

ENG 101E, Composition Embedded – Spring 2019,

Instructor: Terence McNulty

Meeting Times: T/R, 9:30-10:45, Snow 504, with weekly online component

Email: tmcnulty@mxcc.edu -- don't expect a response after 8 p.m.!

Office: Snow 520

Office Hours: M 12:30-3:30, R 2-4

CRN: 1296

Credits: 3 credits.

Prerequisites: Placement scores/successful completion of English 096.

Course Description:

Students will develop written texts of varying lengths and styles for different audiences and purposes. They will respond to rhetorical situations, use sources, craft logical arguments, apply language conventions, and formulate effective writing strategies.

Required Texts:

Hacker, Diana. *A Writer's Reference*, 9th Edition

Miller, James. *Acting Out Culture*, 4th Edition.

You will be required to download and print some readings from Blackboard.

Participation/Attendance:

You are expected to attend every class session. **I do not reteach material if you are absent.**

- You will earn 28 participation grades over the course of the semester (one per class).
 - ✓ On days when you are present and participating, you will earn a good participation grade.
 - ✓ On days when you are absent, you will earn a "zero" for participation.
 - ✓ **Leaving class early or arriving late** will limit your participation to a max of a "70" for that day.
- **There are frequent quizzes at the start of class. You are allowed TWO make-up quizzes up which will receive a maximum grade of 75. After the second missed quiz (due to lateness or absence), all missed quizzes will be marked as zeros.**

Structure of Course

Our course is broken into **four units**, and **each unit will contain two papers and two online assignments**. For each unit, **we will follow the same formula**. Each unit will begin on a Tuesday.

- During the first week of each unit, you will have a discussion board due by that Sunday at 11:59 PM.
- During the second week of each unit, you will have a quiz due by that Sunday at 11:59 PM.
- During the third week of each unit, you will have your major paper due online by Thursday at 10:45 AM.

This consistent pattern should allow you to easily plan for what's due when.

Behavior

- All students are expected to exhibit behavior appropriate to a college classroom. This includes attentive listening and respectful discussion. Disrespectful behavior will lead to your removal from the classroom and may escalate to the Dean.
- Let's use mobile technology smartly in the classroom. Your phone/tablet can provide important information during a discussion, and can be very helpful during group work. **If you're using your phone to further your education, great. If you're Instagramming etc., it's your loss. This will of course negatively impact your participation grade.**

Grading:

You will be required to write **8 essays** for this course. The four primary essays will each be approximately 3-4 pages in length and each will be research based. You will also write four one page papers. The remainder of your grade will be figured through a final exam, quizzes, online work, and participation.

You are encouraged to rewrite any essay you would like to rewrite, but you must meet with me before revising.

Original drafts must accompany every revision. **A and B papers** are well above average in critical analysis, style, and mechanics. **C papers are average**, with grammar, organizational, or developmental problems that distract from the easy flow of the essay. **D or F papers** are those that do not meet the assignment, contain numerous errors, are not logically organized or lack substantial development. **Discussion boards and quizzes can't be revised.**

- Four Major Essays: 40%
- Four One-Page Papers: 25%
- Online Discussion Board and Quizzes: 15%
- Participation (including attendance and participation): 10%
- In-Class Quizzes: 10%
- Final: *Replaces lowest essay grade*

Papers are due online unless otherwise specified but should be submitted in class. **Late papers are downgraded five points for each DAY the paper is late (this includes weekends and holidays).** A paper not submitted on time will lose five points automatically. There are no fractional points.

Late papers will be graded, but will not receive feedback. This means that late papers cannot be functionally revised.

All papers (including late papers) are to be submitted online. All grades will be kept in “real time” on BlackBoard.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Number Range	Figured As
A	93-100	95
A-	90-92	92
B+	87-89	88
B	83-86	85
B-	80-82	82
C+	77-79	78
C	73-76	75
C-	70-72	72
D+	67-69	68
D	63-66	65
D-	60-62	62
F	Below 60	50

- This scale applies to letter grades earned.
- Number grades earned are entered as the exact number grade earned.

Discussion Board Expectations/Grading Scale

Discussion board postings are graded on a numerical scale from “100” to “zero.”

