

New Jersey Institute of Technology
ENGL102-042 Spring 2024
Introduction to Research Writing

Name: Professor L. Lozauskas, MFA

Course Meetings/Times: W/F, 1:00-2:30 pm

Office Hours: 11:45-12:45, W/F

Email: jlozausk@njit.edu

Course Location: FMH 321

Office Hour Location: TBD

Course Description:

ENGL 102 takes a multidisciplinary approach to researching and writing in various genres while emphasizing information literacy. While building on the skills learned and practiced in ENGL 101, students will research and write about issues in their disciplines in various genres, investigating a wide range of sources, crafting arguments and proposing solutions. To reinforce the arguments in these written works, students will create visual arguments with the course culminating in oral presentations of these written and visual works. Students will immerse themselves in various types of research and information gathering and make appropriate choices in genre, format, development and style to create their own original texts geared toward existing publications or organizations. The purpose of this class is to prepare students for research and writing in various genres in their majors, and, ultimately, for communication (written, visual, oral) in their professional work.

Course Goals

During this course students will:

- Review the writing process and its non-linear, recursive nature.
- Research, draft, revise and edit various genres on topics of your choice.
- Find, evaluate and choose sources effectively, building on rhetorical analysis skills from ENGL 101.
- Create multimodal visual arguments supported by your research on your chosen topics.
- Demonstrate an understanding of academic integrity in the creation of your own original written and visual work for all assignments.
- Demonstrate knowledge of formatting for American Psychology Association (APA) citation style.

No required text This course makes use of books and resources found on <http://library.njit.edu> and other pdf and word document files and resources provided by the instructor as well as Open Educational Resources (available for free on the Web).

Assignments & Assessment

Students' course grades will be calculated as follows:

Participation	10%
Includes your consistently active presence in class, submission of all assignments on time, and satisfactory completion of in-class mini-writing activities.	
Job description and oral presentation	5%
Written job description of the job you wish to have someday, addressed to professional colleagues, and a first sketch of a researchable problem or issue in the field (500 words)	
	4%
Oral presentation in class (2 minutes)	1 %
Museum Visit and Critical Review	10%
Visit a local museum, conduct research, and write a critical review of one exhibit and its significance (4-5 pages with photo evidence of attendance)	
References pages and proposal for written work	10%
Two References pages on two disciplinary lenses and 500-word proposal	
Written work for a general audience and video essay	35%
Research content and targeted publications for 8-10 page written article	
	30
Video essay on article	5
White paper and infographic	25%
Research content and targeted audience to write a 5-6 page document presenting a problem and proposed solution	
	20%
Infographic for white paper	5%
Oral and Visual Presentation (Your Choice)	5%
Present either your video essay (general audience) or your white paper (targeted audience)	
University grading scale:	

All assignments and other required work will be graded using the following scale:

A 100-90 B+ 89-87 B 86-80 C+ 79-77 C 76-70 F 69-0

First-Year Writing Procedures and Policies for Student Success

Participation

Attendance and participation are critical to your success in this class. Participation is required for all in-class activities, including drafting, revising, discussions, peer support and discussion board writings. Students need to attend AND participate in class with regularity in all class activities including reading, writing, critical thinking, discussing, interpreting, analyzing, synthesizing, asking questions and responding to one another. Additionally, there will be informal class writings (often in discussion boards and graded) as well as regular workshopping in which students apply the day's lesson to their writing in progress. We will also politely do peer and class reviews. Level of engagement with the material is often correlated with success on assignments. Classroom activities are designed to aid in students' developing a writing process of their own that can be applied to most writing tasks.

Attendance

There is no formal column for attendance points as attendance is expected. Regular participation in class activities and workshops (many are graded) is required to earn participation points. Not participating in the writing process will be met with deductions. It is important for me to document excused versus unexcused absences for both university policy as well as for participation. Although there are no formal points for attendance, more than six unexcused absences (three weeks of the course) can result in failure of the course. Activities and workshopping as part of the writing process cannot be made up and not participating in these classes often leaves students disconnected from the practical skills needed for each genre. In the case of an excused absence, work must be made up within five calendar days **if possible**. As some in-class activities are group work in nature (peer review would be an example), these cannot be made up individually regardless of an excused absence. Please plan accordingly!

Students who expect to miss class for religious observances should contact their instructor about these dates at the beginning of the semester (per university policy).

If you feel your absence falls under an excused absence, please utilize the following to submit the information to the Dean of Students:

<https://www.njit.edu/dos/student-absence-verification>

All assignments must be submitted on their specific Canvas assignment (which automatically assesses for plagiarism and AI generation using Turnitin). Please follow the specific instructions for each assignment. Any assignment that is submitted via email or attached as a comment to an assignment will receive a zero and no feedback. This is a firm policy without exception. It is imperative that **all work be submitted in the appropriate assignment and be assessed for plagiarism/AI**.

Major Assignments

There are 5 written assignments: a job description, a critical museum/art review, a proposal with two References pages, a researched essay for a general audience, and a white paper.

