

New Jersey Institute of Technology
ENGL 102
Introduction to Research Writing

Dr. Crystal Hamai

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Office hours: Tuesday 3-4; Wednesday 10-12

Virtual (Zoom) appointments available by appointment

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).

Helpful websites

- [Canvas](#)
- [NJIT Library Research Guide](#)
- [The Writing Center](#)
- [Purdue OWL](#)

Assignments & Assessment

Students' grades will be calculated as follows based on a 100-point scale:

Participation	10%
Includes attendance AND your consistently active presence in class, submission of all assignments on time and satisfactory completion of drafts, in-class mini-writing activities, and discussion boards	
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)	
Oral presentation in class (2 minutes)	
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)	
References pages and proposal for written work	10%
Two References pages (8+ sources each) on two disciplinary lenses and 500-word proposal	
White paper and infographic	35%
Research content and targeted audience to write a 7-10 page document presenting a problem and proposed solution	30
Infographic for white paper	5
Written work for a general audience and video essay	25%
Research content and targeted publications for an 5-6 page written article	20
Video essay on article	5
Oral and visual presentation	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
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First-Year Writing Procedures for Student Success:

How to Succeed

Your level of success is determined in part by how much effort you put into the class. I expect you to be thoughtful in your work, ask questions when you are unsure, and show respect to everyone in the classroom. Be prepared to discuss ideas in class. PLEASE NOTE that all assignments must be submitted in order to pass the class. You cannot elect to “miss” a writing assignment.

Participation and Attendance

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 workshoping 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

You may miss up to one week of class (or two classes) without penalty. Every subsequent unexcused absence will result in the deduction of participation points. 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 further deductions. More than six unexcused absences (three weeks of the course) can result in failure of the course: Activities and workshoping 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.

Students who expect to miss class for religious observances or sports activities must advise me as early as possible to make alternative arrangements for missed work (as per university policy). All requests for Excused Absences MUST go through the [Dean of Students office](#). You can find their office on the second floor of the campus center.

All assignments must be submitted on Canvas (which automatically assesses for plagiarism and AI generation using Turnitin). Please follow the specific instructions for each assignment.

Essays

There are 4 written assignments (a job description, a proposal with 2 References pages, an article written for a general audience and a white paper).

Students must submit at least one rough draft and a final draft to be considered for a grade for that assignment. Without engaging in the writing process throughout the semester on required assignments, students cannot pass the course.

Students will receive 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 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).

Class activities 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

Late work will not be accepted (except in the case of an excused absence). Students should contact their instructor in advance of due dates when having difficulty completing an assignment.

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 or 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. Include an appropriate subject line and name in all emails for more efficient correspondence.

Students should not use cell phones during class unless needed for a specific activity. Resist the distraction and focus on one thing 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 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!

For technical assistance, including computing equipment or help with internet access, contact the office of the Dean of Students and Campus Life <https://www.njit.edu/dos/>

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 in need of accommodations due to a disability please contact Scott Janz, Associate Director of the Office of Accessibility Resources & Services (OARS), Kupfrian Hall 201, or by phone 973-596-5417 to discuss your specific needs. A Letter of Accommodation Eligibility from the OARS authorizing your accommodations will be required.

The Writing Center

The Writing Center (G17 Central King) is available for 45-minute 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. To make an appointment, please visit the [NJIT Writing Center](#).



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 at instructor's discretion.

All assignments are due on Canvas at 11:59 pm unless otherwise instructed

Week 1	9/3; 9/5
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- Introductions; discuss syllabus
- (Re) introduce our online library and discuss research essay ideas
- Embracing the Writing Process (Canvas Discussion)

Writing and Research

Introduce Job Description assignment and Museum Critical review assignment

Week 2	9/10; 9/12	Due: Embracing the Writing Process; Job Description
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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 white paper assignment.

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.

Introduction to 2 major writing projects, white paper and researched essay for a general audience. Begin research exploration.

Reading

"Defining Interdisciplinary Studies"

"The World Needs Students with Interdisciplinary Education"

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) **(5%)**

Week 3	9/17; 9/19	Due: Select museum and exhibit; Assigned museum readings
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Continue oral presentation of job descriptions (if needed)

Writing assignment

Museum critical review assignment: 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 two major writing projects: White paper and researched essay for a general audience

Research proposal and References lists assignment introduced and assignment expectations carefully reviewed

Week 4	9/24; 9/26	Due: Museum critical review draft
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Reading/research

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

Writing assignment

Draft of museum critical review due (required)

Week 5	10/1; 10/3	Due: Annotated Bibliography discussion; Museum critical review final
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Discussion

Continue exploring your topic for your white paper through the lens of 2 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 2 sets of references (10+ each) for 2 lenses 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

Museum critical review due (4-5 pages) (10%)

Week 6	10/8; 10/10	Due: Reference pages and proposal
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Writing assignment

Two References pages and proposal due (APA format with 8+ sources each) **(10%)**

Research

Continue research and begin planning and prewriting for white paper

Week 7	10/15; 10/17
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Writing assignment

White paper: Continue prewriting activities (researching, note taking, making connections to publications and current research).

Begin drafting white paper; find more sources and redirect, as needed.

Week 8	10/22; 10/24	Due: White Paper draft
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Writing assignment

White paper draft (required): Peer and class review, composition revisions

Visual argument

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

Week 9	10/29; 10/31	Due: White Paper Final
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Writing assignment

Final draft of white paper due

Edit for refinement of grammar, mechanics, citations (8-10 pages) **(30%)**

Final draft includes infographic **(5%)**

Week 10	11/5; 11/7
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Writing assignment/Research

Using your white paper topic, find publications for which you could (possibly) submit a general audience essay. Analyze the publications rhetorically to learn how to approach your general audience paper.

Begin work on a general audience research paper (interdisciplinary approach)

Week 11	11/12; 11/14
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Writing assignment

General audience paper drafting

Week 12	11/19; 11/21	Due: Written Work for a General Audience draft
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Writing assignment and visual argument

Draft of research essay for a general audience due (required)

Continue work on general audience paper; create a video essay

Week 13	11/26	Tues follows a Thursday schedule; Wednesday follows a Friday schedule; No Classes Thursday/Friday
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Writing assignment and visual argument

Final revisions of general audience paper

Finishing touches on video essay

Week 14-15	12/3; 12/5; 12/10	Due: Final Written Work for a General Audience paper. Video Essay
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Writing Assignment and visual argument

Final draft of researched essay for a general audience due (5-6 pages) (20%)

Video essay (5%)

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). **(5%)**

Summary of Due Dates: (assignments due at 11:59 on Canvas unless otherwise indicated)

Job Description & presentations	9/12
Museum Critical Review draft	9/26 In Class
Museum Critical Review final	10/3
Reference pages and Proposal	10/10
White Paper draft	10/22 In Class
White Paper final	10/31
White Paper Infographic	10/31
Written work for General Audience draft	11/19 In Class
Written work for General Audience final	12/3
Video Essay	12/3
Final Oral Presentations	12/3; 12/5; 12/10