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Fall 2015

ENGL 1157

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University of New Orleans

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ENGL 1157-221: First-Year Composition I

LA 226 10:00-10:50 MWF, 12:30-1:20 T

Instructor: Ashley Hemm
Office: LA 293 (located inside LA 201)
Office Hours: M 11:00-12:00, T 12:00-12:30, and by appointment
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I. Course Description

In this course, we will explore the many reasons writers write and the many genres they use to express their ideas. Through critical reading and writing, discussion, peer review, and classroom exercises, you will develop the skills necessary to express your own ideas across a variety of genres. That sounds super fancy, so here's the long and short of it: if you're reading this, you're already a writer. We write every day, whether it's texting, posting on social media, or commenting on YouTube videos. What we'll be working on this semester is helping you become an even better writer and communicator.

Over the course of writing your essays we'll do a lot of prewriting activities : pre-writing, journaling, discussing, evaluating your audience, determining your purpose, developing a focus, writing drafts, incorporating sources, refining your focus, revising your draft, editing your prose, and proofreading. Your final projects and essays should be interesting, thoughtful, well-written pieces of college-level prose. For each, you will complete a series of connected, scaffolded assignments leading up to each of our three major projects; each part will make up the whole of your project.

II. Student Learning Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you should be able to

- ❖ Engage with each of the tasks associated with the writing process (pre-writing, writing, revision, proofreading and editing)
- ❖ Determine purpose and audience in your own and others' writing
- ❖ Understand how purpose, audience, and context affect writing style, voice, and tone
- ❖ Summarize, analyze and/or evaluate texts and other forms of discourse in multiple genres
- ❖ Apply appropriate rhetorical strategies for diverse writing situations
- ❖ Demonstrate familiarity with and/or compose in different genres with a variety of purposes for a variety of audiences
- ❖ Perform research using library and non-library resources
- ❖ Incorporate source material successfully into your own work

III. Required Texts and Materials

- ❖ Ballenger, Bruce. *The Curious Writer* (UNO custom second edition)
- ❖ Kennedy, Kareem. *Aunt Alice vs. Bob Marley* (provided at first-year orientation)
- ❖ One folder or binder (extras available in the English department office)
- ❖ A notebook and/or loose-leaf paper
- ❖ Something to write with

IV. Course Assignments

1) Long and Short Compositions: The work in this class will be composed of three projects, each culminating in a Long Composition (LC). To prepare you to compose each project's LC successfully, you will compose a Short Composition (SC) designed to help you understand the genre in which you'll be writing. See weighted averages to understand how this work will figure into your final grade. You must turn in a hard copy of your paper as well as an electronic submission via Moodle's TurnItIn function.

2) Process Work: These major assignments will be supported with a number of activities, called Process Work (PW), which we will complete both in class and as homework (including fast writing, brainstorming, journaling, group work, sketches, drafts, peer review, workshops, research, and more). Class attendance also counts toward your Process Work grade for each class project.

3) Letter of Reflection: At the very end of the course, you will compose a final letter of reflection in which you look back at your experience over the course.

A Note on Revision

Revision is an integral part of the writing process, and is highly encouraged. You may revise and resubmit each of your projects, provided that you:

- ❖ have turned in a complete project—no drafts, outlines, or incomplete papers
- ❖ have submitted the project's process work on time (drafts, bibliographies, etc.)
- ❖ earned a C or below on your project. As and Bs cannot be revised.
- ❖ let me know your intent to revise your project prior to turning it in
- ❖ schedule an appointment with a Writing Center coach and have them confirm it
- ❖ submit your revision within two weeks of the day I handed the graded paper back to you

If you meet all of these criteria, your revised grade will replace your original grade.

V. Class Participation and Conferences

Class participation, brief writing assignments, and quizzes: Your success in this class requires that you keep up with reading and writing assignments, think about them, and come to class prepared to discuss them. During each class period, I may give reading quizzes and brief writing exercises to help you focus on material.

Conferences: Although you will attend a mandatory writing conference at midterm, I encourage you to schedule conferences with me as well as in the Writing Center (LA 334, 280-7054) to discuss any stage of your writing process.

