

English 101- Section 48
Course Syllabus

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 8:00AM – 9:15AM in McCormack M01-0619

Instructor: Betsy Gomez

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Email: Betsabe.Gomez@umb.edu

Office hours: Tues 9:30-10, Thurs 9:30-10, & by appointment

Class Wiki page: <http://eng1101-gomez.wikispaces.umb.edu/>

Course Introduction

English 101 is a course in critical reading and writing that will help you develop an active and authoritative relationship to college texts and assignments. The course will emphasize your role as an active responder to what you read. You will be given the authority to question, challenge, and expand on not only published texts, but also your own writings and those of your classmates. I will help you consider where your responses come from and how they might be expanded, intensified, or challenged. I will not judge your responses in terms of “right” or “wrong,” but instead push you to achieve the utmost coherence and clarity so that you can effectively communicate your ideas to your readers. The work we do with each other’s papers will be analytical, supportive, and respectful—every one of us has something meaningful to say.

Over the course of the semester, you'll write three essays that grow out of short pre-draft exercises and notes; in-class exercises and workshops; and a process of drafting, revising, editing, and proofreading. The course will be part discussion and part workshop in which your own writing (and that of your peers) will sometimes function as the focal point.

Course Objectives

By participating in class discussion and writing workshops, you will learn to:

- find a productive focus while reading and writing
- craft an engaged response to the readings/topics
- develop a coherent and organized line of thought
- work carefully with source materials
- integrate well-chosen examples and quotations
- improve your writing mechanics and style

Formal instruction in grammar will not be a major part of this course, but we will address a few proofreading issues along the way, as needed.

Requirements:

Materials

- All texts and assignments are available on the course wiki. You must bring printed copies to class.
- A notebook, journal, or binder.

In this class, we are all writers – and every writer needs a notebook or journal. You will use yours for in-class writing, drafting, and homework assignments. I encourage you to keep your notebook handy at all times to jot down thoughts throughout the day. Please bring your notebook to every class.

Attendance

This course requires each of us to actively participate in class. You are expected to attend every class on time. In keeping with English Department policy, **you are allowed only four absences** (with no differentiation between excused and unexcused absences). If you are absent five or more times, you will be at risk of failing this course.

In other words, the **total number of times you are absent from class, regardless of the reason** directly affects your standing. This means that it is up to you to effectively manage your available absences. I strongly urge you to communicate to me as soon as possible regarding any issues that get in the way of your ability to complete the work or attend class.

Please make note of the following amendments to the Departmental policies:

1. You may be late **twice**. After that, if you are more than 15 minutes late for a class, it will count as an absence. If you have any assignments due on that day I will accept them for full credit when you arrive.
2. If you do miss class, you can access the assignment on the course wiki. It is your responsibility to keep up to date with the assignments and it is mine to make sure that you are able to do so.
3. Laptops can only be used in class for taking notes/drafting. Cell phones should be in your pocket/purse/backpack/etc. for the entirety of the class. If I see you texting (tweeting, Facebook stalking, Pokemon Go-ing, etc.) in class, I will give you an initial warning in the form of a request to put your mobile device away. If the issue continues, you will be counted absent for the day.

Email

I will use **only** your UMB email address to correspond with you. If you do not regularly check your UMB email, please make sure that you forward the mail from this account to an account you check on a day-to-day basis. Please find information about how to do this here: <https://support.office.com/en-US/article/Forward-email-to-another-email-account-1ED4EE1E-74F8-4F53-A174-86B748FF6A0E>

You can also visit the IT Service Desk located on the 3rd floor of the Healey Library if you're having issues.

Class Schedule*

Note: All course readings are available on the course Wiki. You **must** bring printed copies of readings to class.
 * (Schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor – any changes will be updated on course Wiki)

Grading

Whether letter-graded or number-graded, each assignment will prepare you for the next and **each contributes to your final grade**. Grading for the course is based on a cumulative point system, with each assignment contributing to the total grade. Points are awarded according to the following formula:

The pre-draft and post-draft assignments contribute 30 points, cumulatively, toward your final grade.

The points you earn will be based on the percentage of work completed and the points earned on each of the assignments. Each pre/post-draft is scored on a 0-3 point scale according to the following criteria:

- 0 – non-submission of assignment
- 1 – Surface level work that does not meet the expectations of the assignment in terms of product or engagement
- 2 – Engaged work that presents some technical issues
- 3 – Work that meets the expectations of the assignment

The draft assignments contribute 10 points, cumulatively, toward your final grade.

The points you earn will be based on the percentage of work completed and the points earned on each of the assignments. Each draft is scored on a 0-3 point scale according to the following criteria:

- 0 – non-submission of assignment
- 1 – Surface level work that does not meet the expectations of the assignment in terms of product or engagement.
- 2 – Engaged work that presents some technical issues
- 3 – Work that meets the expectations of the assignment

(Note: There are 3 drafts, which brings the total to 9 points. If all drafts are handed in on time the additional bonus point will be added to bring the total to 10.)

