

Fall 2015

ENGL 1003

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University of New Orleans

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ENGL 1003-003: English Supplemental Support
Tuesday/Thursday, 9:30-10:45, LA 390

Instructor: Sarah DeBacher

Office Hours: M,W 10-noon
Tues, 11-noon

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Required Texts and Materials*

- A standard-sized, college-ruled notebook
- *The Curious Writer*, 2nd UNO Custom Edition, ISBN 1-269-88765-3
- Copies of your essays for workshop and peer review (you are responsible for making copies and for copying costs.)
- A copy of the syllabus and major assignments from your 1157 class
- Two standard-sized manila or two-pocket folders (one that you will be your daily writing folder; another to house the contents of your final portfolio.)

*You should bring your textbook, notebook, and writing folder to *every class*.

Course Description and Goals (aka Why You're Here and What We're Gonna Do Together)

Writing is hard. You're here because you recognize that fact and can benefit from the additional support English 1003 provides for developing writers enrolled in English 1157. In this class, you'll work closely with your peers, with experienced tutors, and with me—your instructor and fellow writer. Together we'll identify the skills you need to work on (such as writing engaging introductions and resonant conclusions, including specific details, using sources effectively), and then we'll practice those skills together. You'll develop a writing process that works for you, and you'll learn how to apply it.

One reason writing is hard: it requires risk-taking. I'm going to ask you to take some risks. I'll take them with you! You'll be responsible for daily in-class writing and reading, for sharing your writing with your class, for getting and giving feedback to others, and for showing up in the REAL sense: arriving prepared, committed, ready to write, ready to grow, and ready pass this course and your section of ENGL 1157.

Upon successful completion of this course *and* English 1157, you will be able to:

- Engage with each of the tasks associated with the writing process (pre-writing, writing, revision, proofreading and editing)
- Compose effective written texts with a variety of purposes for a variety of audiences
- Summarize, analyze, and evaluate texts by other authors
- Conduct interviews and perform research
- Incorporate source material successfully into your own work

Those are the Student Learning Outcomes for our course, but I have other goals in mind for you:

- Developing a voice of your own
- Getting good at reading your own work and that of others
- Offering mega-helpful feedback to your peers and to me
- HAVING FUN WITH WRITING! (Yes, for real.)

Now, I'd like you to list a few goals of your own. What do YOU want to accomplish this semester? If you write your goals down and revisit them periodically, you're more likely to achieve them. So, go!:

Course Requirements (aka the Nitty Gritty)

In order to pass out of English 1003, you must pass English 1157, and vice versa. You must stay enrolled in both ENGL 1003 and 1157. If you drop one, you must drop the other.

Course (and Contract) Grading

English 1003 is a Pass/Fail course. In order to pass this course, you must maintain the course contract for a "P"—including meeting the minimum attendance requirements and avoiding excessive breaches of contract.

I will not grade individual assignments. Instead, I'll keep track of your adhering to the course contract. **Contract grading is intended to shift your focus in positive ways.** It should allow you to take informed risks with your writing, to try out new strategies and skills without worrying about a grade. While I won't grade your work, I will give you LOTS of feedback. This may freak you out a little right now. I promise: you will get a LOT more from my feedback than you would from a grade.

So, your final grade for this course will be based on two things: 1) your participation in class according to the contract outlined below, and 2) your grade in your ENGL 1157 class. **If you follow the contract for the entire semester AND you earn a passing grade in in ENGL 1157, you will receive a P in our course.**

You are guaranteed a P if you:

1. Attend class regularly—not missing more than 4 classes;
2. Engage actively during every class period, and always use class time productively. Everyone has an off day from time to time, but for nearly every class meeting, your brain should be working for the hour-and-fifteen minutes we are together;
3. Meet due dates and major writing criteria for all assignments;
4. Complete all informal, low-stakes writing assignments (e.g. fastwrites, listing prompts, reflections, written feedback, and other homework and in-class writing assignments);
5. Give thoughtful peer feedback during class workshops and work diligently with your group on other collaborative tasks (e.g. sharing essays and commenting on drafts);
6. Demonstrate sustained effort and investment throughout the writing process;
7. Make substantive revisions when the assignment is to revise—extending or changing the thinking or organization—not just editing or touching up;
8. Copyedit all final revisions of main assignments until they substantially conform to the conventions of edited, revised English;
9. Attend conferences (and come prepared for them) with me to discuss drafts;
10. Attend and complete the final exam.

Thus you earn the grade of P entirely on the basis of what you do—on your conscientious effort and participation. The grade of P does not derive from my judgment about the quality of your writing.

If you break the contract:

1. Minor Breaches (a slight drop in the quality of your class participation, a not-so-stellar workshop response, a late assignment, a distracting cell phone appearance, for example): four minor missteps will not break the contract for a P. Two minor breaches=one major breach (see the max number of major breaches allowed, below.)
2. Major Breaches (missing writing workshop, habitually failing to participate actively in whole-class or group activities, or failing to do/turn in an assignment at all, for example): **three major breaches will result in a failing grade in the course.**

Studio Sessions

You will be directing much of your progress in English 1003. This will be primarily directed through in-class “Writer’s Studio” sessions. No one knows you better than you what you need to become a better writer, so you will be given many opportunities to solicit our feedback on your work and tell us what you want to know about it. Leading your own studio sessions will not only help you work through your ideas before you complete any high-stakes writing assignments in English 1157; they will also help you refine a valued skill that should belong in the repertoire of any good communicator—the art of conversation.

