

ENGL 102: Introduction to Research Writing

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| Instructor: Celina Thomas (She/Her) Email: celina.thomas@njit.edu Office: Cullimore 315 Office Hours: Tues 10:30 AM-12:30 PM | Class info: ENGL 102 Section: 052 CRN: 12793 Days: Tues/Fri 1:00 PM - 2:20 PM Location: CKB 220 |
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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' grades will be calculated as follows:

Participation 10%

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| Includes attendance AND your consistently active presence in class, submission of all assignments on time and satisfactory completion of in-class mini-writing activities |
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Job description and oral presentation 5%

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| 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) |
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| Oral presentation in class (2 minutes) |
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Museum visit and critical review 10%

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| Visit a local museum, conduct research and write a critical review of one exhibit and its significance (4-5 pages) |
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References pages and proposal for written work 10%

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| Two References pages on two disciplinary lenses and 500-word proposal |
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Written work for a general audience and video essay 30%

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| Research content and targeted publications for 8-10 page written article | 25 |
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| Video essay on article | 5 |
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White paper and infographic 25%

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| Research content and targeted audience to write a 5-6 page document presenting a problem and proposed solution | 20 |
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| Infographic for white paper | 5 |
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Oral and visual presentation 10%

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| Present either your video essay (general audience) or your white paper (targeted audience) |
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Grading scale:

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

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| A 100-90 | B+ 89-87 | B 86-80 | C+ 79-77 | C 76-70 | F 69-0 |
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Students must earn a C or higher to pass the course.

First-Year Writing Procedures for Student Success:

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 should contact their instructor about these dates at the beginning of the semester (per university policy).

Tardiness

I take attendance at the start of class. Students arriving more than 10 minutes late will be marked "late." Students arriving more than 30 minutes late will be marked "absent." Students who leave early without prior approval will be marked "late."

Assignments

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.

All formal assignments must be submitted through Canvas as a PDF.

I will not accept emailed work or Google Doc links. Assignments that are submitted in the incorrect format will receive a score of 0.

Essays

There are 5 written assignments (a job description, a critical museum review, a proposal with 2 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 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 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).

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). Once an assignment is closed on Canvas, I will not accept further submissions unless for extenuating circumstances.

Extensions will not be offered on an individual basis unless for special circumstances, which will require official documentation through the DOS or the accommodations office. Extensions are not retroactive and cannot be applied to overdue assignments.

Technology Use and Classroom Etiquette

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.

All major assignments will be submitted on Canvas and reviewed through TurnItIn.

Emails and Verbal Communication

Maintain professionalism in all your interactions, both in-person and in written communication.

Please do not refer to me by my first name. You may call me "Professor" or "Professor Thomas."

Please use your NJIT email address for all correspondence. Include your name, course name, and section number in the subject line.

I check my email regularly. Please allow me at least 24 hours to respond to any inquiries. I will answer emails during daytime hours on weekdays. If you are drafting an email late at night, you can use the "schedule send" feature to send emails during reasonable daytime hours (after 8 AM is acceptable.)

Cell phones/ electronic devices

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.

Overuse of electronic devices during class and lack of engagement with course activities/assignments can result in a deduction of participation points.

Laptops should only be used when we are drafting, researching, note-taking, or otherwise engaging in classroom activities that require them. Students who practice professional, focused behavior now will be more prepared for the work world!

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 towards. 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. Written and visual works are to be completed individually unless otherwise specified.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

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 (G17 Central King) is available online for individual and group appointments with professional writing tutors. This resource helps you to improve your communication and writing skills. Tutors can help with planning assignments, improving your writing, refining an essay or multimedia project, or other communication-based needs. The Writing Center is not simply a grammar fix or editing service. For more information, please visit: <http://www5.njit.edu/writingcenter/schedule-writing-center-appointment/>