VI. Grading

Grading Guidelines:

- ❖ An "A" (90-100) represents achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
- ❖ A "B" (80-89) represents achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
- ❖ A "C" (70-79) represents achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
- ❖ A "D" (60-69) represents achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
- ❖ An "F" (anything below 60) represents achievement that fails to meet the course requirements to such a degree that it is not worthy of credit.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you earn a ZERO on any major assignment (Long Composition, Short Composition, or Final Reflection), you will automatically fail this course.

Grading Structure:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| 1) Project One: Narrative | 25% |
| - 15% Process Work | |
| - 30% Short Composition (SC) | |
| - 55% Long Composition (LC) | |
| 2) Project Two: Profile Essay | 30% |
| - 15% Process Work | |
| - 30% SC | |
| - 55% LC | |
| 3) Project Three: Research Project | 25% |
| - 15% Process Work | |
| - 30% SC | |
| - 55% LC | |
| 4) Final LC: A Writer's Reflection | 10% |
| 5) Attendance and Participation | 10% |

Extra Credit: You may earn up to 5% of each project's grade in bonus points by making appointments with the Writing Center. Each visit will count for 1% of the project's overall grade. Additionally, I will give you extra credit for attending department events such as Yeah, You Write! and Third Wednesday.

Attendance and Tardiness: You are permitted **five unexcused** absences from class for the semester. Three instances of tardiness equal one absence. If you come to class more than fifteen minutes late, you will be counted as absent. If you have any extenuating circumstances that necessitate continued absences or tardies, please come talk to me.

You are responsible for all work assigned or due on a day that you are absent from class. If you wish to find out what was covered in class during your absence, you must come to my office to see me. All requests to make up in-class writing assignments must be accompanied by a documented excuse (doctor's note, court summons, etc.). The make-up time must be during my listed office hours. This also applies to the shorter, informal assignments that form the process work for your longer assignments. No make-up quizzes or daily grades are available under any circumstances.

Extensions: You may turn in one SC or one LC one class period after its due date, no explanation necessary. If you choose to do this, you must notify me which essay to apply this extension to. All other late assignments will be docked one better grade for each additional day they are late.

VII. Course Policies

Classroom Etiquette: First and foremost, be respectful of one another at all times. It is very likely that you will disagree with something said in class. You are encouraged to voice your opposition, but you must do so courteously. Any comments or actions that instigate or contribute to a hostile environment in the classroom will not be tolerated. Any individuals who, as a result of their words or behavior, harass or silence their classmates will be held accountable. You may find UNO's policy on the subject at <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu/studentpolicies/policymanual/>. Texting or working on your laptop computer or other devices (unless you have permission from ODS) during class will result in being counted absent for class and/or a deduction from your class participation grade.

Moodle/UNO E-mail: Every UNO student has a computer account and access to Moodle. It is a requirement of this course that you use this resource. Please check your UNO e-mail daily. I will respond to your email within 24 hours, Monday through Friday. If you have problems accessing Moodle or your e-mail, it is your responsibility to contact the University Computing and Communications (UCC) Help Desk to resolve the issue.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students who qualify for services will receive the academic modifications to which they are legally entitled. It is the responsibility of the student to register with the Office of Disability Services (UC 260) each semester and follow their procedures for obtaining assistance.

Dropping the Course: If you stop attending class, please make sure to formally drop the course in the registrar's office. If you stop attending class without dropping the course, you will receive a final grade of F.

Academic Dishonesty: Any case of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to plagiarism or cheating, will be handled according to departmental and university regulations and may result in failure of this course. A plagiarized paper will result in a grade of zero for the assignment without opportunity for revision. A zero on any graded composition results in a failing grade for the course.

VIII. Course Schedule

I will hand out a course schedule for every project, which will include your reading homework and your writing assignments and deadlines. These schedules will also be posted on Moodle. The following is an overall schedule of your major assignments for this course. These dates are subject to change; should that happen, I will send out a revised schedule.

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Wed 9/9 | SC 1 (Literacy Narrative) |
| Mon 9/28 | LC 1 (Personal Narrative) |
| Mon 10/12 | SC 2 (Interview) |
| Wed 10/28 | LC 2 (Profile) |
| Mon 11/16 | SC 3 (Proposal) |
| Wed 12/3 | LC 3 (Review) |
| Fri 12/11 | Letter of Reflection (Final Exam Period) |

In accordance with the UNO calendar, we will **not** have on the following dates:

| | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| Mon 9/7 | Labor Day |
| Fri 10/16 | Mid-semester Break |
| Fri 11/27 | Thanksgiving Break |