

English 101:

Introduction to Academic Writing

Fall 2025 Semester

Instructor: Celina Thomas (She/Her) Email: celina.thomas@njit.edu Office Location: CULM 315 Office Hours: Tues/Fri 11:45 AM -12:45 PM	Class info: ENGL 101 Section: 057 Days: Tues/Fri 10:00-11:20 AM Location: FMH 314
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Course Description

ENGL 101 is an introduction to college-level writing. In this course, students are introduced to writing's rhetorical dimensions; they are asked to consider the purpose, audience, occasion, and genre that are called for in a variety of writing, speaking, or visual assignments. The course also focuses on writing processes, asking students to brainstorm topics, collect ideas and research, write drafts, and revise their writing based on writing's disciplinary rules, on self-reflection and on peer and class feedback. Academic writing begins from the assumption that written, visual, and spoken texts can be in conversation with each other. Students are asked to read challenging articles, essays, and prose (and to consider visual and spoken compositions) which serve as both models of effective communication and as beginning places for students' own arguments and analyses.

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:

- Gain knowledge of writing's rhetorical dimensions
- Use writing as a tool for critical thinking and reflection
- Practice writing as a process by using various brainstorming, invention, revision, and editing strategies
- Write in several genres that utilize analysis, reflection, narrative, critique, and argument skills
- Practice using the conventions of written, spoken, and visual composition
- Practice writing and creating in digital environments

Course Materials

- **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). All materials will be accessed through Canvas.
- College-ruled lined paper
- Pen and/or pencil
- A physical folder to keep track of all printed readings, handwritten notes, worksheets, etc.

Please come to class on time and prepare to work. This means you should always have a pen, paper, and a printed copy of an assigned reading.

Assignments & Assessment

A student's final grade for the course will be divided into the following parts:

Participation and effort **15%**

Your participation and effort are essential to your success in our writing process course. Regular attendance is not enough. Your instructor will be looking for your engagement with the material and your efforts in drafting your essays. Turning assignments in on time is required to earn full participation points. 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 of engagement with the process and materials is usually correlated with success on assignments. Classroom activities are designed to aid in students' understanding and development of a writing process of your own that can be applied to most writing tasks.

Literacy narrative essay (3-4 pages) Weeks 1-3 **15%**

This essay focuses on a notable moment or aspect of your becoming literate; it's written in the first person and defines and develops your approach to language use and genre.

Argument (position) essay (4-5 pages) Weeks 4-7 **20%**

This essay extracts academic arguments from 2 assigned readings/sources and presents a claim that may be supported or disputed by those sources, by real-world example, and by your own academic knowledge.

Rhetorical analysis essay (2+ pages) Weeks 8-9 **15%**

This essay assignment must be completed **in class** on the day scheduled by your instructor. You

are required to analyze (break down) a text provided for you for the first time at the beginning of the class period. Read, respond, write. Present as coherently as possible as many of the elements of rhetoric analysis as you can manage in an 80-minute class session. You will be graded on your knowledge of rhetorical devices and your critical thinking in response to how these devices are used by the author. Class time before this in-class essay will consist of practice with these rhetorical devices.

Research argument essay (5-6 pages) Weeks 10-15 25%

This essay is focused coherently on your original argument and uses 4-5 library sources for support; this work will help prepare you for more extended research writing in ENGL 102. You may use a couple of non-library sources but do so sparingly and be sure to use your information literacy skills to determine credibility.

Oral presentation and Powerpoint on research argument 10%

You will have the chance to present to the class your research findings.

IMPORTANT: AI USE IS PROHIBITED (see Artificial Intelligence Class Policy on page 6)

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 40-100% 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.

Individual and group work will be evaluated according to the university's grading 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:

Attendance and participation

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 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.

Please be on time. **Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. Arriving more than 15 minutes late counts as an absence.**

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).

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 and adhere to deadlines. *I will not accept emailed work.*

Essays

There are 4 formal essays completed in ENGL 101:

Literacy narrative, argument (position), rhetorical analysis, and research argument.

Please follow APA format guidelines for all of your essays.

Students must submit at least one rough draft and a final draft to be considered for a grade for that assignment. The rhetorical analysis is completed in class in only one draft. 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 discussions are vital in evaluating students' engagement with coursework and are often graded as part of the participation grade (15% of their overall grade for the course).

