

Fall 2015

ENGL 1157

Janet Barnwell Smith
University of New Orleans

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**ENGL 1157 Composition
SYLLABUS
Fall 2015**

Dr. Janet Barnwell Smith

**ENGL 1157 Sec16: MWF noon – 12:50 LA 370
 Sec 19: MWF 1 – 1:50 LA 370**

UNO Office: LA 387

UNO Office phone #: 504-280-6818

UNO e-mail: jbsmith5@uno.edu

Office Hours: **Monday 2:00 – 3:00**

Tuesday 1:00-2:30

Thursday 1:00 2:30

Friday 2:00 – 3:00

Also by appointment

Course textbooks:

--Bruce Ballenger. *The Curious Writer*. Pearson Learning Solutions, 2014. *Note: This is a custom edition for UNO, available at the UNO bookstore. Used copies may be available (shop ASAP).*

Also, you'll need

--a binder of loose leaf paper

--a good college, academic dictionary (paperback is best)

Introduction to 1157

Welcome to English 1157! This is the first course in the UNO composition two-course sequence. In English 1157, you'll learn skills you need to write in a clear and convincing way for a variety of writing situations and for various audiences. You'll work to improve over-all skills by reading critically, engaging in class discussion, answering questions, participating in various writing exercises, drafting essays, and revising drafts. Each of three projects promotes development of **a student's writing process** and includes a series of "low stakes" assignments leading to final "high stakes" graded essay.

This course fosters an environment of open discussion. Discussion is so important participation is a part of your final grade. Additionally, students participate in media day presentations, allowing you to practice your public speaking skills while displaying how web and tech savvy you are!

Student Learning Outcomes

Above all else: student assignments encourage imagination and discovery.

At the start of the semester, students are introduced to key concepts for the writing process. In addition, they hone their reading skills by analyzing professional writing, responding in writing and orally to reading assignments.

For each of three course projects, students generate knowledge on an assigned topic by writing short compositions, which are typically graded as “low stakes” assignments. As they progress through the writing process, they learn skills for developing a focus/thesis, writing a draft, engaging in peer review and revising. As they move through these series of steps toward a “high stakes” final essay, not only do they receive feedback from me and other students, but they also provide comments for their peers’ writing in collaborative workshops.

Lectures and analysis of essay models allow students to improve the form and structure as well as grammar and mechanics of their own writing. To this end, we read the work of professional writers, yet we also read student work. In fact, students who wish to share their writing with the class in writing workshops are given extra credit.

The course introduces the basics of proper citation, using MLA citation methods, ensuring that all students understand how to incorporate the work of others—print and online resources – into their writing as support and evidence for claims.

I may encourage some students to attend tutoring sessions at the Writing Center and to do additional exercises. **The Writing Center** is located on the third floor of the Liberal Arts building, LA 334, and the number for appointments is 504-280-7054

Course Requirements

Students are expected to come to all classes on-time. A percentage of the final course grade is determined by attendance, class participation and work completed on time. Missing class, leaving class early, OR arriving late means you will lose credit for the attendance/participation percentage of the grade. **Excessive unexcused absences may result in failure of a student to pass the course.** Students who miss class for more than the equivalent of two weeks may not pass the course. (If you miss a total of six classes this semester, you should set up a conference to meet with me to explain absences.)

All assignments must be completed and turned in on time. You are allowed, however, to turn in ONE assignment two days late without penalty. After that, you will be penalized ONE letter grade for every class day the paper is late. If a paper or assignment is not turned in within a week of the due date, it will be given a 0. All work must be completed to pass the course. And, all students must attend mandatory conferences.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a problem in writing classes, and I am keenly aware of how easy and tempting it is for my busy students to plagiarize essays. Please don’t be tempted! I have spent many uncomfortable moments with students who never thought I would catch them, and I am not emotional or apologetic AT ALL when it comes to failing plagiarized work. Instead of passing off another’s work as your own, or risking improper citation, **WRITE a draft and show it to me.** You can also tell me if you do not understand proper MLA citation methods. Most importantly, **give yourself plenty of time to think about topics, draft essays, and write final drafts.** Again, if you’re worried, panicky, desperate, get the assistance that is here for you at UNO. Don’t suffer alone! * (Please see the note below for the university plagiarism statement).

Required Work:

This course is organized around three writing projects. As we begin each project, I'll provide handouts -- a Unit Sheet and an Assignment sheet -- with information on the over-all assignment, homework, and due dates.

Grade Distribution:	% of grade
Essay #1 Advertising Analysis:	20%
Essay #2 Review	35%
Essay #3 Proposal	35%
Class attendance and participation	10%

Guidelines for Essay Format

- Out-of-class essays must be TYPED
- In-class essays should be written in black or blue INK (Glittery pink ink is pretty but difficult for my old eyes to read!)
- Use standard 8 x 10 paper
- Essays should be double-spaced with pages numbered
- All major assignments should have the following: name, course section, page numbers and date.
- All material from outside sources must be properly cited using MLA style guidelines.

Students should silence and put away all electronic devices during class. If you have a particular need that requires use of an electronic device-- including a cell phone, tablet or computer--you must approve this usage with me.

** Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information. The Code is available online at <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu>.*

If you have a disability, please know that I have worked successfully with many students like you! I work closely with Amy King to ensure students can produce their best work in my course. Let me know via e-mail, before or after class, or during office hours if you need accommodations.

*** It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized 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. For more information, please go to www.ods.uno.edu.*