

Instructor: **Jessica Johnston**

E-mail: johnst84@uwm.edu

Office: Curtin 483

Office Hours: Mondays (11am-1pm), Tuesdays (11am-12pm, 2pm-3pm), & by appointment

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee First Year Composition
English 101: Introduction to College Writing
 ENG 101, Section 045
 Fall 2014
 MW: 9:30am-10:45am in LAP 253

Course Materials (can be purchased at the UWM Bookstore or Amazon.com)

- *The DK Handbook*. Third Edition. Boston: Pearson Education, Inc., 2013.
- *First Year Composition Reader 2013-2015*. Boston: Pearson Learning Solutions, 2013.
- 1 manila file folder (to submit your final portfolio at the end of the semester)
- A notebook and writing utensil
- Regular access to a computer with a word processor, the Internet, a printer, and a photocopy machine – all of which are available on campus
- A flash drive or external hard drive to back up your work

Course Description

English 101 introduces you to college reading and writing practices through a sequence of writing assignments that integrates critical reading, writing, and reflection. You will communicate ideas and explore methods of analysis through close interpretation of published texts and peer student essays. Your writing this semester will be a work in progress as you revise and reflect on the purpose, audience, context, and form of your essays; in other words, you should look carefully at what your writing (as well as others') is striving to achieve and how it accomplishes its goals. By doing so, you will develop the critical thinking skills key to aiding you in your success as a college student and writer.

Through the course of the semester, we will explore several texts in the form of discussion groups, conferences, short writing assignments, and interpretive and reflective essays. You will also be sharing your work with your classmates and responding to them in peer review. This might feel difficult at first, but you will find this to be a useful tool for yourself and for others as you prepare for your final portfolio. As such, it is important to maintain a supportive environment in which everyone feels comfortable sharing ideas, as well as giving constructive feedback. I strongly suggest that you cultivate an open mind; this should be an environment where you can find helpful critiques and encouragement for your writing development.

Prerequisites

In order to be enrolled in ENG 101, you must have scored a 1 or 2 on the English Placement Test (EPT), received a grade of C or higher in ENG 095, or have placed in 101 based on transfer credit from another institution. If you have not met these prerequisites, please contact the English 101 coordinator, Kristin Ravel, immediately. You can e-mail her at kmravel@uwm.edu

Course Objectives

1. Maintain a controlling purpose that...
 - a. Reflects what matters to you and to others who are addressed in and affected by the your interpretation of a specific text.
 - b. Creates coherence throughout the essay.
2. Critically interpret course texts to support your purpose by...
 - a. Going beyond summary.
 - b. Incorporating and examining multiple passages from across the text.
 - c. Examining relevant personal experiences in relation to the issues raised in the text.
 - d. Identifying and analyzing the language and composing decisions writers make.
3. Demonstrate awareness of your rhetorical situation by...
 - a. Providing relevant context to readers through the use of background information, brief summaries, definitions of key terms, and examples.
 - b. Making consistent language choices and composing decisions appropriate to your purpose, context, and audience.
4. Reflect on the effectiveness of your writing choices by accounting for and evaluating...
 - a. The language and design choices you made in your interpretive essay.
 - b. The reading, writing, and revision practices you undertook throughout the semester to create your interpretive essay.
 - c. Your experiences in the course and their impact on how you created various texts.

Grading System

PASS = A+, A, A-, B+, B-, C+, C

FAIL = C-, D+, D, D-, F

Final Portfolio – 50%

Class Assignments – 25%

Class Participation – 25%

Evaluation

Rather than receive grades on particular assignments throughout the semester, your grade in this class will be determined holistically at the end of the course. This means that your final grade will be dependent upon the progress you've made as a writer and reader through class assignments, group activities, and your final portfolio. Some of you might find this frustrating at first, but as part of the goals of First Year Composition, we like to assess a student's full body of work rather than penalize them for having difficulty with one particular assignment. I will, however, try to give you some indication as to how well you're performing in class through the feedback I provide on your assignments and essays. You can read more about this in *A Student's Guide* (blue book) on page 3.

