

Fall 2023

## ENGL-101 (003-045-071): Introduction to Academic Writing

Mark-Lukas Tallent

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**New Jersey Institute of Technology**  
**ENGL 101-003**  
**Introduction to Academic Writing**  
**10:00 AM – 11:20 AM**  
**Faculty Memorial Hall 407**

Professor Lukas Tallent

Email: [mlt26@njit.edu](mailto:mlt26@njit.edu)

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Office location: Writing Center

**Note:** I will not be checking email after 5 PM or on weekends, so if you try to contact me after that time, you will not receive a response until the following day (or Monday).

### **Course Description**

ENGL 101 is an introduction to college-level writing. In this course, students are introduced to writing's rhetorical dimensions; they are asked to consider the purpose, audience, occasion, and genre that are called for in a variety of writing, speaking, or visual assignments. The course also focuses on writing processes, asking students to brainstorm topics, collect ideas and research, write drafts, and revise their writing based on writing's disciplinary rules, on self-reflection, and on peer and class feedback. Academic writing begins from the assumption that written, visual, and spoken texts can be in conversation with each other. Students are asked to read challenging articles, essays, and prose (and to consider visual and spoken compositions) which serve as both models of effective communication and as beginning places for students' own arguments and analyses.

### **Prerequisites**

Entrance is determined by assessment results. Students who have successfully completed ENGL 099 are admitted to this class. Students must receive a C or better to pass this course.

### **Course Goals**

During this course you will:

- 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
- Practice writing and creating in digital environments

### **No required text**

This course makes use of books and resources found on <http://library.njit.edu> and other

.PDF and Word document files provided by the instructor (see Canvas) as well as Open Educational Resources (available for free on the Web).

### **Assignments & Assessment**

A student's final grade for the course will be divided into the following parts:

#### **Participation and Attendance**

##### **150 pts or 15%**

Your participation and attendance grade includes attendance AND your consistently active presence and performance in class and submission of all assignments on time. Class participation includes regular attendance, making sure to have read any assigned readings, engagement in class activities and discussions, reading, writing, critical thinking, discussing, interpreting, analyzing, synthesizing, asking questions, and responding to one another. Participation is required for all in-class activities, including drafting, revising, discussions, peer and class reviews. Class time may consist of discussion board writings, short writing assignments which may include responses to assigned readings, topic exploration, prewriting activities including brainstorming and outlining, writing to learn, developing, organizing, transitioning and reflecting on the writing process. All of your work on these short assignments and in workshops is included in your participation grade. Level of engagement with the process and materials is often correlated with success on assignments. Classroom activities are designed to aid in students' understanding and developing a writing process of their own that can be applied to most writing tasks.

#### **Literacy Narrative Essay (3-4 pages)**

##### **150 pts or 15%**

This essay focuses on a notable moment or aspect of your becoming literate; it's written in the first person and defines and develops your approach to language use and genre.

#### **Argument (Position) Essay (4-5 pages)**

##### **200 pts or 20%**

This essay extracts academic arguments from 2 assigned readings/sources and presents a claim that may be supported or disputed by those sources, by real-world examples and by your own academic knowledge.

#### **Rhetorical Analysis Essay (3-4 pages)**

##### **150 pts or 15%**

This essay assignment analyzes (breaks down) two texts and examines the context and rhetorical strategies used; the two sets of parts are compared and synthesized using details from each source to form an overall assessment.

#### **Research Argument Essay (5-6 pages)**

##### **250 pts or 25%**

This essay is focused coherently on your argument and uses 4-5 library sources for support; this work will help prepare you for more extended research writing in ENGL 102.

#### **Oral Presentation and Powerpoint on research argument or 10%**

**100 pts**

You will have the chance to present to the class your research findings.

Individual and group work will be evaluated according to the university's grading scale.

