

Fall 2015

## ENGL 1157

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*University of New Orleans*

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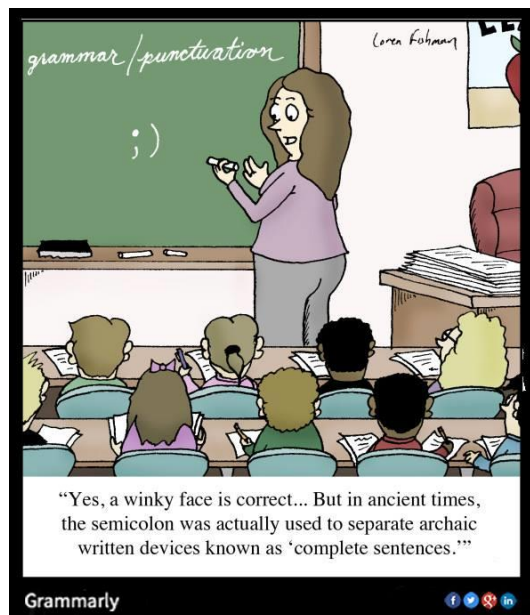
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# ENGLISH 1157-Section 28: ENGLISH COMPOSITION I

FALL 2015

TIME: Monday/Wednesday 3:30-4:45 p.m. ROOM: Liberal Arts 326



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**Office:** Liberal Arts Building 204

**Office Hours:** 1-2 pm Tuesday/2-3 Wednesday and by appointment

## Required Texts:

- Ballenger, *The Curious Writer*, UNO's Second Custom Edition

ISBN: 1-269-88765-3

- Kennedy, *Aunt Alice vs. Bob Marley*

ISBN: 978-1-60801-013-4

## Course Description

Pause and think about how much you write, text and email during a 24-hour day. As you might have guessed, we will be writing a great deal in this course. Writing is a process that even the best writers struggle with at times. While figuring out what topic to write about and generating well-formulated sentences that result in a cohesive essay can seem tedious, writing can and should be a fun experience. Through critical reading and writing, discussion, peer review, and classroom and online exercises, you will develop the skills necessary to express your ideas effectively. You will also learn that these skills will transfer to your academic, professional, and everyday life.

In this course we will explore many genres that writers use to express their ideas, however the emphasis will be on narratives, profiles, and reviews. You will complete a series of assignments that are designed to enhance skills you need for your three long compositions. We will be doing a great deal of in-class pre-writing, drafts, and revisions as well as some online journaling. Even though this is a writing-intensive course, you will be expected to actively participate in classroom activities. I am also planning on incorporating WordPress into our Process Work assignments so make sure you set up an account. (I will give you an instruction sheet on how to accomplish this.)

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

### **Rhetorical Knowledge**

Students should be able to

- Determine purpose and audience in their own and others' writing.
- Understand how purpose, audience, and context affect writing style, voice, and tone.
- Apply appropriate rhetorical strategies for diverse writing situations.
- Demonstrate familiarity with and/or compose in different genres (such as editorial writing, personal narratives, reviews, satires, dialogues, letters, or profile essays).
- Demonstrate familiarity with and/or incorporate different media (such as PowerPoint presentations, web pages, pod casts, or visual essays)

### **Critical Thinking, Reading, and Writing**

Students should be able to

- Analyze and/or interpret texts and other forms of discourse in multiple genres.
- Use logical reasoning.
- Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and respond to the ideas of others.
- Understand writing as a process that involves invention, drafting, collaboration, and revision.
- Identify and incorporate persuasive techniques.
- Write informative, analytical, and persuasive essays.
- Incorporate the ideas and texts of others.
- Use library and non-library research methods.
- Evaluate sources.

### **Knowledge of Conventions**

Students should be able to

- Use standard grammar.
- Follow conventions for word choice, syntax, spelling, and punctuation.
- Follow conventions appropriate for the given genre and/or medium, such as style, diction, and format.
- Use a variety of sentence structures.
- Document sources in MLA style.

## **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.

### **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.

### **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 25%
  - 15% Process Work
  - 30% SC
  - 55% LC
  
- 3) Project Three: Research Project 30%
  - 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 your overall grade in bonus points by making appointments with the Writing Center. Each visit will count for 1% of your overall grade.

Attendance and Tardiness: You are permitted **three unexcused** absences from class 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.

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.

### **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.

### Odds and Ends

- ❖ You need to do the assigned readings. Coming to class unprepared to discuss them will result in a reduced class participation grade.
- ❖ The Writing Center (LA 344) is an invaluable resource and you should use it continuously. In fact, you will be REQUIRED to visit at some point during this semester.
- ❖ You may bring food and drinks into the classroom as long as it is not disruptive and you throw away your garbage
- ❖ We will have a mandatory conference about halfway through the semester but I encourage you to discuss any problems you are having with this course. Just email me and we can set up a time to meet.

- ❖ The writing process can make you anxious and sharing your thoughts, more so.  
Remember that this course isn't designed to test you or judge you as a person. I want you to be able to express yourself freely as long as it does not demean your instructor or your fellow students.
- ❖ Electronic devices (unless previously authorized by your instructor) may not be used in class at any time. (Facebook is free but you are paying for this course. Learn from it.)

### **Major Assignment Dates**

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.

Wednesday, 9/16	SC 1 (Narrating History)
Wednesday, 10/7	LC 1 (Personal Narrative)
Monday, 10/12	SC 2 (Interview)
Wednesday, 10/28	LC 2 (Profile)
Monday, 11/16	SC 3 (Annotated Bibliography)
Wednesday, 12/2	LC 3 (Review)
Wednesday, 12/9	Letter of Reflection