

Freshman Composition Syllabus

Course Title: Freshman Composition (ENG 101)

Semester: Fall 2023

Instructor: Jessica Hinds

Office:

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Class Time: Tuesday & Thursday 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Classroom:

Course Description:

Freshman Composition is designed to help students develop and refine their writing skills for academic purposes. This course will emphasize critical reading, analytical thinking, and the writing process, including drafting, revising, and editing. Students will engage with various texts, craft arguments, and explore different writing styles. By the end of the course, students should be able to produce clear, coherent, and persuasive essays.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Develop a clear thesis and support it with logical arguments.
2. Write well-organized essays with clear introductions, body paragraphs, and conclusions.
3. Analyze and synthesize information from various sources.
4. Use appropriate academic tone and style.
5. Conduct research and properly cite sources using MLA format.
6. Revise and edit their work for clarity, coherence, and correctness.

Required Texts:

- The Norton Field Guide to Writing (5th Edition) by Richard Bullock et al.
- They Say/I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing (4th Edition) by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein
- Purdue OWL MLA Formatting and Style Guide (online resource)

Course Requirements:

1. Essays (60% of final grade): Students will write four major essays throughout the semester, each focusing on a different type of writing (narrative, analytical, argumentative, and research-based). Essays should be 3-5 pages in length and must be submitted on time.
2. Peer Reviews (10% of final grade): For each essay, students will participate in peer review sessions. These sessions are designed to help students give and receive constructive feedback.
3. Reading Responses (10% of final grade): Students will complete weekly reading responses that analyze and reflect on the assigned readings. These responses should be 1-2 pages.
4. Participation (10% of final grade): Active participation in class discussions, group work, and in-class activities is required.
5. Final Exam (10% of final grade):** The final exam will consist of a timed essay that synthesizes the skills learned throughout the semester.

Grading Scale:

- A: 90-100%
- B: 80-89%
- C: 70-79%
- D: 60-69%
- F: Below 60%

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction to Course and Diagnostic Essay

- Read: Chapter 1 of *The Norton Field Guide to Writing*
- Write: Diagnostic Essay (in-class)

Week 2: Narrative Writing

- Read: Chapter 2 of *The Norton Field Guide to Writing*
- Assignment: Essay 1 (Narrative) Draft Due

Week 3: Peer Review & Revising

- Peer Review Session for Essay 1
- Revise Essay 1

Week 4: Analytical Writing

- Read: Chapter 6 of *The Norton Field Guide to Writing*
- Assignment: Essay 2 (Analytical) Draft Due

Week 5: Peer Review & Revising

- Peer Review Session for Essay 2
- Revise Essay 2

Week 6: Argumentative Writing

- Read: Chapter 14 of *The Norton Field Guide to Writing*
- Assignment: Essay 3 (Argumentative) Draft Due

Week 7: Peer Review & Revising

- Peer Review Session for Essay 3
- Revise Essay 3

Week 8: Research Writing

- Read: Chapter 47 of *The Norton Field Guide to Writing*
- Library Session: Introduction to Academic Research

Week 9: Developing a Research Proposal

- Assignment: Research Proposal Due

Week 10: Writing and Revising the Research Paper

- Assignment: Essay 4 (Research Paper) Draft Due

Week 11: Peer Review & Revising

- Peer Review Session for Essay 4
- Revise Essay 4

Week 12: MLA Formatting and Citations

- Read: Purdue OWL MLA Formatting and Style Guide
- In-Class Workshop: Citing Sources and Avoiding Plagiarism

Week 13: Writing for Final Exam

- Review and Practice Essay for Final Exam
- In-Class Writing Practice

Week 14: Review and Wrap-Up

- Final Essay Revisions and Q&A
- Course Reflection Assignment Due

Final Exam Week:

- Final Exam: Timed Essay (date/time TBA)

Policies:

Attendance: Attendance is crucial for success in this course. More than three unexcused absences may result in a lower final grade.

Late Work: Assignments turned in late will be penalized 10% per day unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism or any form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students caught plagiarizing will receive a zero on the assignment and may face further disciplinary action.

Disability Services: If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the Disability Services Office as soon as possible.

Communication: Regularly check your university email for course updates and communicate with the instructor if you have any questions or concerns.