

York College CUNY
English 125
Composition I: Introduction to College Writing

Semester/Year: Fall 2019
Classroom: AC-1B03
Class Times: Monday and Friday 11:00am-12:45pm
Instructor: Ryan Ouimet
Office Hours: Monday and Friday 10:00-11:00am

Composition I: Introduction to College Writing

ENG125 (Liberal Arts) Composition I: Introduction to College Writing 1 conference hr. + 3 hrs. 3 crs. This course introduces students to academic reading and writing practices and strategies through close reading, textual analysis, writing, and revision. Focusing primarily on expository, analytical, and academic texts, students develop their critical thinking skills and are introduced to the fundamentals of college-level research. Students will spend one hour per week in conferences, collaborative learning activities, or peer review. Preq: By placement examination. [Required Core: English Composition]

Learning Objectives:

1. Read and listen critically and analytically, including identifying an argument's major assumptions and assertions and evaluating its supporting evidence.
2. Write clearly and coherently in varied, academic (and creative) forms, using standard English and appropriate technology to critique and improve one's own and others' texts.
3. Demonstrate research skills using appropriate technology, including gathering, evaluating and synthesizing primary and secondary resources.
4. Support a thesis with well-reasoned arguments, and communicate persuasively across a variety of contexts, purposes, and audiences.
5. Formulate original ideas and relate them to the ideas of others by employing conventions of ethical attribution and citation.

Required Text

Goldthwaite, Melissa et. al. *The Norton Reader*, shorter 14th Edition, MLA Update. Norton
ISBN: 978-0393617412

Grading

Assignments	Percentage of Final Grade
Paper # 1 w/ draft (3-4 pages)	10%
Paper # 2 w/ draft (3-4 pages)	20%
Paper # 3 w/ draft (5-7 pages)	30%
Participation/Reading Assignments	20%
Annotated Bibliography	10%
Department Final Exam	10%

Formal Papers w/Drafts (60%)

You are required to write three formal essays, which total 60% of your final grade. You will receive further details pertaining to the essay requirements throughout the semester.

Participation/Reading Assignments (20%)

Participation grades will be determined by your attendance, preparedness, contributions to discussions and respect for your classmates' ideas. Absences, arriving late, departing early or exiting during class will adversely affect your participation grade. Be prepared for group assignments, in depth discussion and constructive feedback. The assignments will be mostly small writing exercises. These will be far less formal than the essays but your effort is still expected.

Annotated Bibliography (10%)

This assignment involves identifying and evaluating the sources you plan to use in order to answer your research question (for Paper #3). It will no doubt be the most boring assignment you have but it is also vital to understanding how to actually write legitimate college (and professional) essays. You will present your research question and plans to the class on the day this bibliography is due. Details to follow.

Final Exam (10%)

This is a department-wide exam (I have no choice). It will take place during the scheduled period.

Late Assignments

Generally I will not accept them. However, each case will be handled accordingly at the discretion of the professor. If you know you are going to be late and have a stunningly good reason that also happens to be true, contact me ahead of time via email so we can discuss how you will make the work up.

Classroom Etiquette

This class will not work if an environment of mutual respect, willingness to listen, and tolerance of opposing points of view is not maintained. Meaningful and constructive dialogue is encouraged and at times you will be asked to share your writing with the class. That is not always easy but it is the best way to improve one's writing. Do not let this be an issue, the class will be much more relaxing, fun and productive if everyone feels respected. All cell phones and electronic devices must be put away during class. Excessive talking, disrupting the class, arriving late, sleeping, is not permitted and may lead to an absence which will affect the participation portion of your final grade. Repetitive and seriously disruptive behavior may result in your removal from class in accordance with policies and procedures outlined in the York College Code of Student Conduct.

Academic Integrity

A violation of academic integrity is any instance when a student attempts to pass off someone else's words or ideas as their own, no matter where they obtained those words or ideas, and no matter where these ideas are presented. We practice using quotation and citation in this course so

you can benefit from others' ideas, while attributing them appropriately. There is nothing wrong with representing someone else's ideas in your work; you just have to give them credit. Additionally, there is nothing wrong with getting help on an assignment, but the final product must be predominantly the result of your own work. All academic integrity violations in English 125 will result in a 0 on the assignment, and/or a failing grade in the course and/or referral to the College's Academic Integrity Officer.

