

ENGLISH 1101: ENGLISH COMPOSITION I

Instructor: Monica Smith

Office: 38 Park Hall

Office Hours: 12:15-1:45 T/TH or by appointment

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Course URL: Available via WebCT

PREREQUISITES: Students must either place in the course or pass out of Academic Assistance.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this section of English 1101, students will prepare and present a variety of works: standard academic essays in response to scholarly texts; real-time and virtual presentations on subjects ranging from religion to feminism to government; and webpages that combine the textual with the visual. We will take advantage of multiple mediums to explore the recursive writing process, to understand audience, to develop individual writing styles, and to craft persuasive, substantial arguments. Please note that while no particular prior computer experience is required for the course, a general knowledge of file management and word processing will certainly be advantageous.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: In English 1101, students will learn to read non-fiction critically, to form persuasive arguments, and to present those arguments in a variety of media. For a complete listing of course objectives, see *First-Year Composition at UGA*.

CLASSROOM PERFORMANCE: This is an active, discussion-oriented class entailing substantial, demanding, daily readings. Each day, students should come to class prepared to articulate and defend their own readings, both on paper and in person. Failure to do so will be reflected in the final course grade.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Please purchase the editions specified below. Please check the edition numbers on your copies.

- Jacobus, Lee. A. *A World of Ideas*. 6th edition.
- Lunsford, Andrea A. *St. Martin's Handbook*. 5th edition.
- Dictionary: Recommended are *American Heritage College Dictionary* or *Random House Webster's College Dictionary*. Also, note that the complete and unabridged *Oxford English Dictionary* is available through GALILEO at <www.libs.uga.edu>.
- Thesaurus of your choice: Recommended are *Webster's Collegiate Thesaurus*, *Oxford American Thesaurus of Current English*, or *The New Roget's Thesaurus of the English Language in Dictionary Form*; instead of a thesaurus, you may prefer a synonym dictionary such as *Webster's Dictionary of Synonym*.
- Lab card: available from UGA Bookstore cashiers

ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS:

Daily Assignments, both reading and writing, are substantial and demanding. All assignments should be completed before coming to class, and I strongly recommend that you get in the habit of looking ahead on the syllabus; know when your next large assignment is due, and plan accordingly.

In-class Writings will vary from a quick, four or five line response to a question or prompt to a detailed analysis of a particular passage. These writings will be assessed according to the degree of engagement the student demonstrates with the question or assignment.

WebCT Discussion Board Postings are required weekly. While from time to time I or one of your classmates will post a specific topic for response, generally the content of your posting will be up to you (though it should be related to the topics we are discussing in class). Each post should consist of at least

one full screen of text in order to be counted for credit. In addition, you may also use the discussion board to ask questions of your classmates or of me (if you feel the question is of general interest to the group), request their assistance, or organize group meetings.

Papers and Presentations

- **Your Homepage:** 1000-1500 word project prepared and presented in WebCT.
- **The Visual Argument Project** involves two parts: first, analysis of a visual in a 1000-1500 word essay prepared and presented in EMMA, and presentation of a visual analysis to the class in a 4-6 minute talk.
- **Text Analysis:** 1000-1500 word essay prepared and presented in EMMA.
- **In-Class Essay:** 500-1000 word essay prepared in-class.
- **The Research Project** involves two parts: first, a 1000-1500 word research essay which incorporates secondary sources prepared and presented in EMMA, and a group project culminating in a 10-15 minute presentation.

Final Exam: A standard, departmental exam consisting of an essay of 500 to 1,000 words. The examination counts 30% of the final grade.

ATTENDANCE: Because writing skills develop slowly over time, students' regular attendance is essential in First-Year Composition. Students are allowed three absences. On the fourth absence, regardless of the reason, you will be dropped with a W if before midterm or a WF if after midterm. Students may not exceed the allowed number of absences for any reason, and all absences will be treated the same, i.e. no differentiation between "excused" or "unexcused" absences.

MAKE-UP POLICY: No late assignments will be accepted. Each student is held responsible for all assignments, regardless of her/his class attendance on the day the assignment is made. If a previously scheduled event coincides with an exam or paper due date, a written request for an extension or make-up date will be considered. All such requests must be submitted prior to the date in question. Any requests based on illness or family emergency must be accompanied by written documentation from Student Affairs. All make-ups and extensions are at the instructor's discretion.