A = 90—100	B+ = 87—89.99	B = 80—86.99	C+ = 77—79.99	C = 70—76.99	D = 60—69.99	F = 0—59.99
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### **First-Year Writing Procedures for Student Success:**

#### **Attendance and participation**

You may miss up to one week of class (or two classes) without penalty. Every subsequent unexcused absence will result in the deduction of participation points. Regular participation in class activities and workshops (all are graded and must be completed in person) is required to earn participation points. Not participating in the writing process will be met with further deductions. More than six unexcused absences (three weeks of the course) can result in failure of the course: Activities and workshopping as part of the writing process cannot be made up, and not participating in these classes often leaves students disconnected from the practical skills needed for each genre.

Students who expect to miss class for religious observances should contact their instructor about these dates at the beginning of the semester (per university policy).

**All assignments must be submitted on Canvas** (which automatically assesses for plagiarism and AI generation – ChatGPT, etc. – using TurnItIn). Please follow the specific instructions for each assignment.

#### **Quizzes & In Class Assignments**

Throughout the semester, there will periodically be reading quizzes designed to test your comprehension skills as well as to make sure you're reading on the appropriate college level. In addition, there will be short in-class assignments that you must be present in order to complete. Neither of these may be made up. If you are absent, you will receive a zero for that day's assignment. These will comprise the bulk of your participation grade. **No exceptions.**

#### **Essays**

You will write four essays in the following modes: literacy narrative, argument (position), rhetorical analysis, and research argument. Each of these assignments will go through multiple drafts and make up the largest chunk of your overall grade in the class.

Each essay must be typed and in the following MLA format:

**Font:** 12pt Times New Roman

**Spacing:** double-spaced

**Margins:** 1 inch on all sides.

**Page Numbers:** Last name and page number should be in the upper right-hand corner of every page.

**Assignment header:** On the left-hand side of your first page should be your name, my name, course and section number, and the date.

**Title:** Your title should be original (i.e. not “Essay #1” or “Fiction Essay”)

**Students must submit at least one rough draft and a final draft to be considered for a grade for that assignment. Without engaging in the writing process throughout the semester on required assignments, students cannot pass the course.**

**Workshops:** For each essay you will be required to bring a rough draft of your essay to class in order to participate in a workshop of the essay. For each of these assignments, you will be swapping essays with another student and completing a separate writing assignment that demonstrates your understanding of another’s paper as well as providing that written feedback on work from your peers.

### **Late Work**

**Late work will not be accepted** (except in the case of extraordinary circumstances and a verified, excused absence). Students should contact their instructor in advance of due dates when having difficulty completing an assignment. I can help you before a due date, not after it has passed.

**Note: Extensions will only be granted during extraordinary circumstances and with at least a twenty-four hour advance request. Multiple extensions will not be granted.**

### **Electronic Devices**

You are not only expected to attend class but to be *present*. That means, don’t be on your cell phone, laptop, or any other electronic device unless otherwise directed by me. For such behavior, I will provide one warning. Afterwards, you will be asked to leave the class and counted as absent for the day.

### **NJIT University Code on Academic Integrity**

Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at:

<http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at [dos@njit.edu](mailto:dos@njit.edu).

All assignments submitted shall be considered "graded work" and all aspects of your coursework are covered by the Code on Academic Integrity. Written and visual works are to be completed individually unless otherwise specified.

### **Chat GPT**

First-Year Writing (FYW) follows the guidelines from the NJIT University Code of Academic Integrity:

“Artificial intelligence usage is not permitted in this course. The expectation of this course is for students to work through the course without assistance from any type of artificial intelligence to better develop their own skills in this content area. As such, artificial intelligence usage is not permitted throughout this course.”

### **Accessibility Needs**

Every attempt will be made to accommodate qualified students with disabilities. If you are a student with a documented disability, please see me as early in the semester as possible to discuss the necessary accommodations, and/or contact the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services at 973-596-5417.

### **The Writing Center**

The Writing Center (G17 Central King) is available online for individual and group appointments with professional writing tutors. This resource helps you to improve your communication and writing skills. Tutors can help with planning assignments, improving your writing, refining an essay or multimedia project, or other communication-based needs. The Writing Center is not simply a grammar fix or editing service. For more information, please visit: <http://www5.njit.edu/writingcenter/schedule-writing-center-appointment/>

**ENGL 101**  
**Course Schedule**

All readings will be posted on Canvas or hard copies handed out in class. **It is also important to note that this schedule is subject to change – if it does change, you will always be alerted via announcement/email. (TBA = to be announced.)**

**Week 1**

Wed

Introduction to Course; Discussion of Syllabus and expectations

Fri

Diagnostic Writing Assignment (In Class)

**Week 2**

Wed

Basics of Academic Writing & Literacy Narratives; “Intelligence” by Issac Asimov.