York College gives four definitions of types of academic integrity violation:

- Cheating: Cheating is the unauthorized use or attempted use of material, information, notes, study aids, devices or communication during an academic exercise.
- Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person's ideas, research or writings as your own.
- Obtaining Unfair Advantage: Obtaining Unfair Advantage is any activity that intentionally or unintentionally gives a student an unfair advantage in his/her academic work over another student.
- Falsification of Records and Official Documents

York College's policies and procedures can be found at the [Academic Integrity](#) webpage.

York College Resources

York College Library: york.cuny.edu/library

York College Computer Labs: york.cuny.edu/it/acet/computer-labs

York College Writing Center: [/student/writing-center](http://york.cuny.edu/student/writing-center)

English as a second language (ESL) Tutoring Center: Tutoring is available for ESL students in Academic Core 3C08. Call (718) 262-2831 for schedule.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities may contact the Center for Students with Disabilities to learn about and gain access to resources available to them at the college. See their website at: york.cuny.edu/student-development/csd for more details.

September Course Outline:

Friday 9/6

- Syllabus Overview
- *Superman and Me*, Sherman Alexie
- HW: 2 Page Literacy Narrative; Read *The Blind Side*, Michael Lewis

Friday 9/13

- Lecture: Rhetorical Situations/Strategies
- HW: Read: *Is Google Making Us Stupid*, Nicholas Carr

Monday 9/16

- Lecture: Arguing a Position/Quotations As Evidence
- HW: Read *Utopian Dream: A New Farm Bill*, Marion Nestle

Friday 9/20

- Lecture: Writing an Outline
- **Discuss Paper 1**
- HW: Read *Tongue Tied*, by Maxine Hong Kingston

Monday 9/23

- Lecture: MLA Format/Structure of the Formal Paper/Thesis Writing
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Friday 9/27

- Lecture: Citation/Sources/Quoting, Paraphrasing, Summarizing
- HW: Work on Draft 1

Monday 9/30

- NO CLASS

Friday 10/4

- **Paper 1 Draft Due**
- Lecture: Classifying and Dividing
- HW: Read, *On Dumpster Diving*, Lars Eighner

Monday 10/7

- Lecture: Lecture on Editing
- HW: Final Revisions for Paper 1

Friday 10/11

- **Paper 1 Due**
- Lecture: Describing, Defining, Dialoging
- HW: Read *Being a Man*, Paul Theroux/ Creative Assignment

Monday 10/14 NO CLASS

Wednesday 10/16

- Discuss Paper 2

- In Class: Beginning and Ending
- HW: Read, *Black Men and Public Space*, Brent Staples

Friday 10/18

- Lecture Cultural Analysis

Monday 10/21

- In Class: Lecture on Editing
- HW: Read, *On Writing*, Stephen King

Friday 10/25

- **Paper 2 Draft Due**
- HW: *On the Fear of Death*, Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

Monday 10/28

- Lecture: Annotated Bibliography
- In Class Creative Assignment

Friday 11/1

- Creative Assignment Due
- Workshop

Monday 11/4

- Lecture: Compare and Contrast
- HW: Complete Final Revisions for Paper 2

Friday 11/8

- **Paper Due 2**
- HW: *Behind the Formaldehyde Curtain* Jessica Mitford

Monday 11/11

- Discuss Paper 3
- Lecture: APA Style
- HW: Read *Now We Are Five*, David Sedaris

Friday 11/15

- Lecture: Narrative and Tension
- *How To Do What You Love* Paul Graham

Monday 11/18

- HW: *The Truth About Money*, Gregg Easterbrook

Friday 11/22

- **First Draft Paper 3 Due**
- **HW:** *The Things They Carried*, Tim O'Brien

Monday 11/25

- Creative Class Lecture, and In Class Writing

Friday 11/29 NO CLASS

Monday 12/2

- HW: Complete Final Revisions for Paper 3

Friday 12/6

- **Paper 3 Due**
- **HW:** Read *Fail Better*, Zadie Smith

Monday 12/9

- Test Prep
- HW: Study Sheet

Friday 12/13 NO CLASS

Monday 12/16

- **Final Exam**