**English 1101: English Composition I Fall 2012**

CRN 81062, Section 16: Arts & Sciences 351B, MWF 9-9:50

Instructor: Chelsea Henshey

Email: chelsea.henshey@gcsu.edu

Phone: 478-445-2013

Office: Arts & Sciences 153

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2-4 p.m. and by appointment at Blackbird Coffee.

**Required Texts:**

Rosa, Alfred F., and Paul A. Eschholz. *Models for Writers*. 11th ed. New York: Bedford/St. Martins, 2012. Print. (ISBN# 978-0-312-55201-5)

Sommers, Nancy. *A Pocket Style Manual*. Ed. Diane Hacker. 6th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2012. Print. (ISBN# 978-0-312-54254-2)

Handouts (provided by instructor)

**Required Materials:** A hard copy of the text to be discussed in class and a standard-size notebook.

**Course Description:** The undergraduate course catalog describesEnglish 1101 as “a composition course focusing on skills required for effective writing in a variety of contexts, with emphasis on the personal essay and also including introductory use of a variety of research skills.” This section of English 1101 will emphasize the writing process through reading and informal writings as well as drafting and revising formal papers.

**Course Objectives:**

* To acquire an ability to write organized, clear, correct, and purposeful prose
* To understand the principles and strategies of argumentation and analysis
* To acquire sensitivity to written and oral language as a means of understanding how we relate as individuals to the larger community
* To grasp the essential nature of research and how to synthesize research in writing so that the insights and documentation are logical and clear
* To understand through the use of textual models how writing and reading are means for connecting the writer to contemporary culture and its diverse problems and conditions

**Assignments:**

Participation: 5%

Short Writing Assignments (1-2 pages): 10%

Personal Narrative (3-4 pages): 15%

Persuasive Essay (5-6 pages): 20%

Research Paper (8-10 pages): 25%

Film Analysis/Group Presentation (5-6 pages): 25%

Detailed assignment sheets will be provided throughout the semester for each writing assignment.

**Attendance:** Class attendance is mandatory. You are allowed three unexcused absences throughout the semester. Beginning with your fourth absence, I will deduct 10% from your final grade for each additional absence. Missing seven classes will result in an automatic failure of the course. Please use your absences wisely. If you are absent, email me as soon as possible if you are unsure about what you missed or should be working on.

* **Tardiness**: Tardiness is disruptive and will not be tolerated. If you are more than 10 minutes late for class, you will be counted absent for the day. Every three times a student is late (10 minutes or less), will count as one absence.

**Participation:** Students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to participate in class discussions. Participation includes completion of reading responses and in-class writing activities.

**Conduct in Class:** Cell phones and laptops are distracting to you, to me, and to the rest of the class. You do not need a laptop or a cell phone to participate in classroom activities, so please don’t have them out. If I notice that you are using electronics in class, I will count you absent. Please come to class prepared to discuss the readings. If I find that you are not prepared for class, it will affect your participation grade.

**Reading Responses:** For each reading assignment, student should come to class with two questions or comments to be used during class discussions. **Reading responses must be written in your notebooks and include the author’s name, title of the text, and the date assigned at the top of each response in order to receive credit.**

* **Responses are not required to be positive and there is no set answer when analyzing literature. Honest, individual opinions, whether positive or negative, should make up these responses.** **I will not grade these based upon your opinion.**
* **Responses will be checked frequently throughout the semester.**

**Notebooks:** All in-class writing and reading responses are to be competed in your notebook. **These assignments must be written in pen.** Pencil will smudge and I will not be able to read your work. If I cannot read it, you will not receive credit.

**Formal Writing Assignments:**

* Double-spaced
* 12-point, Times New Roman font
* One-inch margins
* Adhere to MLA style
* Exclude extra spaces between paragraphs

The last requirement is hampered by Microsoft Word’s default space between paragraphs but can be remedied by changing your paragraph settings. If you are unfamiliar with Microsoft Word’s paragraph settings, please see me. If a paper fails to meet any of the above requirements, half a letter grade will be deducted.