Final Portfolios (50%)

Your final portfolio is a collection of essays that you have written, revised, organized, and presented to a committee consisting of English 101 instructors; it is assessed by the committee and assigned either a PASS or FAIL. From there, I will assign a final letter grade to the portfolio based on the committee's decision and your overall progress in the course. Throughout the course, you will write three interpretive essays based on the texts we read and one reflective essay. You will only need to select two of these revised interpretive essays to revise further for your final portfolio, "dropping" the third you do not wish to revise. **Your final portfolio will then include two interpretive essays and one reflective**

essay (the latter of which you will compose based on your writing experience in the class). For further information, refer to *A Student's Guide* (pages 3, 6 & 20-22).

Class Assignments (25%)

There will be a brief written assignment due every class period. I request that you upload these assignments onto D2L before 9:30am on the day that it's due; refer to the **Course Calendar** for due dates. While you will submit your assignments online, I ask that you either bring a hard copy of the assignment or reading notes to class in order to contribute to class discussion. These assignments will ask you to reflect on and rhetorically analyze the week's reading. Individual assignments will not receive letter grades, but I will provide you with feedback on D2L to help guide your writing. Furthermore, this 25% of your semester grade will be calculated based on your ability to turn in assignments on time, how well your work addresses the requirements of the assignments, and the completion of peer feedback. Be sure to save your work electronically in a place where you can access it easily. In the event you're unable to submit online, please bring a hard copy of the assignment to give to me in class otherwise it will be counted as LATE.

Class Participation (25%)

In this course, we are reading and writing in order to exchange ideas and learn from each other. Therefore, in-class discussion and activities are extremely important. I expect you to contribute meaningfully to class on a daily basis. This means: arriving on time, completing assignments/readings before class begins, in-class journaling, completing in-class activities, posing relevant questions/concerns, commenting thoughtfully, and showing overall engagement with the day's focus. Tardies, disruptions (texting, sleeping, talking while I'm talking, etc.), and/or failing to complete in-class workshops and journal writing will adversely affect this 25% of your final grade. Furthermore, I will ask you to briefly respond to a journal prompt that I will write on the board at the beginning of class each day. In addition to making up part of your participation grade, in-class journaling will be a way to reflect on the purpose and context of the readings and "warm up" for the day's discussion.

Assignment Feedback

I will provide feedback to you via D2L at least one week after an assignment is due. My feedback will serve to help you reflect on the context for your writing and connect purposes with the texts you're reading. This in turn will prompt you to think in terms of evaluating and revising your reading and writing practices. **For a more detailed idea of what goals you should strive for in your writing, look at page 6 in your *Student Guide*.**

Late Work

You are required to complete every assignment given during this course in order to submit your final portfolio. An assignment is late when you turn it in after 9:30am on the day that it's due; you are still expected to upload the assignment to its appropriate folder on D2L, otherwise you will not receive credit for completing it. If you are having computer issues preventing you from uploading your assignment, please print it and turn in the hard copy to me at the start of class or it will be counted as LATE. However, I understand that circumstances outside class can affect you turning assignments in on a timely matter. As such, I will accept up to **4** different late assignments throughout the semester before your Class Assignment grade begins to drop. In addition, I do not comment on late work and your peers will not be expected to give you feedback. If you feel you may have trouble turning assignments in on time, please discuss this with me.

Major Due Dates

Interpretive Essay #1: Monday 9/22 (*Rough Draft*), Wednesday 10/1 (*Revision*)
Interpretive Essay #2: Monday 10/13 (*Rough Draft*), Wednesday 10/22 (*Revision*)
Interpretive Essay #3: Monday 11/10 (*Rough Draft*), Wednesday 11/19 (*Revision*)
Reflective Essay: Monday 11/24 (*Rough Draft*), Monday 12/8 (*Revision*)
Final Portfolio Due: Monday 12/8

Conferences

We will meet for individual conferences three different times this semester. Prior to these conferences, you will sign up for a 15-minute time slot that works best with your schedule. During these meetings, we will discuss the feedback you received from your peers in class, as well as feedback I will provide for you, and go over any other writing or course issues you wish to discuss. You are required to attend these meetings in lieu of a week's worth of scheduled classes. Because I'll be canceling two class periods, failure to attend your scheduled conference will result in two recorded absences. If you think you will not be able to attend your scheduled conference, you must notify me IN ADVANCE to reschedule.

