

Fall 2023

## **ENGL-101 (041-098): Introduction to Academic Writing**

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**New Jersey Institute of Technology**  
**ENGL 101**  
**Introduction to Academic Writing**

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Office hours: Monday 11am-12pm, Thursday 12pm-1pm, or by appointment

Office location Cullimore 315

### **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 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 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, 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) 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) 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) 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) 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 10**

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 = 100-90	B+ = 89-87	B = 86-80	C+ = 79-77	C = 76-70	D = 69-60	F = 59-0
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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 (many are graded) 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 using Turnitin). Please follow the specific instructions for each assignment.

### **Essays**

There are 4 formal essays completed in ENGL 101:

Literacy narrative, argument (position), rhetorical analysis, and research argument.

**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.**

Students will receive feedback from instructors as a vital step in the writing/revision process. These guiding comments should be followed by students in the drafting process, and this process will be assessed as part of students' participation grade. Drafts may also be reviewed in small peer groups during class time or in whole-class review (when students volunteer their drafts to be improved by the class).

**Class activities and discussion** are vital in evaluating students' engagement with coursework and are often graded as part of the participation grade (15% of their overall grade for the course).

### **Late Work**

**Late work will not be accepted** (except in the case of an excused absence). Students should contact their instructor in advance of due dates when having difficulty completing an assignment.

### **Technology**

Canvas is NJIT's learning management system. In First-Year Writing (FYW) instructors and students use this system for all activities including submitting essays, sharing course materials, creating discussions, and grading assignments. There are no written exams in FYW. Participation on discussion boards or other short essays or responses are regularly completed on Canvas and will count toward students' participation grade.

Students use their NJIT email as the primary method of communication. Maintain an appropriate tone in all school-related correspondence. Include an appropriate subject line and your name in all emails for more efficient correspondence.

Students should not use cell phones during class unless needed for a specific activity. Resist the distraction and focus on one thing at a time - classroom lessons, activities and discussion. Active engagement in class leads to better outcomes in grading. Everyone should set phones to silent as a courtesy.

Laptops should only be used when we are drafting, researching, note taking or otherwise engaging in classroom activities. Students should practice professional, focused behavior now to enhance preparation for the work world!

### **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

Class time may consist of readings, mini lectures, videos, visuals, workshops on writing process, small and whole group activities and reviews of drafts and reflections.

### Week 1

Introductions; discuss syllabus

**In class** diagnostic essay

### Week 2

**In Class:**

Introduction to essays, writing process, and concepts.

Library Visit on Thursday

**Before Class:**

Read Bronowski and Riskin for Monday

Read Petrosino, Fuentes, and Kingston for Thursday

### Week 3

**In class:**

Introduction to Literacy Narrative Conventions

Transitioning from Brainstorming into a draft

**Before Class:**

Read Das, Machado, and Sante for Monday

Bring Lit Narrative prewriting to class for workshopping on Thursday

### Week 4

**In class:**

Radical Revisions

Syntax as Style, Syntax

**Before Class:**

Read Syntax and Grammar Handouts for Monday

Bring Rough Draft for Workshopping on Thursday

### Week 5 Lit Narrative Due by Sunday 11:59pm ET

**In class:**

Introduce Position Paper

Elements of Arguments: Evidence and Analysis

**Before Class:**

Read Baker, Michaels, and Bunting for Monday

Bring proposal to class to workshop on Thursday

### Week 6

**In class:**

Streamlining description to incorporate argument  
 Developing voice and modulating tone to engage audiences

**Before Class:**

Read Giroux, Baldwin, and Imbler for Monday  
 Bring a close reading to workshop on Thursday

**Week 7****In class:**

Considering your reader and assumptions  
 Revise by reverse outlining

**Before Class:**

Read Syntax and Grammar Handouts for Monday  
 Bring a Draft to workshop on Thursday

**Week 8 Position Paper Due by Sunday 11:59pm ET****In class:**

Introduce Rhetorical Analysis and types  
 Argument versus Rhetoric

**Before Class:**

Read Clinton, Gore, and Smith for Monday  
 Bring Proposal to workshop on Thursday