**In order to meet the length requirement, essays must extend at least halfway down the minimum page assigned.** For example, if you are writing a four-page essay, it must extend half the length of the fourth page to receive credit. Papers that do not meet the length requirement will be penalized by half a letter grade per page (If three pages are turned in for a four-page minimum assignment, half a letter grade will be deducted; if two pages are turned in for a four-page assignment, a letter grade will be deducted).

**Drafts:** Complete rough drafts are mandatory for peer review and revisions. For each day your draft is late, half a letter grade will be deducted from your final paper grade.

**Late Work:** All papers are due at the beginning of class. If you are absent the day a paper is due, the paper is due regardless. It is your responsibility to turn your paper in on time. **Except in rare cases of emergency, essays will not be accepted outside of class (via e-mail or otherwise). If you cannot attend class the day a paper is due, turn your work in during the next class period and take the deduction. For each day a paper is late, 10% will be deducted from the final paper grade.**

**Peer Review:** For each formal paper, students must participate in peer review. One class period before specified review days, students must bring hard copies of their drafted essays (one for your peer review partner) to exchange. Using the handout I will provide, students must read each group member’s essay and complete the handout **prior to review days.** **Completed handouts must be attached to group member’s essays. I will check to see if handouts are completed. Please note: Peer review days are for your benefit. By identifying areas to revise in others’ work, your own writing will improve.**

**\*\*If you are absent the class period before peer review day, collecting group members’ essays is your responsibility. If you are absent on peer review day, it is your responsibility to return the reviewed drafts to your group members and collect your drafts from them\*\***

**\*\*I will monitor your peer review groups so come to class prepared. If you fail to prepare, you will be counted absent\*\***

**Revision:** Each student must revise two of the first three essays. Revisions are due one week after papers are handed back. These must reflect serious effort (a comprehensive rethinking or reorganization of the essay, not quick fixes or grammar adjustments). Revisions must include a one-page explanation and defense of the changes you made, the graded copy of your essay, and the revised version of your essay. Once received, the revised paper can add up to 10 points to your paper grade. **Please note: Revision does not guarantee a grade improvement.**

**Technology:** We will be using [GeorgiaVIEW](http://gcsu.view.usg.edu/) and [TurnItIn](http://www.turnitin.com) for assignments. Check your university email for course-related messages. Use an [online backup or cloud storage](https://secure.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/wiki/Comparison_of_online_backup_services) service to save your work.

**University Policies**

**Academic Dishonesty:** The integrity of students and their written and oral work is a critical component of the academic process. All written work submitted in this course will be individual work unless otherwise instructed. The submission of another's work as one's own is plagiarism and will be dealt with using the procedures outlined on p. 64-67 in the Undergraduate Catalog. Remember that allowing another student to copy one’s own work is considered cheating. Also see the student Honor Code at the website below: <http://www.gcsu.edu/studentlife/handbook/code.htm>. As plagiarism is not tolerated at GCSU, any student found guilty of willful plagiarism will automatically **fail the course**. This course uses plagiarism prevention technology, [TurnItIn.com](http://www.turnitin.com). The papers may be retained by the service for the sole purpose of checking for plagiarized content in future student submissions.

**Attendance Policy:** Although it is recognized that absences will sometimes be necessary, students are expected to attend classes regularly. It is the responsibility of students to be cognizant of their own record of absences and to consult the instructor regarding work missed. The decision to permit students to make up work rests with the instructor. At any time during the semester an instructor has the right to assign a grade of F for excessive absences when a student exceeds the number of allowable absences specified in the instructor’s attendance policy distributed to the student in the instructor’s course syllabus. If a student is representing the University in an official capacity, as verified on a list released from the Office of the Provost, the instructor will not penalize the student for those absences. However, students should consult their instructor before anticipated absences. Students who wish to have their instructors notified of a medical or family emergency necessitating their absence from classes, or who wish to provide documentation in support of a request for excused absences, make-up work, or grades of "W" or "I" due to an emergency, may contact the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. The Student Affairs staff will inform students about procedures, assist with communication to instructors, receive and file documentation, and advise students regarding their own self-advocacy; however, the final determination of excused absences, make-up classwork, and grading is determined by the instructor.—University Senate, 2010

