

ENGLISH 101: COMPOSITION 1, SPRING SEMESTER 2008
Section 9, MW 1:00-2:15, CBC C322

Instructor: Mr. Carl Lindner

Email: [REDACTED]

Office: RAJ 128

Phone: [REDACTED]

Office Hours: M 10AM-1:PM

TEXTS: *Guide for College Writers*, UNLV Custom Edition
Student Guide to First-Year Writing, UNLV

Additional texts may be posted on the campus website for this section of English 101.

MATERIALS: 2-pocket portfolio folder

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

English 101 is an evidence-based, writing intensive course designed to improve critical thinking, reading, and writing skills by providing students practical guidance in writing short, focused, thesis-driven essays. Students progress from personal expressive writing to expository essays appropriate for an academic audience. The purpose of the course is to help students develop strategies for turning their experience, observations, and analyses into evidence suitable for writing in a variety of academic disciplines.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Specific abilities students should learn in this course are:

- To understand the rhetorical situation and the factors that influence writing
- To evaluate the assertions, evidence, and underlying assumptions of a written argument
- To use appropriate reading and writing tools for inquiry and informed communication
- To synthesize information from appropriate sources and integrate it within your own writing
- To plan and develop an essay through multiple drafts and improve your writing strategies
- To adopt appropriate voice, tone, and level of formality in your writing
- To provide constructive feedback and strengthen writing through collaboration and peer review
- To edit documents for format, structure, grammar, punctuation, and spelling

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

To successfully complete this course, **all** of the following work *is required*:

- An ungraded diagnostic essay completed within the first week of class
- Reading assignments of approximately 60 pages per week
- Daily informal writing including journal entries, in-class writing, quizzes, peer reviews, and homework
- Prewriting and drafts of essays in progress
- Four out-of-class essays—a personal expressive essay, an analysis essay, an evaluation essay, and a position or problem/solution essay*
- Midterm and Final Exams that include a graded timed essay

*All essays must be 3 to 5 pages long, typed, double-spaced with 1" margins, in 12-point font, using MLA format.

ATTENDANCE:

Class attendance is required. To accommodate unavoidable absences due to illness or emergency, you are allowed up to the equivalent of two weeks of absences (4 days for a MW or TR class; 2 days for a once-a-week class) without penalty. Absences *exceeding* the equivalent of two weeks (4 classes) result in a final

grade reduction of one full letter grade. Absences *exceeding* the equivalent of three weeks (6 classes) result in a final grade of "F".

Students who are not present for the entire class period or who are unprepared for class will also be penalized 1/2 absence.

If you miss class for any reason, you are still responsible for the material and content of the class and for any assignment given for the next class. If illness or emergency circumstances will prevent you from completing an assignment by its due date, contact me before the due date to request an extension.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:

Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays will be given an opportunity to make up missed work within one week of absence. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It is your responsibility to notify me no later than the end of late registration of your intention to participate in religious holidays that do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess.

ABSENCES DUE TO UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES:

Students who represent UNLV at an official extracurricular activity shall have the opportunity to make up assignments, but you must provide official written notification to me no less than one week prior to the missed class.

PARTICIPATION:

Your participation grade will be determined by your performance in homework assignments, class discussions, in-class writings, group work and class workshops. Through the course of the semester, we will be using small groups for discussion of our work. This is an important part of writing—learning to listen to others’ opinions—as these readers represent your audience. We will use class time for this, so you must come to class with a completed draft if the peer review process is to be productive.