Fri

Readings: “Translating Self and Difference through Literacy Narratives” by Mary Soliday; “The Art of Eating Spaghetti” by Russell Baker.

**Week 3**

Wed

Workshops #1 (Draft of E1 Due)

Fri

Workshops #1 (Cont.)

**Essay #1 Due Monday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> by 11:59 PM.**

**Week 4**

Wed

Readings: “Welcome to the Multiverse” chapter by Max Tegmark, “Landscape of String Theory” chapter by Peter Woit.

Introduction to Argument (position) essays.

Fri

Discussion on identifying, analyzing, and evaluating arguments.

**Week 5**

Wed

Readings: “The Fight to Save the Town” by Michelle Wilde Anderson; “Urban Decline & Success in the United States” by Fred Smith & Sarah Allen

Fri

Student Examples of Argumentative Essays (in class)

**Week 6**

Wed

Workshops #2 (Draft of E2 Due)

Fri

Workshops #2 (cont.)

**Essay #2 Due Monday Oct. 16th by 11:59 PM**

**Week 7**

Wed

Readings: “Selfie’s Word of the Year Acceptance Speech.” How to Write a Rhetorical Analysis via Purdue and Rhetorical Analysis Texas A&M Guide.

Fri

Choosing topics for research. Finding and evaluating sources. NJIT library resources.

**Week 8**

Wed

Rhetorical Analysis Backpacks vs. Briefcases. Review Citation Practices.

Fri

Readings: TBA; Further rhetorical analysis discussion.

**Week 9**

Wed

Workshop #3 (Draft of Essay #3 Due)

Fri

Workshop #3 (cont.)

**Essay #3 Due by Monday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> by 11:59 PM.**



**Week 10**

Wed

Readings: Introduction to Research &amp; Elements of Academic Argument via Harvard.

Fri

Organizing the Research Argument Essay. Readings: Student Examples of Academic Argument. Citations Review.

**Week 11**

Wed

Workshop #4 (Draft of E4 Due)

Fri

Workshop #4 (cont.)

**Week 12 – Nov. 20-24**

Wed

Thanksgiving—No Class

Fri

Thanksgiving—No Class

**Week 13**

Wed

Discuss and Schedule Oral Presentations; **Essay #4 Due by 11:59 PM**

Fri

Presentation Workshop

**Week 14**

Wed

Oral Presentations

Fri

Oral Presentations (cont.)

**Week 15**Wed—**Last Day of Class**



## NEED HELP? KNOW WHO TO CALL

Please note following important numbers that will come in handy in case of emergency:

EXTERNAL RESOURCES	AVAILABILITY	CONTACT NUMBER
Suicide Prevention	24 hrs/ 7 days a week	(973) 623-2323 (University Hospital-Newark)
Drug/ Alcohol Addiction	24 hrs/ 7 days a week	(877) 630-8262
Crime Victim Compensation Office	Monday – Friday 8 AM – 8 PM	(877) 658-2221
Rape Care Center	24 hrs/ 7 days a week	(877) 733-2273 (Essex County)
Sexual Assault Hotline	24 hrs/ 7 days a week	(800) 656-HOPE (National)
Psychiatric Emergency	24 hrs/ 7 days a week	(973) 924-7416 (Newark Beth Israel Hospital)
NJIT RESOURCES	AVAILABILITY	CONTACT NUMBER
NJIT Public Safety	24 hrs/ 7 days a week	(973) 596-3111 (Emergency) (973) 596-3120 (Non-Emergency)
Dean of Students (TITLE IX – Sexual Misconduct Report/Response)	Monday – Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM	(973) 596-3466
Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)	Monday – Friday 8:30 AM - 5 PM	(973) 596-3414
Student Health Services (SHS)	Monday – Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM	(973) 596-3621