

**New Jersey Institute of Technology**  
**ENGL 102 Honors**  
**Introduction to Research Writing**

Section H09

Meeting time: Mon/Thur 8:30am – 9:50am

Meeting Room: CKB 212

Instructor: Maryann Aita (ate-uh, rhymes with “beta”)

Email: [maryann.aita@njit.edu](mailto:maryann.aita@njit.edu) or [maa389@njit.edu](mailto:maa389@njit.edu)

Office hours: Monday 10:30am to 11:30am, Thursday 10:30am to 11:30am

Office: Cullimore 315

### **Course Description**

ENGL 102 takes a multidisciplinary approach to research writing and emphasizes information literacy. While building on the skills learned and practiced in ENGL 101, students will develop an academic research question of their own choosing, research, analyze and synthesize various types of evidence and write a major research article (IMRAD format). Students will create multiple multimodal visual arguments to accompany their written work. The purpose of this class is to prepare students for university-level, interdisciplinary research and writing and to continue to develop their process writing and communication skills (written, visual, oral) for transfer to the professions.

### **Course Goals**

During this course students will:

- Approach research from multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives
- Review the writing process and its non-linear nature
- Explore and refine research topics using secondary sources
- Find, evaluate and choose sources effectively, building on rhetorical analysis and information literacy skills from ENGL 101
- Draft and revise a research essay from an interdisciplinary or discipline-specific lens
- Create multimodal assignments supported by increasingly more complex research
- Demonstrate an understanding of intellectual property, plagiarism, and the importance of distinguishing between source material and one’s own work
- 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).

We will be using the following electronic book from our university library which is available to all students (no need to download the book):

Glasman-Deal. (2010). *Science research writing for non-native speakers of English*.  
Imperial College Press.

At <http://njit.library.edu> choose “Books” and then type in the title of the book. Choose online availability and “Read online.”

## Assignments & Assessment

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

### Participation

10%

**Participation** includes attendance AND your consistently active presence in class, submission of assignments on time and satisfactory completion of the several mini-writings which may include: Questions based on assigned readings, annotated bibliography practice, writing discussion or summary, transitioning between and within paragraphs, writing a title, writing an abstract

### Digital Zines or Blog Post

10%

**2 zines for one artwork or artifact** observed on trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art original visual and written work done on paper or in digital format

### Research notebook

20%

This notebook chronicles your creative process in finding and researching an original research focus, includes an interdisciplinary lens and culminates in your References page and a 500-word proposal which reveals how the research addresses challenges to your community.

### IMRAD article/essay

35%

All parts of the IMRAD essay including: Title, Abstract, Key words, Introduction, subsequent evidence and argument, Discussion/Conclusion, References 10-15 pages

### Visual argument – video essay

10%

Argument and evidence from IMRAD article presented visually with accompanying voiceover

### Poster creation and Honors Poster Showcase

15%

**Professional/academic poster** created from IMRAD article to include condensed information and engaging visuals

### 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	D 69-60	F 59-0
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## 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 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**

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.

[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, even handwritten assignments done in class, must be submitted on Canvas** (handwritten assignments can be submitted as images). Please follow the specific instructions for each assignment. Assignments turned in by hand or by email will not be graded.

**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.**

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. 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.

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).

### **Late Work**

Late work will be accepted for 1 week after the due date. Assignments will lose 2 points per day they are late.

Rough drafts have a 2-day grace period from their initial due date. After this time, rough draft submissions on Canvas will close and will no longer be accepted.

### **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.”

### **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/>.



## 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 Honors Course Schedule

Below is the expected schedule for the semester. It includes major assignment due dates and some readings. Course topics will move through the major stages of the research process: Explore, Refine, Search, Evaluate, and Write. I will add readings as the course progresses, depending on the needs of the class. Please rely on Canvas for updates on these materials.

### Week 1

#### Introduction

- Introductions, syllabus overview, course expectations
- Explore research topics and draft in-class diagnostic essay

### Week 2

#### Asking the Right Questions

- Museum Zine assignment introduced
  - *Reading (in class):* “The Theft That Made The 'Mona Lisa' A Masterpiece”  
<https://www.npr.org/2011/07/30/138800110/the-theft-that-made-the-mona-lisa-a-masterpiece>
- Intro to research process, library research guides, and databases; developing research questions activities
- Define **interdisciplinary** and consider real world problems, working in groups

#### Assignments:

- Visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art no later than Sep 22<sup>nd</sup>. Choose two objects for your Blog Post or Digital Zine assignment (due in Week 5).

### Week 3

#### Gathering Data

- Explore how personal observation can be used as data
- Organize informational visually and textually; in-class Zine-making activity
- Begin IMRAD article research in your research notebook considering interdisciplinary approaches

#### Assignments:

- Visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art no later than Sep 22<sup>nd</sup>. Choose two objects for your Blog Post or Digital Zine assignment (due in Week 5).

