

Fall 2023

## **ENGL-101 (H01): Introduction to Academic Writing**

Catherine Siemann

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### **Recommended Citation**

Siemann, Catherine, "ENGL-101 (H01): Introduction to Academic Writing" (2023). *Humanities Syllabi*. 621.  
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**New Jersey Institute of Technology**  
**ENGL 101.H01**  
**Introduction to Academic Writing – Honors**  
**GITC 2315A, TR 11:30-12:50**

Dr. Catherine Siemann

siemann@njit.edu

Office hours: M 3-4 & T 10-11 or by appointment (in person or via Webex)

Office location: CKB G17B

Office phone: 973-596-3271

### **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

**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).

**HOWEVER, you will be required to bring a notebook and pen/pencil to class.**

**Assignments & Assessment**

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

**Participation and attendance** **15%**

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 of 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.

**Literacy narrative essay (3-4 pages)** **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)** **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 examples and by your own academic knowledge.

**Rhetorical analysis essay (3-4 pages)** **15**

This essay assignment analyzes (breaks down) two texts and examines the context and rhetorical strategies used; the two sets of parts are compared and synthesized using details from each source to form an overall assessment.

**Research argument essay (5-6 pages)** **25**

This essay is focused coherently on your argument and uses 4-5 library sources for support; this work will help prepare you for more extended research writing in ENGL 102.

**Oral presentation and Powerpoint on research argument** **10**

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

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	D = 69-60	F = 59-0
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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 workshoping 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).

**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.

### Essays

There are 4 formal essays completed in ENGL 101:

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

**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.**

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 (15% of their overall grade for the course).

### Late Work

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

### 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](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. Written and visual works 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 (CKB G17) is available for 45-minute appointments with professional and peer writing consultants. Appointments are available both in person and online via Webex session. Consultants can help with planning assignments, improving your writing, refining an essay or multimedia project, or other communication-based needs. To schedule an appointment, please use Navigate, which can be found on NJIT Pipeline, and can also be reached directly through <https://njit.campus.eab.com/>.

For more information, visit the Writing Center’s website <https://www.njit.edu/writingcenter/> or email the Director, Dr. Catherine Siemann, at [siemann@njit.edu](mailto:siemann@njit.edu).



## 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.H01 Course schedule

Class time may consist of readings, mini lectures, videos, visuals, workshops on writing process, small and whole group activities and reviews of drafts and reflections.

### Week 1 T 9/5 & R 9/7

Introductions; discuss syllabus

Multimodality:

[https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/08/28/climate/groundwater-drying-climate-change.html?campaign\\_id=2&emc=edit\\_th\\_20230828&instance\\_id=101374&nl=todaysheadlines&regi\\_id=6547687&segment\\_id=143140&user\\_id=dd6a7f4c50c84fe873cf3028db664c5c](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/08/28/climate/groundwater-drying-climate-change.html?campaign_id=2&emc=edit_th_20230828&instance_id=101374&nl=todaysheadlines&regi_id=6547687&segment_id=143140&user_id=dd6a7f4c50c84fe873cf3028db664c5c)

**Writing process:**

Introduction to writing process and concepts

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1pnpL8295E&t=4s>

Writing process animation

CIS\*2050\*DE

Why are students coming into college poorly prepared to write? Carnegie Mellon University (Canvas)

### Week 2 T 9/12 & R 9/14

**Reading:** (before class)

Baron, Denis, "From Pencils to Pixels: The Stages of Literacy Technologies" (Canvas)

**Critical thinking/reading:**

In class, do a close reading of the Baron essay and also read this article together:

Keim, Brandon, "The Science of Handwriting"

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-science-of-handwriting/> (Canvas)

**Writing process:**

Constructing an essay; prewriting; genre knowledge – readings on Canvas

### Week 3 T 9/19 & R 9/21

**Literacy narrative** introduced:

**Literacy narrative instructions (Canvas)**

Definition and prompts for literacy narratives:

<https://narwol.lmc.gatech.edu/purpose-and-scope/#:~:text=Literacy%20Narrative%20%E2%80%93%20literacy%20narrative,%2C%20viewing%2C%20interpreting%2C%20etc>

Key features of literacy narratives:

<https://writingcraft.commons.gc.cuny.edu/literacy-essay-examples/>

Professional examples of literacy narratives:

<https://gwrings.blogspot.com/2013/09/the-art-of-eating-spaghetti.html>

[ENGL 101 Literacy narrative Academic Discourse and Literacy Narratives as Equipment for Livi.docx](#) Academic support; movie examples (Canvas)

Literacy Narrative Examples – in-class viewing of NJIT student literacy narratives from previous semesters

*Writing process:*

“Developing a strong, clear thesis statement”

<https://opentextbc.ca/writingforsuccess/chapter/chapter-5-putting-the-pieces-together-with-a-thesis-statement/>

Writing rubric:

[Written Communication Value Rubric AAC&U.docx](#)

**In class** write discussion board: Tell a brief story or develop a concept that might serve as the central idea for your literacy narrative.