Essay Submission Instructions

Complete both your rough draft and final draft by:

1. Writing in Google Docs with Version History enabled
2. Submitting your essay on Canvas by:
 - Uploading a PDF or Word (.docx) file
 - Pasting the Google Docs link in the Canvas assignment comments
3. Double-check your file before submitting
 - Incorrect, unreadable, or corrupted files will earn a 0

Important: Write your **final draft in the same Google Doc as your rough draft—do not copy and paste your essay into a new document.** Your Version History must clearly show your progress from rough draft to final draft.

Keep all physical notes, handwritten drafts, and annotated readings. You may be asked to show them at any point.

Late Work/Extensions

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

Extensions will not be granted on an individual basis unless students have documented accommodations. Please reach out to the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services for more information: <https://www.njit.edu/accessibility/>

Technology

Canvas is NJIT's learning management system. In First-Year Writing (FYW) instructors and students use this system for all activities including submitting essays, sharing course materials, creating discussions, and grading assignments. 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. Maintain an appropriate tone in all school-related correspondence. Include an appropriate subject line and your 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. Students should practice professional, focused behavior now to enhance preparation 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.

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.

Artificial Intelligence Class Policy

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."

Turnitin evaluates all sorts of academic integrity violations. This tool detects unauthorized use of quotes and repurposed text (including borrowing and purchasing of papers). Turnitin 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 or ENGL 102. Your plagiarism percentage appears on the submission page for each assignment. The AI percentage is available only to instructors. Ask your instructor if you have questions about AI use. 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.

Important: Students must be prepared to show clear documentation of their writing process upon request. This may include materials like handwritten notes, annotated readings, and Google Docs version history.

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/>

Fall 2025 Academic Calendar

Sept	1	Labor Day. University Closed
Sept	2	First Day of Classes
Sept	8	Last Day to Add/Drop a Class
Sept	8	Last Day for 100% Refund, Full or Partial Withdrawal
Sept	9	W Grades Posted for Course Withdrawals
Sept	15	Last Day for 90% Refund, Full or Partial Withdrawal - No Refund for Partial Withdrawal after this date
Sept	29	Last Day for 50% Refund, Full Withdrawal
Oct	2	Wellness Day
Oct	20	Last Day for 25% Refund, Full Withdrawal
Nov	10	Last Day to Withdraw from Classes
Nov	25	Thursday Classes Meet
Nov	26	Friday Classes Meet
Nov	27	Thanksgiving Recess Begins. No Classes
Nov	30	Thanksgiving Recess Ends
Dec	11	Last Day of Classes
Dec	12	Reading Day
Dec	13	Saturday Classes Meet
Dec	14	Final Exams Begin
Dec	20	Final Exams End
Dec	22	Final Grades Due



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 101 Course Schedule

Subject to change at instructor's discretion.

Readings are due on the date that they appear. You should come to class having already read and annotated the assigned readings.

	Date	In Class Topic/Work	Assignments/Readings Due
Week 1	<u>T 9/2</u> First day of classes <u>F 9/5</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction/ Syllabus In class Diagnostic Essay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read “What is ‘Academic Writing’?” by L. Lennie Irvin

Week 6	<u>T 10/7</u> <u>F 10/10</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer review • Introduce Rhetorical Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argument Essay rough draft due • Read “Backpacks vs. Briefcases” (on Canvas)
Week 7	<u>T 10/14</u> <u>F 10/17</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch & analyze/discuss TED talk • Rhetorical Analysis practice reading/response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhetorical analysis readings (see Canvas) • Rhetorical analysis readings (see Canvas for details)
Week 8	<u>T 10/21</u> <u>F 10/24</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhetorical Analysis practice reading/response • Rhetorical Analysis In-class Essay (timed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argument Essay final draft due
Week 9	<u>T 10/28</u> <u>TH 10/31</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce Research Argument Essay • Sample essays • Review APA citations 	
Week 10	<u>T 11/4</u> <u>F 11/7</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding articles using library database • Evaluating sources • Summarizing, paraphrasing, analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic proposal due • Read & Annotate one of your articles
Week 11	<u>T 11/11</u> <u>F 11/14</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer review • Draft revisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Argument rough draft due
Week 12	<u>T 11/18</u> <u>F 11/21</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editing/proofreading • Oral presentation prep 	
Week 13	<u>T 11/25</u>	THURSDAY CLASSES MEET	

	<u>W 11/26</u> <u>F 11/28</u>	FRIDAY CLASSES MEET <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early oral presentations NO CLASS- THANKSGIVING BREAK	
Week 14	<u>T 12/2</u> <u>F 12/5</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oral presentations• Oral presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Argument final draft due
Week 15	<u>T 12/9</u> <u>F 12/12</u>	FINAL ENGLISH 101 CLASS MEETING <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oral presentations READING DAY (no class)	