**Religious Observance Policy**: Students are permitted to miss class in observance of religious holidays and other activities observed by a religious group of which the student is a member without academic penalty. Exercise of one’s rights under this policy is subject to the GC Honor Code. Students who miss class in observance of a religious holiday or event are required to make up the coursework missed as a result of the absence. The nature of the make-up assignments are at the sole discretion of the instructor. Failure to follow the prescribed procedures voids all student rights under this policy. The full policy and prescribed procedures are found at: <http://info.gcsu.edu/intranet/acad_affairs/ReligiousObservancePolicy.doc>

**Assistance for Student Needs Related to Disability:** If you have a disability as described by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, you may be eligible to receive accommodations to assist in programmatic and physical accessibility. Disability Services, a unit of the GCSU Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity, can assist you in formulating a reasonable accommodation plan and in providing support in developing appropriate accommodations to ensure equal access to all GCSU programs and facilities. Course requirements will not be waived, but accommodations may assist you in meeting the requirements. For documentation requirements and for additional information, we recommend that you contact Disability Services located in Maxwell Student Union at 478-445-5931 or 478-445-4233.

**Fire Drill:** Fire drills will be conducted annually. In the event of a fire alarm, students will exit the building in a quick and orderly manner through the nearest hallway exit. Learn the floor plan and exits of the building. Do not use elevators. If you encounter heavy smoke, crawl on the floor so as to gain fresh air. Assist disabled persons and others if possible without endangering your own life. Assemble for a head count on the front lawn of main campus or other designated assembly area. For more information on other emergencies, please visit <http://www.gcsu.edu/emergency/actionplanmain.htm>.

**Writing Center:** The GCSU Writing Center is located in Lanier 209 and open Monday through Friday. While no extra credit will be offered, students are encouraged to visit regularly. For more information, call (478)-445-3370 or visit online at: <http://www.gcsu.edu/acad_affairs/coll_artsci/eng/writing/>

**Student Opinion Surveys:** Given the technological sophistication of Georgia College students, the student opinion survey is being delivered through an online process. Your constructive feedback plays an indispensable role in shaping quality education at Georgia College. All responses are completely confidential and your name is not stored with your responses in any way. In addition, instructors will not see any results of the opinion survey until after final grades are submitted to the University. An invitation to complete the online opinion survey is distributed to students near the end of the semester. Your participation in this very important process is greatly appreciated.

