

Fall 2015

ENGL 1157

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University of New Orleans

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1157: English Composition

MWF 10:00AM-10:50AM, Liberal Arts 212

Instructor: Laurin D. Jefferson

Office: LA 204

Office Hours: MWF 11:00-12:00 (appointments may be made outside of these hours)

★ Phone: (504) 280-5420

★ Email: Ljeffer2@uno.edu

Required Textbook:

Ballenger, Bruce. *The Curious Writer*. 2nd Ed. (UNO's Second Custom Edition). Boston: Pearson, 2014.

Kennedy, Kareem. *Aunt Alice vs. Bob Marley*. New Orleans: UNO Press, 2009.

Materials:

Notebook/Writing Utensils

Handouts

Course Description & Goals

In this course, we will explore the many reasons writers write and the many genres they use to express their ideas—with particular emphasis on writing narratives, profiles, reviews and ethnography. By interacting and writing within these genres, you will develop the skills necessary to express your own ideas across different means of communication.

In order to write well, one must read and read and read and then write, write, write. You will be doing both in this course while examining your process in order to determine the effectiveness of your work through activities like: critical reading and writing, pre-writing, discussing, evaluating your audience, determining your purpose, developing a thesis, organizing ideas, structuring, arguments, writing drafts, incorporating sources, refining your thesis, revising your draft, editing your prose, and proofreading. Your final projects and essays should be interesting, thoughtful, well-written pieces of college-level prose. You will complete a series of connected assignments that comprise our three major projects.

Through inquiry, investigation, and critical thinking, you will form a writerly persona that is apt for the academic, professional and everyday discourse. The core of the class is the crafting of three long compositions, three short compositions, and the development of a writing portfolio that contains not just well-developed compositions, but also prewriting, sketches, drafts, and revisions, as well as letters of reflection. 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 respond critically (and constructively) in writing to your own work and to that of your classmates.

While this is a writing-intensive course, lively participation is also expected in each weekly discussion of the reading material. Critical reading is also an integral skill, which is necessary for the uniform development of our own writing powers. In other words, an examination of how others think and write will inform how you write, making your own prose better. You must know what good writing is to do it yourself.

After successful completion of the English 1157 and 1158 sequence, you will be able to display proficiency in the following areas:

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.

Assignments & Grading

Projects are graded on a 100 point (A-F scale, whereas an A=90-100, B=80-89, and so on). This should go without saying, but you must submit all the assignments required for this course in order to earn a final course grade higher than F.

An **“A”** represents achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.

A **“B”** represents achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.

A **“C”** represents achievement that **meets the course requirements in every respect.**

A **“D”** represents achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.

An **“F”** represents achievement that fails to meet the course requirements to such a degree that it is not worthy of credit.

- ✓ Long Compositions, 25%
- ✓ Short Compositions, 20%
- ✓ Process Work, (writer’s notebook, mini-essays, annotated bibliographies, outlines, freewriting, presentations, reading completion, and quizzes), 15%
- ✓ Portfolio, 20%
- ✓ Participation, 10%

I reserve the right to alter or modify any of these weighted percentages.

Papers written at the beginning of the semester are graded under the same standards as papers written at the end of the semester, and a final draft is graded under the same standards as the first draft of an essay.

Because of this, grades on drafts at the beginning of the semester will almost always be low, and the goal should be to improve the writing so that the grades improve throughout the semester as you become more adept at incorporating the approaches being learned into your writing.

Attendance, Preparation & Participation

You are expected to attend class every day and to arrive on time. You may miss three **(3)** class period without penalty. Beyond that, your final course grade will be lowered by 10% for every day you are absent. Please note that students who are consistently tardy will be counted absent. Being tardy for class three times will count toward a single absence.

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. Your assignment's grade will be lowered by a letter for every day it is late. **Any failure to have an assigned draft for a peer review workshop will also be counted as an absence, since you will not be able to participate in class.**

In addition to writing essays and major projects, you will read and respond to the writing of others (both professional writers and your classmates). You will complete grammar assignments, take quizzes on reading, writing, grammar, etc., participate in peer group workshops, write drafts, and complete other assigned work. Failure to participate in or satisfactorily complete any significant portion of this work is serious enough to result in an F for the course.

Not only is attendance required, but so is presence of mind. The body alone cannot learn to write well; for that, presence of mind is required. Be present; be prepared; be nice. (Note: It is not nice to attempt to send or read text or e-mail messages when the instructor's eye is turned).

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 papers from other classes, 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 the University guidelines and file an Academic Dishonesty Report. If you think you may be crossing the line in how you use sources, ask me.

Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information: www.studentaffairs.uno.edu.

Completion of all major projects is required to pass the course. A plagiarized project constitutes an incomplete project and results in failing the course.

Revision

I am always happy to discuss comments with you so that you may revise your paper. All revisions must be done within **two weeks** of receiving the paper back. If you need to, be sure to schedule an appointment with me or in the writing center.

Portfolio Preparation

In this course, each assignment builds on the previous one. It is essential that you keep ALL of your work from this class (pre-writing, outlines, drafts, etc.) so that you may build a holistic, reflective portfolio. This is how I will gauge (read grade) your ability to work within different genres, communicate audience, demonstrate effective use of language, showcase your revision skills and several other skills necessary for the completion of English 1157.

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 during our second class meeting.

You will be responsible for checking Moodle on a regular basis and for completing all assignments, quizzes, or other work I assign on it. Also, you should make a habit of regularly checking your UNO e-mail account.

You can gain Moodle access by following this link: <http://uno.mrooms3.net/login/index.php>

Writing Center

Tutors are available to help you with your writing in LA 334 (280-7054). 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. <http://www.uno.edu/lrc/writingcenter>

Computer Usage

Out-of-class essays and journal entries must be typed and double-spaced. If you do not have a computer at home, utilize one of the many labs around the main campus. The link provided allows you to view where computers are available throughout campus:

<http://www.uno.edu/information-technology/student-computer-labs.aspx>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

It is University 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>

Course Schedule

SC 9/4
LC 9/18
SC 10/9
LC 10/23
SC 11/6
LC 11/20
Portfolio 12/11

Common Read

*Join us on September 28th from 5:00-7:00 in the University Center Ballroom for the Common Read Program's culminating event. Author Kareem Kennedy will sign copies of his book and participate in an on-stage interview. Students will also read essays they wrote in 1157 & 1158. Light refreshments will be provided. For more information, visit <http://www.uno.edu/fye/common-read.aspx>

A more detailed course schedule will accompany each project with specific reading and assignment deadlines.