

Fall 2015

ENGL 1003

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Recommended Citation

Poché, Reggie J., "ENGL 1003" (2015). *University of New Orleans Syllabi*. Paper 385.
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THE UNIVERSITY of
NEW ORLEANS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

English Composition Supplemental Support

English 1003/Fall 2015

Section 001 (T/Th, 12:30 to 1:45)

Instructor: Reggie J. Poché

Office: 291-A, Liberal Arts Building

Office Hours: Wednesday—1:30 to 3:30

Tuesday and Thursday—9:00 to 10:00

- Phone: 280-6469
- E-mail: rjpoche3@uno.edu
- *Appointments outside of my office hours may be arranged through email.

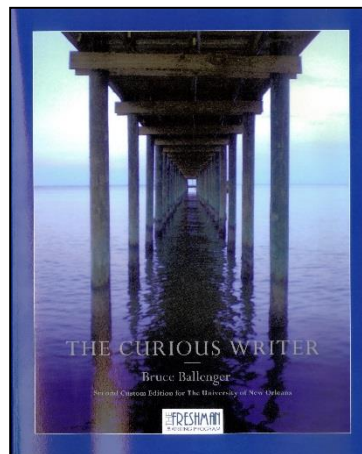
Required Textbook

- Ballenger, *The Curious Writer*, UNO's Second Custom Edition (ISBN: 1-269-88765-3)

Materials*

- Three manila folders
- Printed copies of your essays for peer review
- Loose leaf in a three-ring binder or a notebook
- Handouts and various websites organized in Moodle

*You should bring your textbook and binder/notebook to every class.



Course Objective

You are in this course because you have signed a contract with the University to commit yourself to developing as a writer, but I hope that you also have a personal contract with yourself to make the most of your first semester at UNO by engaging enthusiastically with your instructors and peers and by having the presence of mind to continuously remind yourself that, although it will be challenging, your first semester of college should also be fun. Think of this class as an introduction to college life as much as it is a class meant to help you succeed as a college-level writer in both English 1157 and beyond.

English 1003 is designed to be flexible to your needs. We will work on specific writing skills, rhetorical strategies, and “subgenres” of writing that will be applicable to the writing you will be producing in English 1157. But what does that exactly mean? Simply put, you will be fine-tuning your personal “writer’s toolkit” and applying those tools in English 1157. If you do well in English 1003, you are likely to do well in English 1157.

In addition to participating in these skills-building exercises, you will also have the opportunity to gain valuable feedback on your English 1157 projects. The writing done in your respective sections of 1157 will be brought to our class, and we will help make it easier for you to give it a greater degree of polish by providing you with feedback on your work in a “Writer’s Studio” setting.

Nearly all of your work for English 1003 will be done in class, so you can expect that our time together will be filled with a flurry of activity. Please help me invigorate our classroom with your intellect, your wit, your sense of humor, and your opinion so that it becomes a place of deep reflection and learning.

You must be concurrently enrolled in English 1157 and must stay enrolled in both English 1157 and English 1003. In order to pass one class, you must pass the other. If you drop one course, you must drop the other.

Student Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of the English 1003,

students will

- Understand writing as a process that involves invention, drafting, collaboration, and revision.
- Understand how purpose, audience, and context affect writing style, voice, and tone.

students will be able to

- Determine the purpose and intended audience in the writing of others.
- Demonstrate familiarity with and compose in different genres of writing.
- Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and respond to the ideas of others.
- Demonstrate familiarity with using alternative media (such as PowerPoint presentations, webpages, podcasts, or visual essays) to express themselves.
- Use library and non-library research methods.
- Incorporate source material (the ideas of others) successfully into their own work.

Grading

English 1003 is a Pass/Fail course. You will pass the course if you attend class regularly (as agreed to in your contract), actively engage in the work we do in class, attend peer and faculty conferences, and achieve the student learning outcomes listed above. I will keep track of your attendance and participation and will collect the writing you do in class, comment on it, and give you credit for doing it.

You are guaranteed a P in the course if you

- Attend class regularly—no missing more than four classes.
- Engage actively during every class period and always use class time productively
- Meet due dates and major writing criteria for all assignments
- Complete all informal, low-stakes writing assignments (e.g. fastwrites, listing prompts, reflections, written feedback, and other homework and in-class writing assignments).
- 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).
- Demonstrate sustained effort and investment throughout the writing process.
- Make substantive revisions when the assignment is to revise—not just editing or touching up.
- Copyedit all final revisions of main assignments until they substantially conform to the conventions of edited, revised English.
- Come prepared to the conferences you will attend with me to discuss drafts.
- Submit a piece for publication in the class magazine, our final project if the semester.

You will be graded using a 50-point system. Every assignment you complete (in addition to the criteria listed above) will come with a small value of varied amounts. For example, a fastwrite in class may be worth .5 points whereas leading a Writer's Studio discussion may be worth 3 points. Collectively, successful completion of every assignment and activity (and the fulfillment of every course expectation) will earn you 50 points for the semester. Using the following scale, your final course grade will be assessed at the end of the semester:

50-36 points=grade of P

35-0 points=grade of F

Your grade is likely to fluctuate along these scales throughout the semester, but hopefully not too much. At mid-term, we will discuss your progress and work on an intervention plan should it seem that a P is becoming out of your reach.

Mini-lessons

Like any good writers, the last thing we want to be is redundant, so English 1003 will not repeat the assignments and writing projects you are likely to complete in English 1157. Instead, our course will be organized in what I call mini-lesson, which will allow you to devote more time to practice individual parts of the writing process you will be learning in

English 1157. You will also be given more opportunities to reflect on your identity as a writer with the expectation that your confidence in your process will grow.

Studio Sessions

You will be directing much of your own progress in English 1003. This will be facilitated through in-class “Writer’s Studio” sessions. No one knows 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. If you ever fail to show up for a scheduled conference in my office, your final grade for the course will be in jeopardy. Please be professional and keep the appointments you schedule.

The Final Project

By the end of the semester, you will have amassed a personal collection of writing from at least two classes (ENGL 1157 and ENGL 1003) but maybe more. Our class will convene as 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 to be “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

Per your UNO Pathways contract, you are expected to attend class every day and to arrive on-time. To receive a passing grade for this course, you must have missed no more than four class meetings throughout the entire semester, and you must have been tardy no more than five. For every absence over four and up to six, you will lose 1 point out of the maximum of 50 you can collect for the entire semester. With more than six absences, it is unlikely that you will pass the course.

In accordance with UNO policy, “A student who is not present to answer roll call is marked absent.” You are responsible for being in class, being on time, and having all writing, reading, or other assigned work completed. If you are absent, you are responsible for finding out what you missed and for having all assignments completed for the next class, regardless of the reason you were not present. If you wish to find out what was covered in the class in your absence, you must come to my office to see me. Do not e-mail me or call to ask about missed material.

In addition to completing in-class writing assignments and activities, you will read and respond to your classmates’ writing on a regular basis in studio sessions. Your absence during this in-class activity will adversely affect your

classmates since then won't have the benefit of receiving your feedback on their work. Everyone must be present for our class to work properly and so that everyone can benefit.

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 be forced to deduct credit from your participation grade. Our class is not long: you can be disconnected from the outside world for that time without harm.

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/>