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Fall 2015

ENGL 1157

Linden Crawford

University of New Orleans

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ENGLISH 1157: FRESHMAN COMPOSITION I

Tuesday & Thursday, 11am-12:15pm
Milneburg Hall, Rm. 265

Instructor: Linden Crawford
Office: Liberal Arts Building, Rm. 244
Office Hours: Mondays 4-5pm, 
              Tuesdays 1:30-2pm, and by appointment
Phone: (504) 280-6140
Email: Lmcrawf3@uno.edu

REQUIRED BOOKS & MATERIALS

- Bruce Ballenger, The Curious Writer,
  UNO’s Second Custom Edition
- Kareem Kennedy, Aunt Alice vs.
- Loose-leaf paper
- Binder or folder

COURSE DESCRIPTION

We all engage in the act of composition everyday, whether it be sending a text message, writing an email, drawing a picture, writing a song, or even having a conversation. We observe details and draw ideas from our environments and the people around us, we think about these ideas and wrestle with them and decide how we feel about them, and then we put them back out in the world as our own. From the chaos of everyday life, we create meaning. As Ann Berthoff says, composition is the act of “recreating wholes” from the bits and pieces we are given. Composition is a process of continual growth and becoming; it does not end but always begins again.

In this course, we will learn to see writing as a method of inquiry—not as a way to demonstrate what you know but rather as a tool for discovery and learning. As E.M. Forster said, “How do I know what I think until I see what I say?” We will gain familiarity with various genres, using writing to explore and express our own identities, to learn about and understand those around us, and to begin to assert our own opinions and ideas into both public and academic dialogues. As part of entering that conversation, we will learn to become better researchers, seeking out the ideas of others, building on them, and integrating them into our own work.

Whatever your choice of major is in college, and whatever career field you enter after college, being able to express yourself in words and communicate with the people around you will be critical to your success. Thus, what you stand to gain from this course makes it well worth your efforts. Writing is a path to self-awareness, self-confidence, and ultimately self-advocacy. Through writing we can demand change.
STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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, podcasts, 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 COMPONENTS
Three main projects:
- Personal Narrative
- Profile
- Review
Each project is composed of:

- **Process Work (PW),** which
  - is designed to help you prepare for the short composition.
  - includes activities such as freewriting, brainstorming, prewriting, group work, drafts, peer review, student-instructor conferences, research, and class discussion.
  - may or may not be turned in/graded.
  - is completed both in class and for homework.

- **the Short Composition (SC),** which
  - is designed to help you understand the genre in which you will be writing.
  - will prepare you for the long composition.
  - will be graded and returned with comments for an optional revision.

- **the Long Composition (LC),** which
  - is the culmination of your previous work for this project.
  - will be graded and returned with comments. You have the option to revise all LCs and **you must revise at least one LC.**

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

**Course Policies & Procedures**

**Submitting Work**

- Turn in your work on time. If an essay is turned in late, there will be a one-letter grade deduction per day.
- 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 SCs and LCs must be 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.

**Building a Portfolio**

Students are expected to keep ALL of the work they produce for the entirety of the semester. I may at any point ask to see previous work, and I will always ask you to attach your original essay to your revised essay. Keep your assignments organized by project and store them in a folder or binder. This will become your writer's portfolio, which you will refer to in composing your Writer’s Letter of Reflection and which you will bring to class on the last day.

**Conferences**

I welcome and encourage you to come to my office hours or schedule conferences with me at any stage of your writing process: brainstorming, choosing a topic, researching, getting started, drafting, etc. **You are required to 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.
Revisions

- Since writing is a process, you are allowed and encouraged to revise any or all of your three SCs and three LCs.
- You must revise at least one LC.
- The grade you earn for your revision will replace the grade you received on the original.
- For both optional and required revisions, you must submit a revision request (found on Moodle) via email to me within one week of receiving your graded essay in class.
- This is a privilege, not a “get out of jail free” card. I reserve the right to deny or modify your revision request if your PW was late or missing or if your essay merited an “F” due to extreme insufficiency.