Conference Dates

Conference #1: Wednesday 9/24 – Monday 9/29
Conference #2: Wednesday 10/15 – Monday 10/20
Conference #3: Wednesday 11/12 – Monday 11/17

Attendance/Tardiness Policy

Many of the in-class discussions will cover homework and papers you are expected to write, so it is important you are there to participate. Program policy states: **“Students enrolled in face-to-face sections of English 095, 101, or 102 during the fall or spring semester who miss more than four 75-minute classes will not pass the course.”** Missing 5 classes will result in failure. Additionally, “students who do not comply with our attendance policy lose their eligibility to participate in final portfolio assessment and can earn no higher than a C-, resulting in the need to repeat the class.” If you have surpassed your absences, you are still permitted to attend class in order to receive a grade between a C- and an F on your transcript. Any student who does not attend the first week of classes (or its equivalent) will be dropped from the course.

There are no exceptions for doctor's notes, sicknesses, funerals, broken down cars, late buses, or other emergencies. As such, you should reserve your allowance of absences in case any of these instances happen beyond your control. Using these absences will not affect your grade, however, I will expect you to turn in that day's assignment on D2L. If you are tardy or leave early more than 2 times (the equivalent of missing half a class), you will be counted as absent. Missing a conference counts as 2 absences.

If you anticipate any absences for religious observances or military obligations, please inform me at the beginning of the semester. You will still receive an absence for any time missed for these events, but by letting me know in advance, we can work together to make sure you complete your assignments on time. If you serve in any branch of military, please check http://www4.uwm.edu/current_students/military_call_up.cfm for information on UWM's official policy on military call ups.

Technology Policy and Expectations

During class time, please keep your cell phones and other technological devices on silent and refrain from texting. **If I see you using your phone, I will count it as rude and disrespectful and will deduct points from your participation grade.** However, if you're anticipating an emergency phone call, notify me at the beginning of class and I will let you excuse yourself into the hall to avoid disrupting class. Laptops, iPads, Kindles, and other such media devices are NOT permitted in class unless otherwise requested by me. During the revision period, I may allow you to bring in your laptops to work on your essays in class. However, if I notice that you're using these devices for something other than class work, your participation grade will go down.

Outside of class, you must have access to a computer, printer, and copier. While your assignments will be submitted onto D2L, you will be asked occasionally to print off copies of your interpretive essays for in-class activities. If you do not have access to a home computer, the **Golda Meir Library** is open Mon-Thur (7:30am-11pm), Fri (7:30am-7pm), Sat (12pm-7pm), and Sun (12pm-11pm),

and has available computers for check out. However, please remember to save any work you do on public computers onto a flash drive. Various computer labs are also available across campus (most notably in the UWM Union). You must be able to access your UWM e-mail and D2L, as this is how I will be able to communicate with you outside of class.

Since technological malfunctions do occur, please have a back-up plan in case your personal computer fails on you. I recommend backing up your assignments on Google Drive, Dropbox, PantherFILE, or an external hard drive or flash drive if you have one.

Campus Closures

If bad weather or other circumstances result in a delay or closure of campus hours, effectively cancelling class, please check your UWM e-mail and D2L for a message from me. Assignments due that day will still be expected to be submitted through D2L. If such an event occurs during scheduled conferences, we will try to arrange the conference online through D2L or set aside another day and time to do so.

Contacting Me

If you need to reach me, I am available either during my office hours (**Mondays from 11am-1pm and Tuesdays 11am-12pm & 2pm-3pm, or by appointment**) in Curtin 483 or by e-mail (johnst84@uwm.edu). Please don't be afraid to see me during my office hours. While I use this time to lesson plan, I am more than happy to assist you if you are struggling in your coursework or need to talk about any concerns. Since I check my e-mail on a regular basis, I also ask that you do the same. I may send reminders or addendums to class assignments by e-mail, so make sure you have access to Office 365.