COMPUTER ACCESS: Students are expected to check WebCT daily for new content. Students are responsible for securing working computer equipment; several labs are available on campus. Please note that since "The printer wouldn't work," "Something's wrong with my disk," and "I don't know what happened; I posted it but now it's not there" have become the 21st century versions of "My dog ate my homework," computer, software, or printer malfunction/failure of any kind will not constitute a valid excuse for missed, late, or incomplete work.

PEER EDITING: On the day a peer editing session is planned, each student must bring a complete draft of the assigned paper in the specified format (hard copy, disk, html, EMMA upload, etc.) to class. Any student without a complete, properly formatted draft during a peer editing session will be asked to leave class and will be counted absent for that day. Any student absent on a peer editing day will lose 3 points from his or her final grade for the semester.

CONFERENCES: Each student will have at least two instructor-student conferences. These meetings are mandatory, so if a student misses a scheduled conference, it will be counted as a class absence. Additionally, office hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 12:15-1:45. Please feel free to stop by with any questions. If this time is not convenient, please schedule an appointment.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All students are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers. Any instance of suspected plagiarism will be reported to the Office of the Vice President of Instruction. All students are expected to abide by the UGA Honor Code: "I will be academically honest in all my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others."

ACCESS STATEMENT: If you need adaptations or accommodations because of a disability (i.e., physical, mental, psychological, learning), have emergency medical information to share with me, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. Students with the option of testing at either of the disability services centers will be required to do so.

GRADING:

Paper 1: Homepage	5%
Paper 2: Visual Argument Paper and Presentation	10%
Paper 3: Argument Analysis	10%
Paper 4: In-Class Essay	10%
Paper 5: Research Project	15%
Paper 5: Group Presentation	10%
Participation (classroom discussion, WebCT discussion postings, homework, in-class writings, quizzes, peer editing, computer lab)	10%
Final Exam	30%

DAILY SCHEDULE: Please note that the daily schedule on WebCT contains hyperlinks from each date with more information about specific assignments for each class. The most up-to-date version of daily assignments will be available online via WebCT.

Tuesday, August 19

Introduction to the course.

Thursday, August 21

Introduction to WebCT; Preparing Paper One; Using St. Martin's Handbook

Tuesday, August 26

EMMA Orientation: Meet in Park Hall Computer Lab

Thursday, August 28

EMMA Orientation; SMH Ch.2

Tuesday, September 2

Analyzing Arguments

Thursday, September 4

Analyzing Visual Arguments; Active Reading; Your Homepage Due

Tuesday, September 9

Machiavelli; SMH Ch. 1

Thursday, September 11: Begin Visual Argument Presentations
Lao-Tzu; SMH Ch. 3: Brainstorming & Developing a Working Thesis

Tuesday, September 16
Rousseau; Gathering and Organizing Information

Thursday, September 18
Jefferson; Drafting

Tuesday, September 23
Arendt

Thursday, September 25
Revising the Thesis, Title, Introduction, and Conclusion

Tuesday, September 30
Revising Paragraphs, Sentences, Words, and Tone; Stylistic Choices

Thursday, October 2
Text Analysis Due

Tuesday, October 7
Primary and Secondary Sources

Thursday, October 9
Evaluating Sources; Writing A Research Project

Tuesday, October 14
Draft due; Argument Check

Thursday, October 16
Conferences

Tuesday, October 21
Conferences

Thursday, October 23
Stylistic Choices; Peer review

Tuesday, October 28
Individual Research Projects Due

Thursday, October 30
Fall Break

Tuesday, November 4
Conferences w/ groups

Thursday, November 6
Conferences w/ groups

Tuesday, November 11
In-class essay preparation

Thursday, November 13
Group Presentations

Tuesday, November 18
Group Presentations

Thursday, November 20
In-class essay

Tuesday, November 25
In-class essay

Thursday, November 27
Thanksgiving Holidays

Tuesday, December 2
Portfolio compilation

Thursday, December 4
Portfolio assessment; Final exam preparation