

SYLLABUS, ENC1102: Composition II

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Office hours, Seminole Library LI-205: MW 8-9:30, 12:30-2; TR8-9:30; ALSO by appointment

Imagination is the most powerful force in the universe, but it isn't entirely limited to the spheres of fiction. If anything, we are able push the boundaries of "what is"-- the world we live in-- because we can dream up and play with "what if"-- the possibilities. As a student in this Composition II course, you will explore both of these realms. You'll complete a research project, finding out about a specific topic in depth. You'll also read a number of works of imagination, and then respond to them, reflecting on how the various texts use language-- how they embody specific themes or ideas, how they develop different characters or settings or situations, how different texts (possibly across genres) develop the same central idea or theme in different ways. Exploring and critiquing these works will allow you to become a more versatile, insightful thinker.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: TBA

ATTENDANCE AND GRADE POLICIES

The three major assignments (65% of final grade), with draft work included, are

- a research-supported essay, its bibliography, and its draft
- a literary analysis essay and its draft
- presentation/discussion of research findings

Supporting assignments (35% of final grade) include

- reflective responses on specific topics/site visits
- portions of the essay development process-- proposal, outline, presentation, etc.
- responses to readings from our course text

Your contributions will help you develop your writing voice and practice some of the conventions of both creative and professional communication.

COURSE WORK AND LATE POLICY

The main skill set you'll develop during this course is writing. As such, you should enter this with a mindset of improving your writing skills. We will write short and long responses to various topics. The college essay is a standard form of assessment across many disciplines, and writing is a way to show your thoughts about a subject. Essays are thoughts put to the page in an organized fashion, supported with evidence and interpretations.

Our focus is on both research, and works of imagination. You will need to set time aside to do a lot of reading! This goes for both the research project and the literature phase. Our final project will expand on your research essay.

We will also get to know the Online Library, which is used in many, many courses beyond ENC1101/1102. Your other instructors will expect you to have learned about it already! So, this is a course where you'll get that exposure.

Late work will receive 50% of the grade earned. This does not mean an automatic 5/10 or 50/100. It is important to me to be fair to all students. While I NEVER like marking down an assignment that's been

completed, it's a matter of business. It is not personal. In addition, late work will not receive feedback unless time permits.

There are support systems and services available at the College, and it is up to you to use them to your advantage. These include the libraries, advising, and Learning Resource Centers at each campus. Get familiar with the writing tutors there; they can help with so many other course assignments as well!

Finally, during the last three weeks of the course, DO NOT send requests for extra credit, revisions, overhauls, a chance to make up a slew of missed assignments, or a plea to bump a grade up a few percentage points. This is a 16-week course and requires your attention for all of those weeks. It cannot be completed in just a few weeks.

I have several dozen students, and while I like knowing something about each of you, I can't manage everyone's time, requests, and excuses. Therefore I am not in a position to decide whose emergencies, personal issues, and outside circumstances are more worthy of excuses than everyone else's. What I can tell you is that every semester I have many, many students juggling work, school, and family issues, and it never gets easier! I wish it did, but it doesn't; you just learn to get better at managing things. I want to see you all succeed, and do well in this course and beyond! That's up to you, though; I'm a merely a resource-- a supporter and a judge, and a provider of opportunities. Use ALL your resources!!

Active participation involves and includes regular class attendance, and regular written responses, submitted on time; these should reflect college-level work (thoughtful analysis and interpretation, attention to sources, writing that goes beyond summary and reflects on meaning), completing readings as assigned, and contributing to class discussion, regular submissions to dropboxes, civil discussions in class, and questions as you have them. These should also reflect college-level work (see above). A lack of regular participation will result in withdrawal from the course, or a failing grade.

After the withdrawal date I will need to report students who have stopped participating in course discussions, completing major and minor assignments, and maintaining at least a 60% average in the course. (Remember that a final grade of 70% is required to pass ENC1102H.) In order to successfully complete the course, you need to master each of the course objectives, listed above in the syllabus, and noted within each module.

I expect full academic honesty in all your work. Plagiarism is a serious issue and plagiarized work is not acceptable, especially in a course where your aim is to **improve your own writing skills**. Plagiarized writing assignments earn a **grade of zero** and a conference with me. A 2nd violation will be reported to the college's Academic Honesty Council and added to the college's database of academic honesty violations. Students wishing to appeal this may file an appeal, and will be expected to present evidence. We'll have an in-class discussion and activity based on copyright, academic honesty, plagiarism, and cheating. You must be present for this.

SHOW UP ~ ASK QUESTIONS ~ DO THE WORK ~ AND YOU'LL BE FINE!