**Fall 2012 Course Schedule**

\*Schedule is subject to change\*

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| Monday, August 13 | Introductions, Syllabus  HW: Gather course materials. E-mail me a half-page response discussing the strengths/weaknesses in your writing. |
| Wednesday, August 15 | Discuss reading critically and basic literary devices  HW: Read handout “Bulldozing the Baby” |
| Friday, August 17 | Discuss “Bulldozing the Baby”  HW: Read p. 372-75,“Childhood” by Alice Walker p. 222, “Shame” by Dick Gregory p. 288 |
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| Monday, August 20 | Personal narrative and choosing topics.  HW: Read handout “Thinking With a Damaged Brain” by Floyd Skloot and “Story of an Hour” by Kate Chopin |
| Wednesday, August 22 | Organizing the personal narrative. Short-write #1  HW: Read “Me Talk Pretty One Day” and “White Lies” |
| Friday, August 24 | Enhancing the personal narrative through literary devices.  HW: Read handout “Looking for Work.” Prepare drafts to exchange for peer review. Notebooks due Monday. |
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| Monday, August 27 | Notebooks due. Exchange drafts with peer review groups. Discuss peer review sheets and expectations.  HW: Prepare for peer review |
| Wednesday, August 29 | Peer review day. Discuss revision and conferencing |
| Friday, August 31 | Conferences |
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| Monday, September 3 | Labor Day |
| Wednesday, September 5 | Conferences |
| Friday, September 7 | Conferences  HW: Read p. 539-46 and handout “Consider the Lobster” by David Foster Wallace |
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| Monday, September 10 | Personal narrative due. The persuasive essay.  HW: Read p. 81-83, “Be Specific” p. 90-92 and “Anxiety: Challenge by Another Name” p. 94-97 |
| Wednesday, September 12 | Thesis discussion  HW: Read “The Company Man,” by Ellen Goodman, “What Pro Sports Owners Owe Us” p. 560-562, “In Praise of the F Word,” p. 564-566 |
| Friday, September 14 | Appeals to logic/logical fallacies  HW: Read handout “Moving Heaven and Earth” and “Family Guy and Freud” |
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| Monday, September 17 | In-class activity  HW: Read handouts “Fat Is a Feminist Issue” and “Having It His Way” |
| Wednesday, September 19 | Evidence and the Counterargument. Incorporating sources.  HW: Work on drafts |
| Friday, September 21 | TBD |
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| Monday, September 24 | Exchange drafts for peer review. Short Write #2.  HW: Notebooks due Wednesday |
| Wednesday, September 26 | Peer review  HW: Read p. 642-653 |
| Friday, September 28 | Persuasive Paper due. Research paper, choosing topics and outlining  HW: Read p. 653-677, TBD |
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| Monday, October 1 | Outline a working research paper as a class.  HW: Write research paper thesis. |
| Wednesday, October 3 | Library day. Citation activity.  HW: Map out/outline research paper. |
| Friday, October 5 | Work on research paper in class |
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| Monday, October 8 | Fall Break |
| Wednesday, October 10 | Work on research paper in class  HW: E-mail drafts to group members for peer review |
| Friday, October 12 | Peer review day |
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| Monday, October 15 | Conferences |
| Wednesday, October 17 | Conferences |
| Friday, October 19 | Conferences  Read handout “Creating the Myth” by Linda Seger |
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| Monday, October 22 | Research paper due. “Creating the Myth” activity |
| Wednesday, October 24 | Watch an episode of Mad Men  HW: Read handout “Mad Men and the Paradox of the Past” |
| Friday, October 26 | Discuss film analysis (political commentary)  HW: Read handout “Class and Virtue” by Michael Parenti |
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| Monday, October 29 | Discuss film analysis (social commentary) with film clips  HW: Read handout “The Postmorbid Condition” by Vivian C. Sobchack |
| Wednesday, October 31 | Discuss film analysis with film clips  HW: Read handout “The Gospel According to Spiderman” |
| Friday, November 2 | Discuss film analysis (religious commentary) |
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| Monday, November 5 | Movie TBD |
| Wednesday, November 7 | Movie TBD |
| Friday, November 9 | Outline film analysis as a class  HW: Think of two films you would want to write about and email them to me |
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| Monday, November 12 | Break into groups, choose films, discuss ideas for papers  HW: Determine individual paper topics and e-mail them to me |
| Wednesday, November 14 | Bring laptops. Work on papers in class.  HW: E-mail papers for peer review. Notebooks due Friday. |
| Friday, November 16 | Notebooks due. Peer review day. |
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| Monday, November 19 | Group work on presentations |
| Wednesday, November 21 | Thanksgiving Break |
| Friday, November 23 | Thanksgiving Break |
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| Monday, November 26 | Presentations (outlines due) |
| Wednesday, November 28 | Presentations (outlines due) |
| Friday, November 30 | Presentations (outlines due) |
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| Monday, December 3 | Film analysis due |
| Wednesday, December 5 |  |
| Friday, December 7 |  |

**\*\*Important Dates\*\***

**Monday, 8/27: Notebooks and Personal Narrative draft due.**

**Monday, 9/10: Personal Narrative due.**

**Monday, 9/24: Persuasive Essay draft due.**

**Wednesday, 9/26: Notebooks due.**

**Friday, 9/28: Persuasive Essay due.**

**Wednesday, 10/10: Research Paper draft due (e-mailed).**

**Friday, 10/12: Notebooks due.**

**Monday, 10/22: Research Paper due.**

**Wednesday, 11/14: Film Analysis Paper due (e-mailed). Notebooks due.**

**Monday, 11/26, through Friday, 11/30: Presentations with outlines.**

**Monday, 12/3: Film Analysis due.**