GRADING:

The familiar A-F grading scale will be used on essays (along with + and -). The Undergraduate Catalog (p. 68) defines each grade as follows:

- A – Superior (100-90) C – Average (79-70) F – Failing (59-Below)
- B – Above Average (89-80) D – Below Average (69-60)

Essays are graded for content, completeness, and correctness. Grades for this course will be assigned in this way:

<i>Four Out-Of-Class Essays</i>		<i>70% of semester grade</i>	
<i>Exams – Midterm and Final</i>		<i>20% of semester grade</i>	
<i>Daily Writing, Journal</i>		<i>5% of semester grade</i>	
<i>Discussion, Reading Quizzes, Homework</i>		<i>5% of semester grade</i>	
<i>Essay 1</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>Essay 3</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Essay 2</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>Essay 4</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Participation</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>Participation</i>	<i>5%</i>
<i>Midterm</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>Final</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Midterm</i>	<i>45% of Final Grade</i>	<i>Final</i>	<i>100% of Final Grade</i>
<i>Assessment</i>		<i>Assessment</i>	

CLASS CONDUCT:

You are expected to behave courteously and professionally in your interactions with your peers as well as with me. Please remember that the classroom is not the place for taking naps, eating meals, conversing with friends, checking voice mail, or working on assignments for other classes. **Turn off cell phones and beepers during class time.** Distracting behavior will impact participation and attendance marks in this class.

WRITING CENTER:

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC 301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908.

When you go to your appointment, please bring your Rebel ID card, a copy of your assignment and two copies of any writing that you may have completed on the assignment. One copy will be for you to use, and the second copy will be for the consultant to use during the session. If you choose to do so, you may request that your teacher be notified of your visit to the Writing Center.

CONFERENCES:

Each of you will meet with me (in my office or an agreed-upon alternate campus location) at least once through the course of the semester. We will not meet as a class during conference week. Conferences are part of class participation and attendance. Please arrive on time and prepared.

PLAGIARISM:

According to university policy, plagiarism (defined in the Undergraduate Catalog p.63 as “using the words or ideas of another from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources”) may be assigned a failing grade for the assignment or for the class. The faculty member who suspects a student of plagiarizing, after discussing concerns with the student, may also initiate disciplinary review by referring evidence of plagiarism to the Composition Office. Disciplinary sanction options include warning, probation, suspension, and expulsion. In all cases, the instructor is responsible for recording the circumstances and for giving the student an opportunity to reply. Appeals go to the chair or director of the Department offering the course, and then to the UNLV Academic Integrity Appeal Board. See UNLV Student Conduct Code (<http://www.unlv.edu/studentlife/judicail/StudentConductCode04.pdf>).

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To help familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, the University encourages you to visit its copyright web page at: <http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright>

LAST DATE TO DROP: The final date to drop or withdraw from the course without a grade being recorded occurs in week ten. No withdrawals will be permitted after **April 4, 2008**.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. Faculty should not provide students accommodations without being in receipt of this plan.

UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: VOICE (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-0652, FAX (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit <<http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>>.

COURSE OVERVIEW

You will be writing several different essay types during the semester. In the process of composing each essay, you will complete both out-of-class and in-class writing responses. All of your writing will be shared with your classmates and your instructor. As members of your audience, we're interested in the subjects of your papers and your progress as a writer. You can expect inquisitive, objective, and thoughtful responses to your writing, and we expect the same from you when reviewing our writing. Before you submit your paper, you'll be asked to evaluate the assignment and your writing process.

You'll start the semester by recollecting what you already know about yourself and your surroundings. You'll then observe your surroundings anew, as well as observing the experiences of others. You'll add to your knowledge through reading and use your experiences and observations to respond to what you read.

The papers you complete this semester will build on the knowledge gained from the previous writing task. You'll express personal insight gained from experience, observation, and reading. You'll use what you've learned from experience, observation, and reading to analyze what something means, how it works, or why it matters to your readers. With the knowledge you've gained, you'll also be able to evaluate a product, service, or experience and explain your evaluation to your readers. Finally, you'll use all the sources available to you (experience, observation, reading) to analyze an issue and take a position or explain a problem to your readers, then evaluate possible solutions and advise them of the best solution available.

By the end of the semester you should be able to recognize the most appropriate strategy for any writing situation and feel confident in your writing ability. Writing is just like any other skill and requires work. In this class, you will read and write every day. Being a writer is no different from being an athlete or a musician or an artist - practice is necessary to succeed.

A syllabus is a contract. Your continued attendance in this class means that you have read and understood the rules, policies, and guidelines that this syllabus details.