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ENGL 102-070, 098: Introduction to Research Writing

Claire Sasko

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New Jersey Institute of Technology
ENGL 102
Introduction to Research Writing

Claire Sasko, MFA
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Office hours: Tuesday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.,
OR by appointment
(Generally held at the Intrinsic Café or on Zoom)

Course Description

ENGL 102 takes a multidisciplinary approach to researching and writing in various genres while emphasizing information literacy. While building on the skills learned and practiced in ENGL 101, students will research and write about issues in their disciplines in various genres, investigating a wide range of sources, crafting arguments and proposing solutions. To reinforce the arguments in these written works, students will create visual arguments with the course culminating in oral presentations of these written and visual works. Students will immerse themselves in various types of research and information gathering and make appropriate choices in genre, format, development and style to create their own original texts geared toward existing publications or organizations. The purpose of this class is to prepare students for research and writing in various genres in their majors, and, ultimately, for communication (written, visual, oral) in their professional work.

Course Goals

During this course students will:

- Review the writing process and its non-linear, recursive nature.
- Research, draft, revise and edit various genres on topics of your choice.
- Find, evaluate and choose sources effectively, building on rhetorical analysis skills from ENGL 101.
- Create multimodal visual arguments supported by your research on your chosen topics.
- Demonstrate an understanding of academic integrity in the creation of your own original written and visual work for all assignments.
- Demonstrate knowledge of formatting for American Psychology Association (APA) citation style.

No required text

This course makes use of books and resources found on <http://library.njit.edu> and other pdf and word document files and resources provided by the instructor as well as Open Educational Resources (available for free on the Web).

Assignments & Assessment

Students' grades will be calculated as follows based on a 100-point scale:

Participation 10%

Includes attendance AND your consistently active presence in class, submission of all assignments on time and satisfactory completion of in-class mini-writing activities

Job description and oral presentation 5%

Written job description of the job you wish to have someday, addressed to professional colleagues, and a first sketch of a researchable problem or issue in the field (500 words)
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Oral presentation in class (2 minutes)
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Museum visit and critical review 10%

Visit a local museum, conduct research and write a critical review of one exhibit and its significance (4-5 pages)
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References pages and proposal for written work 10%

Two References pages on two disciplinary lenses and 500-word proposal

Written work for a general audience and video essay 35%

Research content and targeted publications for 8-10 page written article	30
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Video essay on article	5
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White paper and infographic 25%

Research content and targeted audience to write a 5-6 page document presenting a problem and proposed solution	20
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Infographic for white paper	5
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Oral and visual presentation 5%

Present either your video essay (general audience) or your white paper (targeted audience)
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University grading scale:

All assignments and other required work will be graded using the following scale:

A 100-90	B+ 89-87	B 86-80	C+ 79-77	C 76-70	D 69-60	F 59-0
First-Year Writing Procedures for Student Success:						

Participation and Attendance

Attendance and participation are critical to your success in this class. Participation is required for all in-class activities, including drafting, revising, discussions, peer support and discussion board writings. Students need to attend AND participate in class with regularity in all class activities including reading, writing, critical thinking, discussing, interpreting, analyzing, synthesizing, asking questions and responding to one another. Additionally, there will be informal class writings (often in discussion boards and graded) as well as regular workshopping in which students apply the day's lesson to their writing in progress. We will also politely do peer and class reviews. Level of engagement with the material is often correlated with success on assignments. Classroom activities are designed to aid in students' developing a writing process of their own that can be applied to most writing tasks.

Attendance

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 written assignments (a job description, a proposal with 2 References pages, an article written for a general audience and a white paper).

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 written 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 engagement in 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 (10% of their overall grade for the course).

Visual arguments

In conjunction with the written assignments, students will create a video essay or journal-like layout with visuals for their writing for a general audience. The white paper will be accompanied by an infographic or other substantial visual effort.

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 share course materials, grade assignments, give feedback on drafts, participate in discussions while students read course material, view assignments, submit essays, write and create in discussion boards. 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 and maintain an appropriate tone. Include an appropriate subject line and 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 requiring them. Students that practice professional, focused behavior now will be more prepared 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.