Credit Hours

As the UW System assumes “that study leading to one semester credit represents an investment of time by the average student of not fewer than 48 hours” (UWS ACPS 4), a 3-credit course such as this one will require a minimum of 144 (3 x 48) hours of your time. You may find it necessary to spend additional time on a course; the numbers below only indicate that the course will not require any less of your time.

If this is a **traditional, or face-to-face** course, you will spend a minimum of

- 37.5 hours in the classroom
- 75 hours preparing for class, which may include reading, note taking, completing minor exercises and assignments, and discussing course topics with classmates and the instructor in structured settings
- 31.5 hours preparing for and writing major papers and/or exams.

If this is an **online** course, you will spend a minimum of

- 37.5 hours reviewing instructional materials prepared by your instructor and placed online
- 75 hours preparing for class, which may include reading, note taking, completing minor exercises and assignments, and discussing course topics with classmates and the instructor in structured settings
- 31.5 hours preparing for and writing major papers and/or exams.

If this is a **hybrid** course, you will spend a minimum of

- 18.75 hours in the classroom
- 18.75 hours reviewing instructional materials prepared by your instructor and placed online
- 75 hours preparing for class, which may include reading, note taking, completing minor exercises and assignments, and discussing course topics with classmates and the instructor in structured settings
- 31.5 hours preparing for and writing major papers and/or exams.

Notes

- The breakdown above is for a standard 15-week semester. In a 16-week semester, the numbers breakdown above changes as follows. Traditional: 40 hours in classroom, 80 for preparation, 24 for papers and exams; online: 40 hours of online instruction, 80 for preparation, 24 for papers and exams; hybrid: 20 hours in classroom, 20 for online instruction, 80 hours for preparation, 24 for papers and exams. Again, these are minimums.
- UWM Credit Hour Policy, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Faculty Document No. 2838, can be found at https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/faculty/2838_Credit_Hour_Policy.pdf https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/faculty/2838_Credit_Hour_Policy.pdf.
- UWS ACPS 4, the University Of Wisconsin System Policy On Academic Year Definition And Assorted Derivatives, can be found at <http://www.uwsa.edu/acss/acps/acps4.pdf>.

Other Important Information

Writing Center

This is a great resource that provides one-on-one tutoring for students in English 101 and beyond. They are excited to help you with your writing, especially with the parts of writing on which we may not focus as much, such as grammar, spelling, and sentence structure. Please use these tutors! They are trained, experienced, talented, and wonderful. To make an appointment, visit www.writingcenter.uwm.edu or call **414-229-4339** or stop by in **Curtin 127** or the **East Wing of the Golda Meir Library**.

Add/Drop Policies

The last day to add a class or change a section is **Monday, September 15th**. The last day to withdraw without a "W" on your transcript is **Monday, September 29th**. The last day to withdraw from classes is **Friday, October 24th** (Please regard page 16-17 of your *Student Guide* for more information about adding and dropping courses).

ESL Students

If you grew up speaking a language other than English, you can fulfill your English writing requirements in English as a Second Language (ESL) courses. Please contact the ESL coordinator, **Cathy Kaye**, at cjkaye@uwm.edu or **414-229-6180**, OR **Larry Kuiper** at kuiper@uwm.edu.

Accessibility Resource Center (ARC)

If you are working with the Accessibility Resource Center (formerly known as SAC) and have been issued a Verified Individualized Services and Accommodations (VISA), please contact me during the first week of class. If you are concerned that you might have a learning disability, visit the ARC office in **116 Mitchell Hall** or call **414-229-3800**. For further information, check out the webpage: <http://www4.uwm.edu/sac/> (website may be subject to change)

Counseling/Psychology/Substance Abuse Services

If you ever feel overwhelmed, overly stressed, or are experiencing extreme life difficulties, please let me know. I can help you find appropriate resources at UWM to help even the most complicated life situations. Additionally, Norris Health Center on campus is a great, budget-friendly resource for medical attention and counseling. You can check them out here: <http://www4.uwm.edu/norris/>

Academic Honesty

Please refer to pages 18 of the *Student Guide*. In short, note that the consequences of plagiarism can range from failing the course to expulsion from the university. Plagiarism, both intentional and unintentional, is a serious offence in the academic setting. We will work together to ensure everyone understands proper MLA citation to prevent such occurrences.

