

Fall 2015

ENGL 1157

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ENGL 1157-008: ENGLISH COMPOSITION

T/TH: 9:30AM TO 10:45AM LA 210 Fall 2015

"I write entirely to find out what I'm thinking, what I'm looking at, what I see and what it means. What I want and what I fear."

-- Joan Didion

[CONTACT INFO]

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Office Hours: Office Hours: M 3:00-4:00, TH 2:30-3:15,
and by appointment

[REQUIRED TEXTS & MATERIALS]

- Ballenger, *The Curious Writer*, UNO's Second Ed.
ISBN: 1-269-88765-3
- Kennedy, *Aunt Alice vs. Bob Marley*
ISBN: 978-1-60801-013-4
- Notebook, folder, or binder (your choice)

Also, sign up for Class WordPress Blog

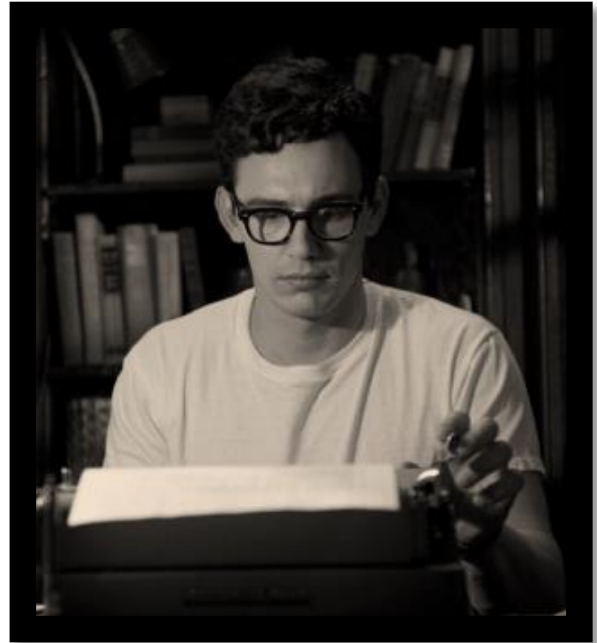
[\[https://fallunowriters.wordpress.com/\]](https://fallunowriters.wordpress.com/)

Course Description

If you read the Didion quotation at the top of this syllabus, then, well, that's what we'll do in this class – we'll "find out what [we're] thinking." Writing is a process of "inquiry," which means as writers WE ask questions. We explore ideas, take risks, embrace different perspectives, and think critically about ourselves and the world around us. To write, we usually start with something we might know a little about but are INTERESTED in thinking about more. Then, we seek the unknown, combine it with the known, and craft it into a unified work. That description of writing sounds a lot like *Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark*, and maybe for you – yes, the person who's scared of this class – you'll learn writing can be just as *dare-I-say* exciting.

Because the writing process incorporates many more elements than simply writing, itself, you will be responsible for nearly daily writing *and* reading, and you will be expected to respond critically (and constructively) in writing to your own work and that of your classmates.

According to the course guidelines: "In 1157, students will produce a minimum of three projects, comprised of no less than 5000 words (total), 3000 of which are high-stakes (i.e., formally assessed). The



Yes. This is a photo of James Franco

scaffolding assignments that lead to the production of these three projects should introduce students to a variety of genres and their conventions, should teach students how to conduct research and to integrate their findings into their own writing, and should create opportunities for students to understand how audience and purpose govern the content, scope, organization, and expression of their ideas.”

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- 1) effectively recognize and write in different genres: personal narrative, profile, review, etc. These writing projects will help develop an awareness of rhetorical mode.
- 2) analyze their strengths and weaknesses as a thinker/writer and set goals as writers
- 3) learn how to conduct research and how to gain knowledge from the writing of others.

Course Structure

This course consists of **three main projects**. The first project is a **Personal Narrative** (Ballenger, 71-110); the second is a **Profile** (Ballenger, 111-154); and the third project is a **Review** (Ballenger, 155-192). Each project is composed of process work, a short composition, and a long composition.

PROCESS WORK (PW)	Process work involves a variety of activities, including but not limited to fast writing, brainstorming, prewriting, group work, drafts, peer review, workshops, research, and class discussion. You will complete the PW both in class and for homework. The PW will prepare you for the short composition.
SHORT COMPOSITION (SC)	The short composition is designed to help you understand the genre in which you will be writing. The SC will be returned with comments. You will have an opportunity to revise each SC. The SC will prepare you for the long composition.
LONG COMPOSITION* (LC)	The long composition is the culmination of your previous work in this project. It will be graded for its content, form, organization, grammar, style, and overall effectiveness. You will have an opportunity to revise each LC, at your instructor's discretion. At least one of your LCs must be revised.