Students must submit at least one rough draft and a final draft of most major projects to be considered for a grade for that assignment. There are very few major assignments that do not require a rough draft. Always follow the guidelines on the individual instruction sheets for information as to whether the assignment requires a rough draft. For assignments that require a rough draft, if a final draft is submitted without a rough draft, the final draft will automatically receive a score of zero. This is a firm policy without exception. Without engaging in the writing process throughout the semester on required assignments, students cannot pass the course.

Students will receive written feedback from instructors as a vital step in the writing/revision process. These guiding comments should be followed by students in the drafting process, and engagement in this process will be assessed as part of students' participation grade. Drafts may also be reviewed in small peer groups during class time or in whole-class review (when students volunteer their drafts to be improved by the class). Students are encouraged to visit the Writing Center.

Class activities, informal assignments, and discussion are vital in evaluating students' engagement with coursework and are often graded as part of the participation grade (10% of their overall grade for the course).

Visual arguments

In conjunction with the written assignments, students will create a video essay or journal-like layout with visuals for their writing for a general audience. The white paper will be accompanied by an infographic or other substantial visual effort.

Late Work

Students should submit assignments on time. Students should contact their instructor well in advance of due dates when having difficulty completing an assignment. Extension requests will not be granted this semester due to the improved, open late policy outlined below:

Professor L's Late Policy

Work that is related to the major assignments (rough drafts/outlines/final drafts/etc.) can be submitted late, up to five calendar days, with a 20% deduction of the overall score. Late is late (five minutes or five days). I understand that life happens. This is put into place so that everyone has the same opportunity to submit assignments, later than the due date, for any reason. All major assignments have a due date and an available until date. **Due dates are when an assignment is due (day/8:59 pm). Available until dates are set to close at 8:59pm on the fifth calendar day after an assignment is due. Any assignments that are submitted late but before the available until date closes, can be submitted with the 20% deduction.** There is no need to ask for an extension in this class. Emails that ask for extensions will go unanswered, as this late policy can be considered as a permanent extension that is available to everyone. After five days, missing assignments will become zeros. Once an assignment has closed, it is closed. If you have a technical issue

submitting an assignment, email me at the time. Too often, I receive emails during the middle of the night citing “technical issues” that are confusing to me. A technical issue should happen when you are submitting the assignment, not after the due date/time. Thus, that is the confusion I wish to avoid by setting all due dates to be 8:59 pm and can answer emails about genuine “technical” issues on the spot.

There is no opportunity for extra credit in this course at this time.

Technology

Canvas is NJIT’s learning management system. In First-Year Writing (FYW) instructors share course materials, grade assignments, give feedback on drafts, participate in discussions while students read course material, view assignments, submit essays, write and create in discussion boards. There are no written exams in FYW. Participation on discussion boards or other short essays/ responses are regularly completed on Canvas and will count toward students’ participation grade.

Students use their NJIT email as the primary method of communication and maintain an appropriate tone. Please include an appropriate subject line that contains: name, course with section number, one or two word description of reason for email. Please be polite in your emails (particularly with tone). While I can understand being distressed about issues, that is no reason to forget that we are all human.

Students should not use cell phones during class unless needed for a specific activity. Resist the distraction and focus on one task at a time - classroom lessons, activities and discussion. Active engagement in class leads to better outcomes in grading. Everyone should set phones to silent as a courtesy.

Laptops/tablets/technology should only be used when we are drafting, researching, note taking or otherwise engaging in classroom activities requiring them. Students that practice professional, focused behavior now will be more prepared for the work world! Also, this means to remove earbuds to be fully engaged with the course material. If there is a solitary writing activity, then feel free to listen to music as you work.

NJIT University Code on Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at:

<http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>.

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu.

All assignments submitted shall be considered "graded work" and all aspects of your coursework are covered by the Code on Academic Integrity. All projects and homework assignments are to be completed individually unless otherwise specified.

Chat GPT

First-Year Writing (FYW) follows the guidelines from the NJIT University Code of Academic Integrity:

“Artificial intelligence usage is not permitted in this course. The expectation of this course is for students to work through the course without assistance from any type of artificial intelligence to better develop their own skills in this content area. As such, artificial intelligence usage is not permitted throughout this course.”

Accessibility Needs

Every attempt will be made to accommodate qualified students with disabilities. If you are a student with a documented disability, please see me as early in the semester as possible to discuss the necessary accommodations, and/or contact the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services at 973-596-5417.

The Writing Center

The Writing Center (Central King Building G17) is available for in-person and virtual sessions. This resource is free and intended to help you improve your writing and communication skills with tutors who help with planning assignments, improving your writing, refining an essay or multimedia project, for classes, personal statements, etc. For more information or to make an appointment, please visit <https://www.njit.edu/writingcenter/schedule-appointment> . If you do schedule an appointment, please **do not** schedule it with me. This is considered to be a conflict of interest. If you need to speak to me to review an assignment, please utilize my office hours.