University Policies

For more specific university policies, visit: www4.uwm.edu/secu/policies/

*This syllabus and its policies are subject to change throughout the semester with written notice.

English 101-045 Course Calendar

Fall 2014 (MW 9:30-10:45)

Major Due Dates

Essay 1: Monday 9/22 (*Rough Draft*), Wednesday 10/1 (*Revision*)

Essay 2: Monday 10/13 (*Rough Draft*), Wednesday 10/22 (*Revision*)

Essay 3: Monday 11/10 (*Rough Draft*), Wednesday 11/19 (*Revision*)

Reflective Essay: Monday 11/24 (*Rough Draft*), Monday 12/8 (*Revision*)

Final Portfolio: Monday 12/8

	Monday	Wednesday
Week 1	9/1 – Labor Day (NO CLASS)	9/3 – Course Introduction
Week 2	9/8 – Introduction to Rhetorical Analysis Due: Assignment 1	9/10 – “Depression Part 2” (Making Observations of a Webcomic) Due: Assignment 2
Week 3	9/15 – “Depression Part 2” (Interpreting a Webcomic Using Rhetorical Analysis) Due: Assignment 3 [<i>Last Day to Add/Drop</i>]	9/17 – In-Class Writing Due: Assignment 4
Week 4	9/22 – Peer Review Due: Essay 1 Rough Draft	9/24 – Conferences (NO CLASS) Due: Assignment 5
Week 5	9/29 – Conferences (NO CLASS) Due: Assignment 5 [<i>Last Day to Drop w/o a W</i>]	10/1 – “RSVP to the KKK” (Making Observations of a Satirical Epistolary Essay) Due: Essay 1 Revision
Week 6	10/6 – “RSVP to the KKK” (Interpreting an Epistolary Essay Using Rhetorical Analysis) Due: Assignment 6	10/8 – In-Class Writing Due: Assignment 7
Week 7	10/13 – Peer Review Due: Essay 2 Rough Draft	10/15 – Conferences (NO CLASS) Due: Assignment 8
Week 8	10/20 – Conferences (NO CLASS) Due: Assignment 8	10/22 – Making Observations of a Documentary Due: Essay 2 Revision [10/24 - <i>Last Day to Drop/Withdraw</i>]
Week 9	10/27 – (<i>A</i>)sexual Viewing No Homework Due	10/29 – (<i>A</i>)sexual (Interpreting a Documentary Using Rhetorical Analysis) Due: Assignment 9

Week 10	11/3 – <i>(A)sexual</i> (Ethics and Larger Contexts) Due: Assignment 10	11/5 – In-Class Writing Due: Assignment 11
Week 11	11/10 – Peer Review; Reflective Essay Assigned Due: Essay 3 Rough Draft	11/12 – Conferences (NO CLASS) Due: Assignment 12
Week 12	11/17 – Conferences (NO CLASS) Due: Assignment 12	11/19 – Revision Due: Essay 3 Revision
Week 13	11/24 - Revision Due: Reflective Essay	11/26 – Thanksgiving Break (NO CLASS)
Week 14	12/1 - Revision	12/3 – Revision
Week 15	12/8 – Final Portfolios Due	12/10 – NO CLASS

Web Links to Readings/Film

Brosh, Allie. "Depression Part 2." *Hyperbole and a Half*.

<http://hyperboleandahalf.blogspot.com/2013/05/depression-part-two.html>

Perry, Michael. "RSVP to the KKK." *Off Main Street, Barnstormers, Prophets, and Gatemouth's Gator*. HarperCollins e-books. <http://f3.tiera.ru/1/genesis/570-574/570000/18f3b9389c6861b92c76b32836ce79c7>

(A)sexual. Dir. Angela Tucker. Netflix.