition through informal written self-assessments and/or one-on-one discussions with the 099 instructor
6. Keeping an organized portfolio, binder, hardcopy folder, or electronic folder of all formal writing assignments completed during the semester to use for tutorial sessions and self-assessment activities
7. Writing a formal self-assessment at the end of the semester.

Grading

English 099 is graded on a pass/fail basis, so if you attend your scheduled sessions and complete the assigned activities, you will pass the course. Due to COVID-19 you are not required to be physically present in class, but you must at least be available to communicate with me over Zoom during the beginning of each scheduled class session. If you do not come to class AND you do not meet with me over Zoom, you will receive an absence for the day. Excessive unexcused absences or refusal to do your work are practically the only ways to fail the class. Remember that the purpose of this class is to help you, so it is crucial that you put in the necessary work to succeed. In the event that you need to miss one of your scheduled hours for a legitimate reason (illness, family emergency, sudden scheduling conflict, etc.), please send me an e-mail letting me know why you missed class. I will then find a way for you to make up the work that you missed. I know that everyone's schedule is more unpredictable than usual, so if something comes up, I promise to do my best to make this course work for you.

Assignments and Activities

Most of the work that you complete for this course will be done in class. Before or during each class session, make sure to electronically send me any writing assignments you are working on as Microsoft Word attachments or pdfs. In addition to submitting your own writing, you should also send me all of the materials for your writing course. These include handouts from your instructor and assignment sheets. There may be times during the semester when you are not working on a particular writing assignment, but that does not mean that you get to take the session off. Instead, we can use the session to develop reading strategies, work on skills, or clarify important concepts from your writing class.

Self-Assessment Activities

On the first day of the semester, you must complete a short writing activity in which you assess your own writing. This will help you to clarify your personal goals for the class, and it will show me your current skill level so that I can tailor the course to your individual needs. Write at least one substantial paragraph in which you identify your strengths and weaknesses as a reader and writer. Then, explain what you hope to get out of this course and what you would like to accomplish by the end of the semester. Finally, provide one question that you have about writing. On the last day of class you will be asked to complete another self-assessment describing what you have learned over the course of the semester.

Work Log

At the end of each tutorial session, you should write a couple of sentences explaining what you worked on and learned that day. During the semester, you should collect your these sentences in a folder. This way, you will have a record of everything that you accomplish in the class. You will then turn in this folder along with your self-assessment on the final day of class.

Please let me know if you ever have any questions about the course or about writing in general. I look forward to working with each of you throughout the semester, and I am eager to get to know all of you both through our face-to-face interactions and through your writing!