Important Numbers For Your Convenience



NEED HELP? KNOW WHO TO CALL

Please note following important numbers that will come in handy in case of emergency:

EXTERNAL RESOURCES	AVAILABILITY	CONTACT NUMBER
Suicide Prevention	24 hrs/ 7 days a week	(973) 623-2323 (University Hospital-Newark)
Drug/ Alcohol Addiction	24 hrs/ 7 days a week	(877) 630-8262
Crime Victim Compensation Office	Monday – Friday 8 AM – 8 PM	(877) 658-2221
Rape Care Center	24 hrs/ 7 days a week	(877) 733-2273 (Essex County)
Sexual Assault Hotline	24 hrs/ 7 days a week	(800) 656-HOPE (National)
Psychiatric Emergency	24 hrs/ 7 days a week	(973) 924-7416 (Newark Beth Israel Hospital)
NJIT RESOURCES	AVAILABILITY	CONTACT NUMBER
NJIT Public Safety	24 hrs/ 7 days a week	(973) 596-3111 (Emergency) (973) 596-3120 (Non-Emergency)
Dean of Students (TITLE IX – Sexual Misconduct Report/Response)	Monday – Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM	(973) 596-3466
Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)	Monday – Friday 8:30 AM - 5 PM	(973) 596-3414
Student Health Services (SHS)	Monday – Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM	(973) 596-3621

ENGL 102

Course Schedule * Subject to change as needed/see modules for most current information!

Week 1 (1/17-1/19)

Introductions; discuss syllabus

(Re) introduce our online library and discuss research essay ideas

Week 2 (1/24-1/26)

Research and Information Literacy

Review ENGL 101/102 NJIT library guides.

Visit NJIT's online library <https://library.njit.edu>:

Explore Academic Search Premier (EBSCO), Science Direct, and other databases and reference materials; explore online books.

Begin to explore topics for general audience essay.

Research

Find resources for job descriptions: Collect at least 3 sources to be included in your References page for your job description to professional colleagues.

Begin exploring writing project for a general audience and target publications.

Writing assignment

Write a description (500 words) about the job you may have one day: Introduce the basics as if you are speaking to professional colleagues who don't know much about your field; explore a question/problem in your field for use in course writing requirements.

***Oral presentation* of job descriptions and topic (2 minutes)**

Week 3 (1/31-2/2)

Writing assignment

Museum visit and critical review preparation: Research a museum of your choice; find an exhibit for critical review; visit and analyze the exhibit from multidisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary lenses.

Research

Continue to read and explore for writing project for a general audience.

Week 4 (2/7-2/9)

Reading/research

Continue collecting sources; discuss topics, narrowing down and taking an argumentative stance in a project geared toward a general audience

Writing assignment

Museum critical review due (4-5 pages)

Week 5 (2/14-2/16)

Discussion

Continue exploring your topic for the general audience essay through the lens of 2-3 academic disciplines; discuss rhetorical strategies used in various types of sources including peer-reviewed journal articles.

Writing assignment/research

Begin work on References pages: Collect two sets of references (10+ each) for two lenses/scopes on the same topic; sort and prewrite (paraphrase, collect quotes, arrange key concepts and begin to outline written work)

Begin work on Proposals: 500-word proposal for two lenses and how they will be used in writing assignments for a general audience and white paper for a targeted audience

Week 6 (2/21-2/23)

Writing assignment

Two References pages and proposal due (APA format with 10+ sources each); one lens to be used for the writing project for a general audience and the other for the white paper writing assignment (or other manageable combination or interdisciplinary approach)

Research

Continue research and begin planning and prewriting for writing project for a general audience.

Week 7 (2/28-3/1)

Writing assignment

Writing project for a general audience: Continue prewriting activities (researching, note taking, making connections to publications and current research).

First draft due; find more sources and redirect, as needed.

Week 8 (3/6-3/8)

Writing assignment

Writing project for a general audience: peer or class review, composition revisions

Spring Break (3/11-3/15)

Week 9 (3/20-3/22)

Writing Assignment

Final draft of writing project for a general audience due; edit for refinement of grammar, mechanics, citations (8-10 pages)

Visual argument

Video essay: Create a video essay on your writing project for a general audience.

Week 10 (3/27) No Class on 3/29 (Good Friday)

Writing assignment

Begin work on a white paper on your second discipline (or interdisciplinary approach); find publications or other target audiences (include a separate paragraph explaining proposed audience).

Note: Last day to withdraw from a course is April 1st!

Week 11 (4/3-4/5)

Writing assignment

White paper first draft due; Peer Review

Week 12 (4/10-4/12)

Writing assignment and visual argument

Continue work on white paper; create an infographic.

Week 13 (4/17-4/19)

Writing assignment and visual argument

Final revisions of white paper; final editing for grammar, mechanics, citations; finishing touches on infographic (5-6 pages), presentations begin on 4/19

Weeks 14-15 (4/19, 4/24, 4/26)

Oral presentations: Choose either your general audience article or your white paper to present. Include your arguments and evidence along with your visual argument (video essay or infographic).

White Paper due 4/30 (remote)

Late White Papers will be accepted until 5/3, 8:59 pm. No work will be accepted beyond this date under any circumstances.