Grading

The meaning behind the letter grade:
- 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” (below 60) represents achievement that fails to meet the course requirements to such a degree that it is not worthy of credit.

The breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Compositions</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>Your more successful essays will be given more weight in this calculation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Compositions</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Your more successful essays will be given more weight in this calculation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Process Work</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Includes attendance and class participation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Letter of Reflection</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: If you earn a ZERO on any major assignment (LC, SC, or Letter of Reflection), you are likely to fail this course.

Attendance

- You are expected to attend class every day and to arrive on time.
- If you are tardy or absent, you are responsible for finding out what you missed, and you will be expected to submit subsequent assignments on time, regardless of your absence.
- If you enter class late, please do so quietly and unobtrusively. You will not be given any extra time or accommodations for in-class activities.
• 3 tardies = 1 absence.
• According to UNO policy: if you miss more than 3 classes, each additional absence will reduce your final course grade by 10%.
• Please talk to me ahead of time if you are concerned about absences or tardiness. We can discuss your reasons for missing class and consider possible solutions to your attendance problems.

Classroom Environment

• Good writing involves risk-taking and vulnerability. Our classroom community will be one in which it is safe for all of us to share our thoughts, ideas, and experiences and to trust that we will be heard and respected. In offering feedback, our primary goal will always be to foster our peers' development as writers.
• Any behavior that is inappropriate or disruptive will not be tolerated. Disrespectful statements or actions will be reported to the Office of Academic Affairs. Sexual harassment, including inappropriate comments, will not be tolerated and will be reported the Office of Student Accountability.
• No cell phones, laptops, or tablets (unless you have received specific permission from me). Electronics should be **silenced or off**—not on vibrate—and **completely out of sight**. If I see you looking at your phone, I will count it as an absence.

Academic Integrity

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, plagiarism, 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](http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu).

In this class, we will consult the intellectual property of others in order to form our own opinions and contribute to the academic dialogue. We will learn how to credit these ideas through proper academic citation. If we do not cite our sources, we are committing plagiarism, which is an egregious ethical violation that is dealt with harshly. 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. **A plagiarized essay will likely earn a zero and may result in failing the course.** If you think you may be crossing the line in how you use sources, come to me or go to the Writing Center.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

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 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 [http://www.ods.uno.edu](http://www.ods.uno.edu).
Modes of Communication

- UNO Email: owa.uno.edu
  I will contact you through your UNO student email, so if you do not know how to access it, better find out! Call the UNO Help Desk at 280-HELP. If you do not check this account regularly, be sure to set up email forwarding to an account that you do check frequently.

- Moodle: https://uno.mrooms3.net/
  This is our course archive and online discussion board. Here, you will submit a digital copy of all SC and LC essays, which acts as a handy back-up just in case. I will also use Moodle to share supplemental readings, digital content, and online resources, and you are welcome to do so as well.

- Contacting me:
  I prefer to talk in person. Try to speak with me after class or during my office hours, or make an appointment if it is likely to be a longer conversation. If we cannot speak in person, you may email me, but please be considerate of my time and do not expect an immediate response. I check email Monday through Thursday and will try to respond within 1-2 days, but during project deadlines, weekends, and holidays, it may take longer.

Course Schedule

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 a schedule of your major deadlines (subject to change) and important dates for this course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. 9/10</td>
<td>SC 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues. 9/29</td>
<td>LC 1: Personal Narrative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues. 10/13</td>
<td>SC 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. 10/15</td>
<td>NO CLASS: Mid-Semester Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. 10/29</td>
<td>LC 2: Profile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. 11/12</td>
<td>SC 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. 11/26</td>
<td>NO CLASS: Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues. 12/1</td>
<td>LC 3: Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues. 12/8</td>
<td>Final Exam Period: 10am-12pm, Letter of Reflection Due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>