

English 101 Course Syllabus

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Office:	230 Colson
Office Hours:	MWF 9:00am - 10:15am

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

English 101 is a composition and rhetoric course. This means that you will be writing both in and out of the classroom. There will be four major papers in this course as well as several (about 10) smaller writing assignments such as reflections, free writes, and brainstorming activities. This class will be held in 206 Clark Hall (and 404 Clark Hall on Fridays starting the third week of the course).

COURSE GOALS:

1. Develop a personal learning process for effective writing.
2. Recognize contexts that shape writing and research.
3. Think critically to understand texts, contexts, and writing strategies.
4. Know the rules for effective communication, whether those are style or genre conventions, rules for grammar and punctuation, or rules for recognizing sources with correct research citations.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. *Work in Progress: A Guide to English 101 at West Virginia University*, Fifth Edition
2. *Easy Writer*, Fourth Edition

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

Response and Evaluation-

This course is a portfolio course. This means that you will be compiling work all semester to turn in for your final grade. Drafts of major papers will be handed in multiple times in order for you to receive feedback on how to improve your writing before it is officially graded. The grade breakdown will be as follows:

Informal Writing- 20%
Participation Grade- 10%
Portfolio- 70%

To see how each of these components will be scored refer to pages xix-xxi in *Work in Progress*.

Your work will be graded as a process. It is important that you organize all of your work as you may need it for your portfolio. Remember that an A constitutes exceptional work BEYOND requirements, a B is above average work, a C meets requirements and no further, and a D does not meet requirements. For each essay, you will be given written feedback as opposed to a letter grade to stress the importance of revision.

Portfolios-

This course will follow a portfolio approach. This means that English 101 is about the process as much as it is about the result. You will receive feedback from your peers and me on your drafts to help you revise your work.

Please keep track of ALL of your work as both in class assignments and larger papers will be placed in your portfolio.

Attendance-

You are each allowed up to three absences. The fourth absence will compromise your grade as much as one full letter. Each subsequent absence will result in the further loss of up to one letter grade. Thus, students who miss six or more classes will fail the course. All absences (including excused absences) will count toward the total number allowed. On a similar note, three tardies will be equivalent to one absence.

You will also be asked to attend 4-5 conferences for this course. Each conference will count as a full class day; therefore, if you miss one it will be counted as an absence. Conferences will be held in 10 minute timeslots for which you will sign up closer to the conference day(s) in my office (230 Colson).

Participation-

Participation includes coming to class prepared and on time, taking part in class discussions, asking questions, contributing your knowledge and insights. It also means avoiding side conversations and distractions such as texting or Facebooking. To participate actively, you must be physically present. Therefore, arriving late and absences will hurt your participation grade.

Social Justice-

English 101 supports WVU's commitment to social justice. All sections expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and nondiscrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color, or national origin.

Plagiarism-

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. If you plagiarize or cheat you will fail the assignment and possibly the course. This will be discussed in more detail when we go over the Plagiarism Contract for the course.

Disability Accommodations-

If you have a documented learning disability, a serious hearing or vision problem, or any other special need that might affect your performance and participation in class, please be sure to talk to me. Also, please be aware of the support services available to you through Disability Services in room G30 of the Mountainlair. Their phone number is 304-293-6700, and their email is access2@mail.wvu.edu.

University Counseling Services-

The Carruth Center provides resources to help manage stress, improve relationships, make healthy lifestyle choices, and face new challenges and transitions. It's phone number is 304-293-4431, and it's website is <http://well.wvu.edu/ccpps>.

Writing Center-

The WVU Writing Center is a resource that can help support you in all aspects of the writing process. It is located in G02 Colson Hall (see WiP pg xxiv for more information).