Fall 2018

HUM 101-049: Writing, Speaking, Thinking I

Miriam Ascarelli

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Humanities 101: Writing, Speaking, Thinking  
Fall 2018

Instructor: Miriam Ascarelli  
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E-mail: mascarel@njit.edu  
Office hours: 11:30-1 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and by appointment

Welcome to Humanities 101! HUM 101 is an introduction to college-level writing. In this course, we'll be talking about writing’s rhetorical dimensions, and you will be asked to consider how purpose, audience, occasion, and genre come into play in a variety of different readings as well as in your own writing. We'll begin by writing a short personal essay to learn how to use personal experiences to craft compelling narratives, and then we'll use the readings and writing assignments in our class to better understand Newark’s past, present and future. This course also focuses on the writing process, so we'll be brainstorming topics, writing drafts, and revising writing based on reflection and peer feedback.

Texts (to be provided by instructor and posted on Moodle):

- Course packet with several readings on the writing process as well as essays by Sandra Cisneros (“Only Daughter”), Anne Lamott (“Shitty First Drafts”), Malcolm X (“Learning to Read”), Jessica Hemauer (“Farm Girl,”) Tanya Barrientos (“Se Habla Español), Russell Baker (“On Becoming a Writer”), Suki Kim( “Facing Poverty with a Rich Girl’s Habits”)
- Background materials about the film to be provided by instructor

Course objectives:

- Gain knowledge of writing’s rhetorical dimensions
- Use writing as a tool for critical thinking and reflection
- Practice writing as a process by using various brainstorming, invention, revision, and editing strategies
- Write in several genres that utilize analysis, reflection, narrative, critique, and argument skills
- Practice using the conventions of written, spoken, and visual composition

Grading (grades will be posted on Moodle)

- Three formal papers: 75 percent
- Homework/class participation/attendance: 10 percent
- Oral presentation: 10 percent
- One required tutoring session at NJIT Writing Center: 5 percent
**Final Grades:**  
A = 90 – 100  
B+ = 87 – 89  
B = 80 – 86  
C+ = 77 – 79  
C = 70 – 76  
D = 60 – 69  
F = 0 – 59

**Attendance**

Attendance is critical to your success in this class. Participation in in-class activities, discussions, and workshops will contribute to your knowledge, ability, and performance. Participation cannot be demonstrated by chronic absences or sickness, similar to the professional world. At a minimum, this means showing up on time, being prepared, and contributing to class discussions. Your level of engagement with the material will subsequently impact how much you get from the class.

Four absences or more will result in the automatic lowering of your grade by one letter grade. Seven or more absences will result in automatic failure in the course. Chronic tardiness will result in the lowering of your grade. (Two lates = 1 absence.)

Please contact your classmates to find out about missed work.

**Late work**

Late papers will automatically be downgraded by one letter grade. Papers more than a week late will not be accepted. Reading responses and homework will be graded on a 4-point scale. Late reading responses/homework will be given half credit. You have until the class period after the original due date to turn it in. Anything later will not be accepted.

**NJIT University Code on Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity and honesty are of paramount importance. Any violations will be brought to the immediate attention of the Dean of Students. This includes plagiarism (representing another’s writing as your own.)

**Revision**

You may revise your papers for a higher grade. Revisions are due within a week after you get the original assignment back. To get a better grade, you must make substantial revisions. Your final grade will be an average of the first grade and the second one.

**Technology**

If you need to get a hold of me email is my preferred method. I will respond to your emails within 24 hours. Please plan accordingly. Remember to maintain an appropriate tone in all school-related correspondence. This means to include an appropriate SUBJECT line and your NAME in all emails. I will not respond to emails that do not include the sender’s name.

Cell phones should not be used during class unless needed for a specific activity. Please set them to silent as a courtesy to your classmates and instructor.

Laptops should only be open when we are drafting. For discussions and presentations they should remain closed.
All drafts of all assignments should be kept in hard copy with comments and grades attached.

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Class schedule
Subject to change

Week 1 (1 class): Welcome, intros, go over syllabus; Reading: “Shitty First Drafts,”

Week 2: In-class writing; reading: “What is ‘Academic’ Writing?”

Week 3: Readings: “Murder! (Rhetorically speaking);” “How to Read like a Writer” + personal essays by Cisneros, Malcolm X, Barrientos, Kim and Baker


Week 5: Peer reviews of first and second drafts of paper #1

Week 6: Paper #1 due; begin viewing “Revolution ‘67”

Week 7: Finish viewing “Revolution ‘67”; Curvin readings

Week 8: Discuss film & Curvin readings + begin paper #2

Week 9: Paper #2 due

Week 10: Newark research/fieldwork

Week 11: Newark research/fieldwork

Week 12: (Thanksgiving week =1 class); presentations

Week 13: Presentations; start paper #3

Week 14: Continued work on paper #3

Week 15: Paper #3 due

The Writing Center at NJIT

Location: Basement of Central King Building
Contact: Dr. Catherine Siemann
Phone: (973) 596-3664
Email: catherine.a.siemann@njit.edu

The NJIT Writing Center (Room G-17 of the Central King Building) is available for 45-minute individual and group appointments with professional writing consultants and peer tutors.
Writing Center staff can help with all aspects of your writing and other communications work here at NJIT: brainstorming assignments, improving your writing, and refining or revising an essay or multimedia project. In addition to essays, we can assist with oral presentations, PowerPoints and other slideshows, personal statements, etc. Appointments fill quickly at busy times in the semester; it is strongly recommended that students schedule a week in advance. For more information, and for a link to our WCOnline scheduling system please visit us at: www5.njit.edu/writingcenter.