- Simply meeting the criteria for the assignment does not earn you an A (if you meet the basic criteria without excelling, that's average work, or a 75).

- If you meet the criteria for the assignment and do average work, you will earn a C (a 75).
- Grades between 80 and 100 are reserved for those students who are going above and beyond basic course expectations and who are thus engaging in above average work.
- **Although you are allowed to revise essays in this class, you are not allowed to revise discussion board posts.** I highly recommend that you write your posts in Microsoft Word (or equivalent word processing software) first, check your spelling and grammar, and then copy and paste your posts into the discussion boards. Your discussion board posts are graded on both content and grammar.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty:

The following is the college's statement on Plagiarism and Academic Honesty:

"At Middlesex Community College, we expect the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct is prohibited in accordance with the Board of Regents Policy on Student Conduct, Part D, Section 1. This policy prohibits **plagiarism**, defined as the submission of work by a student for academic credit as one's own work of authorship which contains work of another author without appropriate attribution, and all forms of **cheating** including but not limited to: (i) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests or examinations; (ii) use of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems or carrying out other assignments; (iii) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the University faculty or staff; and (iv) engaging in any other behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus."

You must use proper citation. Presenting another person's ideas or language as your own will result in an F for that paper without the right to revise it. Having others complete your work for you will result in an F on the affected assignments. Either infraction may also result in an F for the course and escalation to the office of the Dean.

Very often students plagiarize because of deadline stress or confusion regarding an assignment. It's my job to help you if you're confused. It's your job to ask for help and **to not plagiarize**.

Learning Objectives/Expected Outcomes:

General Objective:

Students will learn to write substantial essays for varied purposes

Specific Objectives:

- Learn to focus on exposition as the main technique in essay writing.
- Learn to focus on ideas of substance and merit.
- Learn to expand germinal ideas, developing depth and breadth.
- Learn the relative value of ideas through practice in subordination.
- Learn various ways of working with ideas by reading professional essays.
- Learn to place ideas in effective sequences.
- Learn to create smooth, informative connections between thoughts and paragraphs.
- Learn to use correct grammar, sentence structures, punctuation, and spelling.
- Learn to use correct forms of citations in research writing.
- Learn to compose a variety of essays—expository, personal, and research.
- Learn to employ various rhetorical formats within larger forms.

- Learn to vary sentence structures to create a pleasing flow.
- Learn to use appropriate vocabulary to insure clarity.
- Learn to improve essays through revision.
- Learn to identify what is an appropriate topic and scope of inquiry for research.
- Learn to use a variety of research methods competently.
- Learn to use the library and other information sources effectively.

Additional Syllabus Information

For information about the college's policies and procedures regarding academic honesty, accessibility/disability services, attendance, audio-recording in the classroom, grade appeals, plagiarism, religious accommodations, weather/emergency closings, and more, please go to the following website: www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/

OR scan the QR code below:



In Order to Succeed in This Course

Please keep in mind that this course is rigorous. It requires you to manage your time well, employ good study skills and keep ahead of assignments. It can also be extremely interesting and enjoyable as it encourages you to explore your thoughts and to learn how to express those thoughts with greater clarity and focus.

Remember – I'm willing to work as hard as you're willing to work. Want to revise your work? Good! I'll read it again. Want help narrowing an idea for a paper? Good! That's my job. Let's work together to help you realize your potential as a reader, writer and thinker.

Plan of Study, English 101E, McNulty

Please note I may change this schedule at any time to match the pace and needs of the class. On given weeks it may be expected that you listen to an audio file to supplement or clarify the work already assigned.

Unless otherwise noted, all readings are in your anthology, *Acting Out Culture*. **There will be quizzes every day.**

1/24: Getting situated, completing diagnostic essay.

Unit One: What Should the Purpose of Education Be?

Goal: To form an opinion on the American education system.

Skill: Argument and the “although” thesis.

1/29: “From Grading to De-Grading” (240).

1/31: “Preparing Minds for Markets” (283).

WEEK 1 ONLINE: Complete an introductory discussion board (with replies) no later than Sunday, 2/3 at 11:59 PM.