### Week 4

#### Taking an Interdisciplinary Approach

- Narrow your focus for your IMRAD research essay, discuss topics in groups
- Reflect on research process so far considering experiential vs. primary and secondary sources
- Writing for your audience; small group class activity

**Assignments:**

- Using research on your artwork/artifact from The MET, develop a draft of your blog post or Zines.
- **Research Log #1 (checked in class)**

**Week 5****Annotating and Evaluating Sources**

- Develop reference list and begin organizing research proposal based on relevant sources
- Explore components of IMRAD paper
  - *Reading:* Busse, C., & August, E. (2021). How to Write and Publish a Research Paper for a Peer-Reviewed Journal. *Journal of Cancer Education*, 36(5), 909-913.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13187-020-01751-z>

**Assignments:**

- **Monday 9/29: Zines or Digital Blog due on Canvas** (10% of course grade)
- Continue collecting sources for your IMRAD article/essay and documenting research process

**Week 6****Crafting a Proposal**

- Review components of an IMRAD paper, organizing your research
- Discuss your findings and plans with peers
- 1:1 checkpoint meetings with instructor

**Assignments:**

- Prepare for 1:1 meeting with instructor to discuss your proposal
- **Research Log #2 (checked in class)**

**Week 7****Integrating Sources**

- Apply research methodology developed in the proposal to the process of gathering, evaluating, and annotating sources.
- Analyze your selected peer-reviewed journal articles to identify genres within: Hypotheses, argument, summary, literature review.
- How do we make writing about research compelling? Integrating and contextualizing sources

**Assignments:**

- **Monday 10/13: Research notebook, references page, and 500-word research proposal due on Canvas** (20% of course grade)

**Week 8**

### Research and Paper Drafting Plan

- Develop an organization plan for body of research paper.
- Organization strategies and identifying gaps in knowledge.
- Creating a detailed outline in class
  - *Reading:* Unit 1 - “How to Write an Introduction” in our ebook: Glasman-Deal. (2010). *Science research writing for non-native speakers of English*. Imperial College Press.  
\*See page 24 for a quick summary of required parts of an introduction.

### Assignments:

- **Monday 10/20: Submit Rough Draft Part 1 on Canvas, either:**
  - **OPTION A: a complete written draft (in paragraph form) of the first 5 pages of your IMRAD article/essay including introduction, literature review, and thesis;**
  - **OPTION B: a detailed outline (in bullet points) of your entire paper including your thesis, evidence and citations, and proper headings**

<b>Week 9</b>
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### Drafting your Discussion and Conclusion

- Write Discussion/Conclusion section for your complete research article.
- *Reading:* Unit 4 “Writing the Discussion/Conclusion” in our ebook: Glasman-Deal. (2010). *Science research writing for non-native speakers of English*. Imperial College Press.  
\*See page 179 for a quick summary of a Discussion/Conclusion.

### Assignments:

- **Monday 10/27: Submit Rough Draft Part 2 on Canvas, either:**
  - **OPTION A: a complete written draft (in paragraph form) of the discussion and conclusion section of your IMRAD article/essay; OR**
  - **OPTION B: a complete written draft (in paragraph form) of all parts of your IMRAD paper**

<b>Week 10</b>
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### Visual Arguments

- **Video Essay assignment introduced**
- Explore infographics, posters, and other visual arguments in class
- General review, peer feedback opportunities; create graphs, charts or other visuals that will enhance your paper; collaborate in class
- 1:1 checkpoint meetings with instructor

### Assignments:

- Continue drafting and revising IMRAD paper
- Outline your video essay and poster

<b>Week 11</b>
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### Finalization and Showcase Preparation

- Write title, abstract and key words to complete your IMRAD article. Final editing for grammar, citations, punctuation, mechanics, spelling.

- *Reading:* Unit 5 “Writing the Abstract” including Unit 5.6 “Creating a Title” in our ebook: Glasman-Deal. (2010). *Science research writing for non-native speakers of English*. Imperial College Press.
- Organizing posters and practicing presentations

<b>Weeks 12 and 13</b>
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**Poster Showcase Preparation**

Create your poster on [www.posterpresentations.com](http://www.posterpresentations.com) or other professional application.

**Assignments:**

- **Monday 11/17: IMRAD Final Draft due** (35% of course grade)

<b>Week 14</b>
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**Honors Showcase on Friday, 12/5**

**Poster creation and Poster Showcase** (15% of course grade)

<b>Week 15</b>
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**Wrap Up**

- Self-reflections and congratulations
- Sharing of video essays and/or Zines

**Assignments:**

- **Monday 12/8: Video Essay Due** (10% of course grade)