Conferences

Your participation in this course constitutes a willingness to meet with me regularly for conferences so that we can review your writing together and assess your progress or simply chat about whatever you like. Conferences will be held in my office on a regular basis, but we will also devote some of our class time to small group conferences. Conferences in my office are treated like class meetings. Miss one, and you’ve missed a class. Please don’t do that! ☺

The Final Project

By the end of the semester, you will have amassed a personal collection of writing from at least two class (ENGL 1157 and ENGL 1003) but maybe more. Our class will become an “editorial board” approximately one month before the end of the semester to create a digital magazine of the best writing we have produced during the semester. You will be charged with every aspect of production: naming the magazine, deciding upon its general theme, selecting work for publication, editing the selections, guiding the authors through revision, and designing the final layout of the magazine. The English Department hopes to share your magazine with the UNO community to show that the investment it has made in you has been returned in kind.

The Public Nature of Writing

Since most writing is directed toward an audience, you should consider the writing that you do in this course “public.” This means that your writing will be read and critiqued by everyone in class. Obviously, I will read what you write, but, in the case of workshop and studio sessions, other students will also read and respond to your work. This provides a great learning opportunity for both reader and writer but also needs to be considered when picking topics and when writing. If there is a personal subject that you don’t feel comfortable sharing, it would probably be best to write about something else in class. Also, I will periodically display stellar examples of student writing in class. I will use your writing ONLY to demonstrate fantastic examples of what we’re doing. If there is writing that you would rather I not use for this purpose, you can note it on the paper and/or send me an email.

Attendance

The Privateer Pathways contract mandates your attending ALL classes. I understand life sometimes gets in the way. You don't need to notify me when it does, as I'll assume you're a reasonable adult making reasonable decisions when an emergency arises. However, if you miss more than two weeks of our collaborative course (four absences), you will be unable to pass this class. Two tardy arrivals equal one absence. Please show up, and show up on time.

Academic Integrity

We all share the responsibility of protecting the free exchange of ideas that is fundamental to the college experience. If we fail to safeguard the academic integrity of our institution, severe disciplinary action is taken. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, plagiarism, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty.

This class is a place where the intellectual property of others is consulted in order for us to form our own opinions through insightful, intelligent prose that adds to the academic dialogue. If we fail to credit the ideas of these other authors, we are committing the act of plagiarism, which is an egregious ethical violation that is dealt with harshly. Acts of plagiarism undermine the entire process of academic inquiry. Using writing from other classes without your instructor's permission, passing someone's writing off as your own, or failing to credit sources come with serious consequences. If I discover solid evidence of plagiarism, I will follow university guidelines and file an Academic Dishonesty Report and seek judicial punishment, the very least of which will be a failing grade in the course.

That being said, I realize that students who have little experience working with sources need assistance in understanding how to credit them properly. Our class will offer many opportunities for learning this, but if you are ever in doubt, simply bring your writing to me.

Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information on academic dishonesty: www.studentaffairs.uno.edu.

Moodle

This course will use Moodle extensively. Supplementary readings, assignments, and digital content will be posted regularly, and I will notify you through your UNO e-mail account whenever I do so. If you have never used Moodle, don't worry. I will give you a tutorial in class once we are ready. You can gain Moodle access by following this link: <http://uno.mrooms3.net/login/index.php>

Email

Email is the primary way I communicate with students when we are not in class, so you should develop the habit of checking your UNO e-mail account regularly. If you are new to campus and have yet to use your student email account, you can learn

how to access it by following this link: <http://www.uno.edu/information-technology/email.aspx>. You will also find directions on how to set up your UNO email on a smart phone or other mobile device.

The UNO Writing Center

Location: Liberal Arts room 334

Phone: 280-7054

Website: <http://www.uno.edu/lrc/writingcenter>

I have posted my office hours at the top of this syllabus. Please feel free to stop by if you need help with anything. If I am not available when you are in most need, the Writing Center is another option. It is staffed with tutors who can help you with your writing at any stage of the writing process. I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity, but remember that it is not their function to correct, revise, or edit your essays—only to help you learn strategies and skills to strengthen and improve your writing on your own.

Cell Phones and Other Mobile Devices

I understand that cell phone use has become a way of life. However, **in this class, you should turn off your phone and put it out of sight completely.** If I see you text messaging during class, or anything of that nature, I will record a minor breach. Our class is not long: you can be disconnected from the outside world for that time without getting hurt.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

It is the University's policy to provide, on a flexible and individual basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations.

<http://www.uno.edu/disability-services/>

Tentative Course Schedule:

Because this course is designed to respond to and support your English 1157 class, our course schedule will be built around your needs and that class. You are responsible for keeping track of any changes announced in class. The final exam will be held at the scheduled date and time (see the UNO website.)