All assignments submitted shall be considered "graded work" and all aspects of your coursework are covered by the Code on Academic Integrity. All projects and homework assignments 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 (Central King Building G17) is available for in-person and virtual sessions. This resource is free and intended to help you improve your writing and communication skills with tutors who help with planning assignments, improving your writing, refining an essay or multimedia project, for classes, personal statements, etc. For more information or to make an appointment, please visit <https://www.njit.edu/writingcenter/>.



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

ENGL 102 Course Schedule

Week 1

1. Introductions; discuss syllabus
2. (Re) introduce our online library and discuss research essay ideas

Week 2

Research and Information Literacy

1. Review ENGL 101/102 NJIT library guides.
2. Visit NJIT's online library <https://library.njit.edu>:
Explore Academic Search Premier (EBSCO), Science Direct, and other databases and reference materials; explore online books.
3. Begin to explore topics for general audience essay.

Research

Find resources for job descriptions: Collect at least 3 sources to be included in your References page for your job description to professional colleagues.

Begin exploring writing project for a general audience and target publications.

Writing assignment (Due at 11:59 p.m. on 1/25)

Write a description (500 words) about the job you may have one day: Introduce the basics as if you are speaking to professional colleagues who don't know much about your field; explore a question/problem in your field for use in course writing requirements.

plus

Oral presentation of job descriptions and topic (2 minutes) (5%)

Week 3

Writing assignment

Museum visit and critical review preparation: Research a museum of your choice; find an exhibit for critical review; visit and analyze the exhibit from multidisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary lenses.

Research

Continue to read and explore for writing project for a general audience.

Week 4

Reading/research

Continue collecting sources; discuss topics, narrowing down and taking an argumentative stance in a project geared toward a general audience

Writing assignment (Due at 11:59 p.m. on February 8th)

Museum critical review due (4-5 pages)

(10%)

Week 5*Discussion*

Continue exploring your topic for the general audience essay through the lens of 2-3 academic disciplines; discuss rhetorical strategies used in various types of sources including peer-reviewed journal articles.

Writing assignment/research

Begin work on References pages: Collect 2 sets of references (10+ each) for 2 lenses on the same topic; sort and prewrite (paraphrase, collect quotes, arrange key concepts and begin to outline written work)

Begin work on Proposals: 500-word proposal for two lenses and how they will be used in writing assignments for a general audience and white paper for a targeted audience

Week 6*Writing assignment (Due by 11:59 p.m. on February 19th)*

Two References pages and proposal due (APA format with 10+ sources each); one lens to be used for the writing project for a general audience and the other for the white paper writing assignment (or other manageable combination or interdisciplinary approach)
(10%)

Research

Continue research and begin planning and prewriting for writing project for a general audience.

Week 7*Writing assignment*

Writing project for a general audience: Continue prewriting activities (researching, note taking, making connections to publications and current research).

First draft due; find more sources and redirect, as needed.

(First draft due by 11:59 p.m. on February 29th)

Week 8*Writing assignment*

Writing project for a general audience: Peer and class review, composition revisions

Week 9*Writing Assignment*

Final draft of writing project (due by 11:59 p.m. on March 11) for a general audience due; edit for refinement of grammar, mechanics, citations (8-10 pages) (30%)

Visual argument

Video essay: Create a video essay on your writing project for a general audience. (5%)

(Due by 11:59 p.m. March 15th)

Week 10*Writing assignment*

Begin work on a white paper on your second discipline (or interdisciplinary approach); find publications or other target audiences (include a separate paragraph explaining proposed audience).

Week 11*Writing assignment*

White paper first draft due (by 11:59 pm on March 29th)

Week 12*Writing assignment and visual argument*

Continue work on white paper; create an infographic. (5%)

Week 13-14*Writing assignment and visual argument*

Final revisions of white paper; final editing for grammar, mechanics, citations; finishing touches on infographic (5-6 pages) (20%)

Final white paper and infographic due by 11:59 pm April 12th

Weeks 14-15

Oral presentations: Choose either your general audience article or your white paper to present. Include your arguments and evidence along with your visual argument (video essay or infographic). (5%)