

**English 099-03: Writing, Speaking, Thinking I**  
**Tuesdays and Fridays 2:30pm-3:50pm**  
**GITC 2315A**  
**Fall 2025 Syllabus**

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**Instructor: Professor Grisele Gonzalez-Ledezma**  
**Office: Cullimore 115G**  
**Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:30-12:30pm and Wednesdays 11:30-1pm or by appointment**  
**Email:gg62@njit.edu or grisele.gonzalez-ledezma@njit.edu**

**Course Description**

Focuses on developing the reading and writing skills necessary for success in a college curriculum, including structuring and organizing effective sentences and paragraphs; preparing summaries; expanding vocabulary; developing grammatical fluency; formulating a thesis, and other steps toward writing expository essays. Students develop skills in evaluating, editing, and proofreading their writing. Intensive work in developing college-level reading skills. Gives attention to specific needs of students whose native language is not English as well as of native speakers of English. Small class size ensures students receive individualized attention.

**Prerequisites**

Entrance is determined by assessment results. Students who have successfully completed ENGL 099 are admitted to this class. Students must receive a C or better to pass this course.

**Course Goals**

During this course you will:

- Use writing as a tool for critical thinking and reflection
- Practice writing as a process by using various brainstorming, invention, revision, and editing strategies
- Practice using the conventions of written, spoken, and visual composition
- Practice writing and creating in digital environments
  - Build skills in evaluating, editing, and proofreading their writing

**Required Texts**

No required text

This course makes use of books and resources found on <http://library.njit.edu> and other pdf and

word document files provided by the instructor as well as Open Educational Resources (available for free on the Web).

**Assignments & Assessment**

Your grade breakdown is as follows:

**Participation, in class writings, short assignments, rough drafts and attendance 25%**

Your participation and attendance grade includes attendance AND your consistently active presence and performance in class and submission of all assignments on time. Class participation includes regular attendance, engagement in class activities and discussions, reading, writing, critical thinking, discussing, interpreting, analyzing, synthesizing, asking questions and responding to one another. Participation is required for all in-class activities, including drafting, revising, discussions, peer and class reviews. Class time may consist of discussion board writings, short writing assignments which may include responses to assigned readings, topic exploration, prewriting activities including brainstorming and outlining, writing to learn, developing, organizing, transitioning and reflecting on the writing process. All of your work on these short assignments and in workshops is included in your participation grade. Level engagement with the process and materials is often correlated with success on assignments. Classroom activities are designed to aid in students' understanding and developing a writing process of their own that can be applied to most writing tasks.

**Personal narrative essay (3-4 pages) 20%**

**Argument (position) essay (3-4 pages) 20%**

**Critical Review Essay (2pages) 20%**

**Oral and Powerpoint Presentation 15%**

<b>Participation, in class writing, short assignments, rough drafts and attendance</b>	25%
<b>Personal Narrative essay (3-4 pages)</b>	20%
<b>Argument (position) essay (3-4 pages)</b>	20%
<b>Critical review essay (2 pages)</b>	20%

<b>Oral presentation and Powerpoint on Critical Review Essay</b>	15%
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Individual and group work will be evaluated according to the university’s grading scale.

**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
<b>First-Year Writing Procedures for Student Success:</b>					

**Attendance**

Students who expect to miss class for religious observances must submit to me a written list of dates that will be missed by XXXX.

Every subsequent unexcused absence will result in the deduction of participation points. Regular participation in class activities and workshops (many are graded) are 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 leave 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).

**Assignment Submission**

**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.** Assignments are due at the beginning of class or @11:59pm.

**Essays**

**There are 3 formal essays completed in ENGL 099**

**Masks:**

Masks will continue to remain optional. We remind all community members that people can wear a mask based on individual preference, informed by personal level of risk.

### **Assignment Submission**

**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. Assignments are due at the beginning of class or @11:59pm.**

### **Late Assignments**

**Late Work is a deduction of 5 percent per day after the due date. Please note, each assignment has a specific closing date. Any assignment will not be accepted after the closing date of such assignment.**

### **Finals**

**There is NO FINAL for this course.**

### **Late Work**

**Students should contact their instructor at least 72 hours in advance of due dates when having difficulty completing an assignment. Late assignments lose 5% of points daily**

### **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!

## **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](mailto: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.”

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**Turnitin evaluates all sorts of academic integrity violations. This tool detects unauthorized use of quotes and repurposed text (including borrowing of papers). Turnitin allows flags AI-generated text and use of “grammar” assistants that actually rewrite entire sentences. None of these tools are acceptable in student writing in ENGL 101 and ENGL 102. This includes Grammarly. Students in violation of the rules of academic integrity will be reported to the Dean of Students who will follow up with a meeting and a final determination of grade and status in the course.**

**The determination will be as follows:**

**If a rough draft is found to contain 20-40% AI-generated or assisted written work, 15 points will be deducted from the student's final grade on that assignment.**

**If a final draft is found to contain 20-40% AI-generated or assisted written work, 30 points will be deducted from the student's final grade on that assignment.**

**If a rough or final draft is found to contain 41-100% AI-generated or assisted written work, the work will be reported to the Dean of Students who will meet with the student and determine the final grade on that assignment and if any further action needs to be taken.**

**If a student uses AI generation or assistance on both a rough and a final draft for one assignment, this is reported to the Dean of Students for determination of final grade.**

**Accommodations**

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 Student Disability Services at 973-596-3420.

**The Writing Center**

The Writing Center (G17 Central King) is available for one-hour individual and group appointments with professional writing tutors both onsite and online. This resource is intended to help you 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. For more information, please visit: <http://www5.njit.edu/writingcenter/schedule-writing-center-appointment/>

**English 101 Course Schedule**

**Subject to change at instructor's discretion**

		<b>In Class Topic/Work</b>	<b>Work/Readings Due at the</b>
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<b>Week 15</b>	Tues 12/9/25	Short Assignment #2 Last Day of Class! <b>NO FINAL for this class! Good Luck on your Finals!</b>  <b>Dec 11th Last Day of Classes!</b> Reading Day December 12th-13th	
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