*You are required to take each of your LC drafts to the Writing Center (LA 334) for a half-hour session with a writing tutor at least once before the final draft is due. The tutors' input is invaluable, and it's available to all UNO students free of charge. They neither bite nor judge, so don't be shy.

At the end of the course, you will also compose a final **Writer's Letter of Reflection** in which you look back critically at your experience as a writer over the course of the semester.

Keep all of Your Work

Students are expected to keep **ALL** of the work they produce for each project for the entirety of the semester. Do NOT throw away or lose any of your PW, SCs, LCs, or other writing assignments. I may ask to see any and all of your work throughout the course (both the “big” essays and the “little” pieces of writing). I may also ask you to attach your previous work to your essay revisions. Additionally, you *will* be asked to refer to the portfolio of your previous work as you compose your Writer’s Letter of Reflection; you will be required to bring all of your previous work to class on that day.

Revision Policy

Ernest Hemingway – the dude who wrote *The Old Man and the Sea* – is often quoted as saying, “The only kind of writing is rewriting.” Remember: *writing is a process*, so you are allowed and encouraged to revise any or all of your three SCs or three LCs for feedback or an improved grade. **You will be required to revise at least one LC this semester.** For both optional and required revisions, you must submit a revision request (found on Moodle) via email. The request will ask you to name your deadline for submitting the revised essay. You must submit this form at least five days before the deadline you’ve chosen to turn in the revision. Please keep in mind, **I reserve the right to deny or modify your revision request**, at my discretion, if your PW was late or missing or if your SC or LC merited an “F” due to extreme insufficiency.

Grading Guidelines

The grading for this course will not be based on things such as tests but rather on the work (and amount of work) you do as a writer.

- A (90-100): Your work is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
- B (80-90): Your work is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
- C (70-80): Your work meets the course requirements in every respect.
- D (60-70): Your work is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
- F (below 60): Your work fails to meet the course requirements to such a degree that it is not worthy of credit.

Calculating your grade in this course

_____ **Project One: Personal Narrative**

_____ 5 % Short Composition (SC)
_____ 20% Long Composition (LC)

_____ **Project Two: Profile Essay**

_____ 10% Short Composition (SC)

_____	20% Long Composition (LC)
_____	Project Three: Review Essay
_____	10% Short Composition (SC)
_____	20% Long Composition (LC)
_____	10%*Class Participation (Process work, WordPress posts, in-class feedback, etc.)
_____	5% Letter of Reflection

Important note: If you earn a **ZERO** on any major assignment, you are likely to fail this course.

*A lot of work is done in-class and collaboratively, so attendance and *active participation* is crucial to success in this course (both your success and the success of others). **Active participation** means you must be in class on time and in every single class period. If you are not in class, you will miss out on any writing activities and group work (which cannot be made up due to the nature of the work). This also means that you come to class prepared, with reading done and assignments written (read EVERYTHING or I will quiz you). Being able to share your writing with other people--and sometimes even reading it aloud--is essential to the operation of a writing course. If that presents supreme difficulty for you, either for personal or psychological reasons, let me know.



Also: WordPress Blog – [\[https://fallunowriters.wordpress.com/\]](https://fallunowriters.wordpress.com/)

This semester we will be using a WordPress blog for most of our outside-of-class Process Work (PW). The blog will have privacy settings so that only the participants can read the posts and comments. For each PW assignment on the blog, you will be required to post your assignment by the date on the schedule. You will receive a handout with more information about this.

Submitting Work

All professional writers have deadlines. You too are expected to turn in your work on time. If an essay is turned in late, there will be a **one-letter grade deduction per day**. The typed essays (SCs and LCs) must be in proper MLA format: Times New Roman, 12-point font, 1-inch margins, double-spaced. A sample MLA document can be found on Moodle. **All short compositions (SCs) and long compositions (LCs) must be typed and turned in BOTH as a printed copy in class and as an electronic copy through Moodle.** We will discuss the procedure for turning in papers on Moodle when we are closer to the first LC.

Course Procedures, etc.

Class Attendance	You are expected to attend class every day and to arrive on time. If you miss any part of class due to absence or tardiness, you will miss important class discussion and activities. In almost every class, we will be doing necessary process work (PW) for each project; if you miss the class, you will still be responsible for completing all of the PW.
Tardiness	Class will begin on time. I will start every class by calling roll, and if you are not present when your name is called, then you will be considered either absent or tardy. If you do come to class tardy, please do so quietly and unobtrusively. In the case of tardiness, you will not be given any extra time or accommodations for in-class activities.
Absences	According to UNO policy, students are allowed to be excused from approximately 225 minutes of class time over the semester, which translates to three T/TH class periods for the semester. Three instances of tardiness equal one absence. If you come to class more than thirty 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. If you are absent for any reason, YOU are responsible for finding out what you missed in class and completing all homework assignments for the next class. You may come to my office hours to ask about what was covered in class.