The three graded revisions are worth 60 points in total, with each essay worth a maximum 20 points toward your final grade.

Points are awarded to the essays according to the grade earned using the following scale:

	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
points:	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	8

Once the point value for each item has been determined, they are summed to arrive at the final score for the course. The final scores are converted to grades using the following scale.

points earned	>93	92-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-77	76-73	72-70	69-60	59<
final grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F

Late Paper Policy

All assignments must be handed in on time. This means that all work must be printed and ready to hand in by the time class begins. (Please note that handwritten assignments are not acceptable except for in-class writing assignments. If you will be absent on the day that an assignment is due, email it to me by the beginning of class and you will receive credit for it.)

Late essays will not be accepted, except in cases of documented emergencies. Even if you are not happy with what you have at the time the essay is due, turn it in anyway for a grade and my comments on it, and then revise it for a higher grade (see section on revision policy below). Trust me, you'll be less stressed that way! As with the smaller assignments, if you will be absent on the day that an essay is due, email the essay to me by the beginning of class and you will receive credit for it.

Non-submission of a paper (i.e. late) will count as 0 points and will make that paper ineligible for revision. It is the worst thing you can do to your grade, so always make sure you turn each essay in on time!

Revision Policy

You may revise all graded essays except for the final essay, **once only** after receiving a grade on it. I ask that you meet with me to go over how to proceed with your revisions before you begin revising. A revision of an essay is due two weeks from the day that you receive the paper with the grade and comments. Please make sure to attach the original graded essay to your revision when submitting it for review.

A grade you earn through revision will erase the previous grade you received on the paper. For example, if you earn a C on your essay, and then get a B+ for the revision, only the B+ will count toward your final grade calculation.

Participation

Class participation is critical for a successful and worthwhile academic experience. It is important that each one of you feel empowered to have your say in the conversations that take place in the class. It is your right as a student, as a thinker and as a member of the University community. This means that you are expected to come to class with all necessary materials, ready to contribute to class work and discussion. You are also expected to be respectful towards your peers when they express their opinions in class. Talking over others, having side conversations, or any sort of disrespect to your peers will not be tolerated.

I understand that participating in class discussions does not come easily for everyone. If you find that you have difficulty talking in class for any reason, please meet with me so that we may find ways to accommodate.

While I will not penalize any student for lack of participation, I reserve the right, at my discretion, to award an extra 1-2 points to the final semester score to students who consistently contribute to the discourse of the classroom over the course of the semester.

Course Requirements and Procedures

To assure fairness to all students, and to establish an effective environment in which to accomplish the academic goals of the class, the English Department has laid out some guidelines regarding academic conduct, presented in the contract provided on the first day of class. Please make sure that you fully understand the Department's policies as well as the contents of the Academic Honesty letter which follows it. I am happy to address any questions you might have.

Accommodations

If you have a disability and require accommodations, please visit or contact the Ross Center for Disability Services at UL-211 in the Campus Center or 617.287.7430.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as the attempt to use the ideas or writing of another as one's own, knowingly or unknowingly. If you need instruction on the proper citation of sources, please see me for assistance. Anyone who commits plagiarism risks failing this course. Please consult "Section XII. Academic Honesty Violations" of the "Student Code of Conduct" at http://www.umb.edu/life_on_campus/policies/community/code for more details.

Academic Support

The English Department offers free tutoring for all composition students. These tutors are graduate and advanced undergraduates, and they are available to help students with any aspect of their writing projects (even brainstorming ideas). To make an appointment, register at <https://umb.mywconline.com> and sign up for 30- or 60-minute sessions. You can also stop by The Writing Nook in Wheatley-6-0048, as walk-in appointments may be available.

Writing Proficiency Requirement

All students in the College of Liberal Arts, College of Science and Mathematics, College of Education and Human Development, College of Public and Community Service, School for the Environment, and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences must pass the Writing Proficiency Requirement by the time they earn 75 credits. You can choose to complete this requirement by doing one of the following:

- Submitting a portfolio that includes 15 pages of certified papers written at UMass Boston and a new 5-page essay answering a prompt.
- Completing a timed exam.

At least two of the papers written in class will be eligible for a portfolio submission. During the course of the semester, I will talk in more length about how to complete this graduation requirement.

...And Finally!

I'm here, first and foremost, to help *you*. I encourage you to visit me in my office or email me with any concerns you may have throughout the semester. Your ideas and questions are always welcome. I am on campus every day – if you cannot make it to office hours, we should be able to work out an alternate time to meet.