Spring 2024 Academic Calendar

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| January 15 | Monday | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day |
| January 16 | Tuesday | First Day of Classes |
| January 20 | Saturday | Saturday Classes Begin |
| January 22 | Monday | Last Day to Add/Drop a Class |
| January 22 | Monday | Last Day for 100% Refund, Full or Partial Withdrawal |
| January 23 | Tuesday | W Grades Posted for Course Withdrawals |
| January 29 | Monday | Last Day for 90% Refund, Full or Partial Withdrawal, No Refund for Partial Withdrawal after this date |
| February 12 | Monday | Last Day for 50% Refund, Full Withdrawal |
| March 4 | Monday | Last Day for 25% Refund, Full Withdrawal |
| March 10 | Sunday | Spring Recess Begins - No Classes Scheduled - University Open |
| March 16 | Saturday | Spring Recess Ends |
| March 29 | Friday | Good Friday - No Classes Scheduled - University Closed |
| March 31 | Sunday | Easter Sunday - No Classes Scheduled - University Closed |
| April 1 | Monday | Last Day to Withdraw |
| April 30 | Tuesday | Friday Classes Meet |
| April 30 | Tuesday | Last Day of Classes |
| May 1 | Wednesday | Reading Day 1 |
| May 2 | Thursday | Reading Day 2 |
| May 3 | Friday | Final Exams Begin |
| May 9 | Thursday | Final Exams End |
| May 11 | Saturday | Final Grades Due |
| May - | TBA | Commencement |



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

Tentative Course Schedule

(subject to change at the instructor's discretion)

Week 1

TUESDAY 1/16: Introductions; discuss syllabus

FRIDAY 1/19:

- Academic integrity lesson (plagiarism, citing sources)
- (Re) Introduce our online library and discuss research essay ideas

Week 2

TUESDAY 1/23:

READING DUE: "The World Needs Students with Interdisciplinary Education" (on Canvas)

Discussion board post due: Reading Response (by 11:59 PM).

Research

- APA Format review
- 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

Job description, researchable problem and oral presentation (5%)

- 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)

FRIDAY 1/26:

- Continued discussions about interdisciplinary research
- Review sample Job Proposal
- `Begin to explore topics for general audience essay.

HW:

- Read "Defining interdisciplinary studies" Sage Pub pdf (on Canvas)

Week 3

TUESDAY 1/30:

READING DUE: "Defining interdisciplinary studies" Sage Pub pdf (on Canvas)

ASSIGNMENT DUE by the beginning of class: **Job description, researchable problem and oral presentation (5%)**

- Oral Presentations (2 min each)
 - Discussion/Q&A of presentations

Writing assignment

Museum visit and critical review

- 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.

FRIDAY 2/2:

READING DUE

- "The Critical Museum Visitor" by Margaret Lindauer (on Canvas)

Research

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

Week 4

TUESDAY 2/6:

Reading/research

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

FRIDAY 2/9:

ASSIGNMENT DUE by the beginning of class: **Museum critical review due (4-5 pages) (10%)**

Week 5

TUESDAY 2/13:

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.

FRIDAY 2/16:

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

Week 6

TUESDAY 2/20:

ASSIGNMENT DUE by the beginning of class: **Two References pages and proposal (10%)**

- (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)

FRIDAY 2/23:

Research

- Continue research and begin planning and prewriting for the **Research essay for a general audience**.

Week 7

TUESDAY 2/27:

Writing assignment

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

FRIDAY 3/1:

ASSIGNMENT DUE by the beginning of class: **Researched essay for a general audience** (first draft)

Week 8

TUESDAY 3/5

Writing assignment

- Writing project for a general audience: Peer and class review, composition revisions

FRIDAY 3/8

Conferences

- Meet individually with instructor. Discuss progress, review drafts of general audience paper.

SPRING BREAK

March 10th-16th

NO CLASS

Week 9

TUESDAY 3/19

ASSIGNMENT DUE by the beginning of class: **Researched essay for a general audience** (Final draft) **(30%)**

- edit for refinement of grammar, mechanics, citations (8-10 pages)

FRIDAY 3/22

Visual argument

- Video essay: Create a **video essay** on your writing project for a general audience. (5%)
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Week 10

TUESDAY

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).

FRIDAY

Week 11

TUESDAY

ASSIGNMENT DUE by the beginning of class: **White paper** (first draft)FRIDAY

Week 12

Writing assignment and visual argument

Continue work on white paper; create an infographic. (5%)

Week 13-14

Writing assignment and visual argument

Final revisions of white paper; final editing for grammar, mechanics, citations; finishing touches on infographic (5-6 pages) (20%)

Weeks 14-15

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%)