<b>Week 4 T 9/26 &amp; R 9/28</b>
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*Writing process:*

Development and support, topic sentences:

<http://guidetogrammar.org/grammar/paragraphs.htm>

*Writing:* **Literacy narrative first draft due;** peer and/or class review using writing rubric (Canvas)

<b>Week 5 T 10/3 &amp; R 10/5</b>
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*Writing process:*

Revision:

Revising Drafts Handout – UNC (Canvas)

**Writing:** Final draft of literacy narrative due (15%)

Transitions Handout – GuidetoGrammar (Canvas)

**Argument (position) essay** introduced:



<b>Potential Topics and Article Links (articles also posted to Canvas page)</b>
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**Argument (position) essay assignment** -- Canvas

Choose 1 set of paired readings (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J or K) from the list provided below. Readings are available on Canvas.

A Gender, homophobia, conversion therapy

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B ChatGPT, ethics, court

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C Multiverse, string theory

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D Generative AI, education, student's voices

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E Barbie, objectification

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F AI Ethics, Humans, Apocalypse, Technology

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G Blue and white collar work, cognition, automation

---

H Urban decline, success, labor unions

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I Neuroplasticity, aging and mental illness

---

J Enlightenment, Reason

---

K Reparations, human rights, education

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<b>Week 6: T 10/10 &amp; R 10/12</b>
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*Writing:*

In-class prewriting activities for organization of argument essay

Citation: APA style

Reporting verbs (Canvas or link)

[https://emedia.rmit.edu.au/learninglab/sites/default/files/Reporting\\_verbs\\_2014\\_Accessible.pdf](https://emedia.rmit.edu.au/learninglab/sites/default/files/Reporting_verbs_2014_Accessible.pdf)

*Speaking:*

Discussion or debates in class, taking positions on a reading

NOTE: Dr. Siemann will be at the International Writing Centers Association conference on 10/12. Please use class time to work on your draft & please submit to the discussion forum for today.

**Week 7: T 10/17 & R 10/19**

*Writing:*

**Argument (position) essay rough draft due, Revision Workshop**

Peer and/or class review of drafts using rubric

**Week 8: T 10/24 & R 10/26**

*Writing:*

**Argument (position) essay final draft due (20%)**

In class discussion board reflection on argument essay

***Writing process:***

**Rhetorical analysis** introduced:

**Rhetorical Analysis Assignment** (Canvas)

Analyze rhetorical strategies of readings from your argument essay.

*Readings:*

Rhetorical analysis essay structure, terms and appeals:

Texas A&M (Canvas or link)

<https://writingcenter.tamu.edu/Students/Writing-Speaking-Guides/Alphabetical-List-of-Guides/Academic-Writing/Analysis/Rhetorical-Analysis>

“Backpacks vs. Briefcases” (Laura Bolin Carroll) (Canvas)

*Research:*

Finding and evaluating sources:

<https://library.njit.edu/>

EBSCO

ebooks

Google, Google Scholar

Open access sources

**Week 9: T 10/31 & R 11/2**

*Writing process:*

**Research argument essay** introduced:

Research argument essay assignment (Canvas)

*Reading/research:*

Read and sort through articles to create a coherent research argument.

Elements of Academic Argument, Harvard:

[ENGL 101 102 Harvard Elements of Academic Argument.docx](#)

APA citation style reviewed

*Writing:* **Rhetorical analysis rough draft due**

**Week 10: T 11/7 & R 11/9**

*Writing:*

**Rhetorical analysis final draft due (15%)**

Prewriting and organizing research argument essay – in-class workshops

**Week 11: T 11/14 & R 11/16**

*Writing process:*

More work with revisions – in-class workshops

*Writing:*

**Research argument essay rough draft due**

Peer and/or class review of research argument essay using writing rubric

Revise research argument essay

**Week 12: T 11/21 & Thanksgiving**

*Writing process:*

Editing and proofreading:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/graduate\\_writing/graduate\\_writing\\_topics/graduate\\_writing\\_topics\\_editing\\_proofreading\\_new.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/graduate_writing/graduate_writing_topics/graduate_writing_topics_editing_proofreading_new.html)

Discussion of oral presentation & sign-ups

**Week 13: T 11/28 & R 11/30**

*Writing:* **Final draft of research argument due (25%)**

**In class** discussion board reflection on research writing process

*Speaking:*

Oral presentations on research argument essay **(10%)**

**Week 14: T 12/5 & R 12/7**

Oral presentations on research argument essay **(10%)**

**Week 15: T 12/12**

Oral presentations on research argument essay **(10%)**