2/5: “Welcome to the Real World” (317). **ONE PAGE PAPER ONE DUE IN ONLINE DROPBOX BY END OF CLASS.**

2/7: “Learning in the Shadow of Race and Class” (274).

WEEK 2 ONLINE: Complete your first online quiz no later than Sunday, 2/10 at 11:59 PM.

2/12: “In Praise of Consumerism ...” (BlackBoard)

2/14: Workshop. **MAJOR PAPER ONE DUE.**

WEEK 3 ONLINE: Submit your first major paper no later than 2/14, 10:45 AM.

Unit Two: Is Privacy Still Possible?

Goal: To form an opinion on the relationship between humanity and emerging technologies.

Skill: The “because” and “although/because” thesis.

2/19: “The Public Square” (440).

2/21: “How Companies Learn Your Secrets” (456).

WEEK 4 ONLINE: Submit your second discussion board no later than Sunday, 2/24.

2/26: “Is Privacy Possible in the Digital Age?” (BlackBoard) **ONE PAGE PAPER TWO DUE IN ONLINE DROPBOX BY END OF CLASS.**

2/28: “The Things We Eat Alone” (171).

WEEK 5 ONLINE: Complete your second online quiz no later than Sunday, 3/3 at 11:59 PM.

3/5: “Won’t Your Be My Neighbor (478).

3/7: Workshop. **MAJOR PAPER TWO DUE.**

WEEK 6 ONLINE: Submit your second major paper no later than 3/7, 10:45 AM.

3/12: **NO CLASS, SPRING BREAK**

3/14: **NO CLASS, SPRING BREAK**

Unit Three: Biohacking and Transhumanism: Should People Hack Their Biologies?
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Goal: To form an opinion about how a specific advertiser structures their written and visual texts.

Skill: The “in order to” thesis statement and the ability to move between thesis structures.

3/19: “Encyclopedic Knowledge” (307).

3/21: “BBC NEWS: A Brief History of Hacking (Online).

WEEK 7 ONLINE: Submit your third discussion board no later than Sunday, 3/24.

3/26: “Cyborg America: Inside ...” (Online).

3/28: “Cuddling Up to Cyborg Babies” (Online). **ONE PAGE PAPER NUMBER 3 DUE IN ONLINE DROPBOX.**

WEEK 8 ONLINE: Complete your third online quiz no later than Sunday, 3/31 at 11:59 PM.

4/2: “Transhumanism: The Danger of Creating Humanity 2.0” (Online)

4/4: “Can’t Quit the Clicks” (417).

WEEK 9 ONLINE: Submit your third major paper no later than 4/4, 10:45 AM.

4/9: Conferences.

Unit Four: Primary Philosophy: Ethics, Environmentalism, or Metaphysics?

Goal: To think about what it means, most fundamentally, to be human.

Skill: Mastery of all thesis structures.

4/11: Ethics as Primary Philosophy: “The Madman” (handout) Levinas Interview (handout).

WEEK 10 ONLINE: Submit your fourth discussion board no later than Sunday, 4/14.

4/16: Ethics as Primary Philosophy: “Letter from Birmingham Jail” (BlackBoard)

4/18: Existentialism as Primary Philosophy: “No Exit” (BB, pages 1-23).

WEEK 11 ONLINE: Complete your fourth online quiz no later than Sunday, 4/21 at 11:59 PM.

4/23: Existentialism as Primary Philosophy: “No Exit” (BB, pages 1-23) **ONE PAGE PAPER NUMBER FOUR DUE IN ONLINE DROPBOX.**

4/25: Existentialism as Primary Philosophy: Baudrillard TBA (BB).

WEEK 12 ONLINE: Deadline extended to Tuesday, 5/7

THE LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM CLASSES IS MONDAY, 4/29

4/30: Metaphysics as Primary Philosophy: “Meditations on First Philosophy” by Rene Descartes (BlackBoard).

5/2: Metaphysics as Primary Philosophy: “The Myth of the Cave” (BlackBoard). Plato warm up, starring Confucius.

5/7: **MAJOR PAPER FOUR DUE (IN WEEK 12 ONLINE FOLDER). ALL REVISIONS DUE.**

5/9: **READING DAY – NO CLASSES**

5/14: **FINAL EXAM PERIOD, 9:30-12**