**Week 9****In class:**

Types of appeals and logical fallacies  
 Interrogating sources and balancing biases

**Before Class:**

Read Marx, Crouse, and Petty & Lane for Monday  
 Bring Portion of argument to class to workshop

**Week 10****In class:**

Counter arguments  
 Grammar and Syntax lesson TBD

**Before Class:**

Read Syntax and Grammar Handouts for Monday  
 Bring a Draft to workshop on Thursday

**Week 11 Rhetorical Analysis Due by Sunday 11:59pm ET****In class:**

Introduce Research Paper  
 Discourse over Debate

**Before Class:**

Read Hernandez, Prescod-Weinstein, and Chung for Monday  
 Bring Proposal with at least 4 for Thursday



**Week 12 No Class Thursday for Thanksgiving****In class:**

Narrowing your scope to fit a prompt  
Incorporating sources and in-text citations

**Before Class:**

Read Villarosa, Orcutt, and Wang for Monday

**Week 13 Sign up for Presentation time slot****In class:**

Using APA Style for citations  
Grammar and Syntax class TBD

**Before Class:**

Read Syntax and Grammar Handouts for Monday  
Bring Rough Draft to Review for Thursday

**Week 14****Oral Presentations****Week 15 Research Paper Due by Sunday 11:59pm ET****Oral Presentations**

## Readings

*subject to change*

\* PDF available on canvas

### Intro Readings

- Jacob Bronowski "The Nature of Scientific Reasoning" – (support claims with evidence)\*
- Jessica Riskin "When Engineers Were Humanists"\*

### Narrative

- Maxine Hong Kingston "Tongue Tied"\*
- Carmen Maria Machado "[I know what I read this summer](#)"\*
- Carlos Fuentes "How I Started To Write"\*
- Kiki Petrosino "Literacy Narrative"\*
- Lucy Sante "[Living In Tongues](#)"\*
- Kavita Das "[Judy Blume Taught Me What My Parents Wouldn't](#)"

### Argument

- Nicholson Baker "The Charms of Wikipedia"\*
- Sean Michaels "[Chat Entertainment](#)"\*
- James Baldwin "[If English Isn't a Language](#)"
- Sabrina Imbler "[Are You Really So Different From the Blue Sea Blob?](#)"\*
- Geoffrey Bunting "[Star Wars Has a Jedi Problem](#)"\*
- Bayle Giroux "[This Land Is My Land' Wants to Sell an Indigenous Revenge Fantasy, But Without Any Indigenous Input](#)"
- Kathryn Lofton "[Cancel Culture and Other Myths](#)"\*

### Rhetoric and persuasion

- Zadie Smith "Fascinated to Presume: In Defense of Fiction" \*
- Hilary Clinton "[Weaponization of Loneliness](#)"\*
- Al Gore "[The Climate Emergency](#)"
- Paris Marx "[Electric Cars are still cars](#)"\*
- Lindsay Crouse [Don't Be Glad the US Women's Soccer Team Lost](#)" \*
- Richard Petty and Billy Lane "[We need more people learning trades.](#)" \*

### Research

- Daisy Hernandez *The Kissing Bug* excerpts\*
- Chanda Prescod-Weinstein "Dark Matter Isn't Dark" *The Disordered Cosmos* \*
- Nicole Chung "[Ways to Liberate Scientific Storytelling](#)"\*
- Linda Villarosa "Medical Inequality" *The 1619 Project* pg 56-57\*
- Mike Orcutt "[How Math Has Changed the Shape of Gerrymandering](#)"\*
- Xiaowei Wang *Blockchain Chicken Farm* Excerpts\*

### Skills Readings

- Annie Dillard *The Writing Life* excerpts\*
- Susan Thurman *Only Grammar Book You'll Ever Need*\*
- Virginia Tufte *Style as Syntax*\*
- [Essay Checklist](#)



## 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