*Numerous absences may also result in deductions from your class participation grade. Please feel free to *talk to me* if you are concerned about absences or tardiness. We can discuss your reasons for missing class and consider possible solutions to your attendance problems.

Class Behavior

You will be sharing some of your writing with your classmates; likewise, you will be required to respond to your classmates' writing. Aretha Franklin isn't the only person who wants "R-E-S-P-E-C-T," so when you come to class, please treat everybody – including both your peers and your instructor – respectfully. We'll be respectful of each other's feelings, and our own, and respectful of all cultures, races, sexual orientations, gender identities, religions, class backgrounds, abilities, and perspectives when we speak. Whether you agree or disagree with somebody's opinion – whether you are offering positive or negative feedback to somebody's writing – you must treat everybody with civility and respect during class discussion and during peer review exercises.

Any behavior that is inappropriate or disruptive will not be tolerated. Disrespectful statements or actions, whether directed at your classmates or at me, will be reported to the Office of Academic Affairs. Sexual harassment, including but not limited to making inappropriate comments to your classmates or me, will not be tolerated and will be reported the Office of Student Accountability.

Furthermore, **laptops are not allowed** (unless you have received specific permission from me for their use). **Put away the phone while you are in class.** Your classmates and I do not want to be distracted by your incoming texts, Snapchats, or Facebook notifications on your phone, so I expect to hear no buzzing, beeping, or ringing in class, so put your phone on silent or vibrate. If your phone causes a disruption in class it may result in a tardy.

Conferences

Throughout the semester, I will require that you meet with me at least once in my office (LA 244) to discuss your writing. (You will receive more details about the mandatory conference at a later date.) If you know that you will not be able to make your set conference time, I would appreciate it if you gave me advanced notice. If you miss this conference completely, I will count that as a tardiness in class, a.k.a. a third of an absence. I encourage you to schedule conferences with me at any stage of your writing process: getting started, focusing, drafting, researching, etc. The Writing Center is also a place you can take your writing at ANY stage.

Academic Integrity

Any case of academic dishonesty – including but not limited to cheating, tampering with academic records and exams, falsifying identity, plagiarism, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty – 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 will likely result in a failing grade for the course.

Students are expected to know and to follow UNO's policy on academic dishonesty – you can find a link to this policy on Moodle. We will discuss academic dishonesty in class, which will give you an opportunity to learn about proper citation in an academic essay; however, you are still responsible for knowing UNO policy outside of the information given in class. If you have any specific questions about it during any stage of your writing process, I highly encourage you to ask me about it during conference hours or to make an appointment in the Writing Center so that you can discuss it with one of the writing coaches. To schedule a tutoring session—either in-person or online—visit [the UNO Writing Center's website: http://english.uno.edu/writing/](http://english.uno.edu/writing/) or visit the Writing Center in person.

Additional INFO

This class uses **Moodle** to facilitate information exchange. I will post helpful online resources to Moodle. I will also post supplementary readings, assignments, and digital content regularly, and I will notify you through your **UNO student email account** whenever I do so. You will be responsible for checking Moodle on a regular basis and completing all work I assign on it. Even more importantly, you must check your UNO email address on a regular basis.

You can access both Moodle and your UNO email by going to the UNO homepage, scrolling to the bottom, and clicking “Moodle” or “Student Email.” Alternatively, you can access Moodle through the following link: <https://uno.mrooms3.net/login/index.php>. I will be checking my email (tmgille1@uno.edu) at least once a day, Monday through Friday, and I will try to respond as promptly as possible; however, be patient in waiting for a reply. In your emails to me, I ask that you **refer to the course in the subject line of your message**, before your message’s specific subject (e.g., Subject: ENGL 1157-004: Question about Essay 1). I check my UNO email account frequently during regular business hours. Emails sent after 5 pm will not be read until the following day. I do not check or respond to emails on the weekend.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

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

Course Schedule

I’ll 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. You are responsible for all changes or additions announced in class, whether or not you are present for class on the day of an announcement. Should the schedule change significantly, I will send out a revised version. The following is an overall schedule of your major assignments for this course. Please note that **these dates are subject to change**.

[Course Schedule]

Tuesday [09.08] Thursday [09.24]	SC 1 1 (Living My Life (Ay!) Literacy Narrative) LC 1 (Personal Narrative)
Tuesday [10.13] Thursday [10.29]	SC 2 (Humans of UNO) LC 2 (Profile)
Tuesday [11.17] Wednesday [12.03]	SC 3 (Annotated Bibliography) LC 3 (Review)
Thursday [12.12]	Letter of Reflection