

ENC 1101: Writing and Rhetoric I
Fall 2014 (Section U71)

Instructor: Cayce Wicks

Class Hours: MWF 2:00-2:50 in GC 276

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 3:15-4:15 (or by appointment) in GL 150

Email: cwick003@fiu.edu (Email is the best way to reach me, and I'll usually reply within 24 hours.)

Introduction

Welcome to ENC 1101: Writing and Rhetoric I, the first of FIU's two-part writing sequence. Since much of your work here at FIU and beyond will likely involve writing and communication, it's logical that one of your first classes here should be a writing class. Learning to write well, much like learning to speak another language, happens gradually and requires lots and lots of practice. Also, just as we speak differently with different people in different situations, we often write differently depending on what is asked of us. These are all rhetorical decisions. In ENC 1101, you'll slow down and really think critically about what you write, how you write, and to whom you're writing. You'll look at lots of other writers too, and through this process of analysis, practice, and reflection, you'll learn more about rhetoric—the art of effective communication.

By the end of ENC 1101, you should be able to do the following:

- Respond in writing to various rhetorical purposes and address the needs of various audiences;
- Develop your ideas through a recursive process of writing, revision, and editing;
- Display appropriate format, structure and stylistic choices to meet audience needs and to satisfy your rhetorical purpose;
- Develop an effective thesis and support it with reasons and evidence;
- Interact with complex texts, explore alternative perspectives, and articulate and support your own perspective in response;
- Incorporate sourced materials into your own work through effective use of quotation, summary, paraphrase and citation using MLA or other appropriate style manual;
- Exhibit appropriate syntax, punctuation, and spelling;
- Develop a rhetorical vocabulary for understanding and talking about writing.

Course Materials

Required Texts:

- Ramage, John, John Bean and June Johnson. *The Allyn and Bacon Guide to Writing*. New York: Pearson, 2013. Customized for Florida International University. ISBN: 9781269453141.
- Lunsford, Andrea. *The Everyday Writer*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2013. Customized for Florida International University. ISBN: 9781457673221.

Required Online Components:

- **Blackboard** - We will be using Blackboard for online discussions and the sharing of various course information such as assignment sheets and weekly schedules. Complete login instructions are available at ecampus.fiu.edu. For help, visit http://ecampus.fiu.edu/student_help.php.

- **Turnitin.com** - Turnitin.com will be used through Blackboard to submit both major essays and smaller homework assignments. Through Turnitin.com, you can view and print my comments and grades on your work. Turnitin.com also monitors submitted assignments for plagiarism.
- **Email:** It is your responsibility to check your FIU email at least once between every class session.

Other Materials:

- Access to a printer, paper, and writing utensil
- A two-pocket folder for submitting your final revision portfolio (optional).

Other Resources:

- **FIU's Center for Excellence in Writing** (writingcenter.fiu.edu) - The CEW provides students with free, one-on-one feedback sessions for any writing assignment.
- **Google Drive** (drive.google.com) - Google Drive (formerly Google Docs) provides free online document storage and word processing.
- **FIU Department of English Website** (writing.fiu.edu) - Our department website has a variety of resources to help you become familiar with your rights and responsibilities as an FIU student.
- **FIU Disability Resource Center** (drc.fiu.edu) - If you require help on an exam or a copy of the class notes due to a disability, you need to register with the Disability Resource Center.

Policies

Participation: Your written and spoken contributions to this class are essential, both for your own improvement as a writer and critical thinker and for the class as a whole. Much of our time in class will consist of large- and small-group discussions as well as in-class writing assignments, and while each class session will have specific goals or outcomes, it's really up to you to determine the mood of the class. By offering your own insights, opinions, and questions, you'll make the class discussion more fun and interesting for everyone. In order to make good contributions, however, you'll need to come to class prepared. This means completing reading and writing assignments prior to class so that you can participate fully in the discussion. I will occasionally give unannounced quizzes and writing assignments to gauge your preparedness.

In order to encourage engagement in class discussions, the use of electronic devices such as phones, laptops, tablets, or anything beginning with i is prohibited unless otherwise noted.

Showing up to class on time and attending regularly will earn you a 75% participation grade. Anything above that will require more effort on your part. **You can improve your participation grade by:** contributing regularly to class discussion with informed opinions and questions, participating actively during group work, staying alert and engaged throughout class. **You can damage your participation grade by:** showing up late to class, missing class frequently, talking while others are talking, using your laptop, tablet or phone for non-class-related tasks, sleeping. **Attendance:** The work we do in class will be directly connected to homework and major writing assignments. As such, attendance—including arriving on time—is crucial, and will be a significant part of your participation grade. If you arrive more than five minutes past the starting time of class, you will be considered late. Per English Department policy, you must attend 80% of face-to-face meetings in order to pass this class.

Office Hours: As stated above, I hold office hours on Mondays and Wednesdays or by appointment. Office hours are your time to get personalized feedback on any of the work we do in class. Skype conferences are also an option if you can't make it to office hours.

Grading: To pass ENC 1101, you must receive a final grade of C or higher, and you must submit a satisfactory draft of all of the major essay assignments. Your final grade consists of the following components:

- **Unit 1: Visual Rhetorical Analysis** (15%)
- **Unit 2: Textual Rhetorical Analysis** (20%)
- **Unit 3: Analyzing and Synthesizing Ideas** (25%)
- **Unit 4: Timed Writing** (10%)
- **Homework/Online/In-class Work** (15%)
- **Participation/Attendance** (15%)

Grading Scale:

93-100	A	73-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	0-59	F

You must submit a satisfactory draft of all three major essays in order to pass this course.

Revisions: At the end of the semester, I will allow you to revise the first two essays of the course. If the revision shows significant improvement, you will receive a higher grade, which will replace the original grade. In order to submit a revision, you must first submit a draft and receive a grade and comments. Deductions for lateness carry over to revised grades.

Late Work: No late homework assignments will be accepted without permission from the instructor prior to the assignment deadline. Late final drafts lose five points per day late. Please double check when you submit an assignment online, whether through Blackboard or turnitin.com. Technology issues are not a valid excuse for late work. If you experience a technology error when submitting to Blackboard or turnitin.com, email the assignment to me as an attachment by the due date and time to ensure you receive full credit. Plan ahead to avoid late work due to computer crashes and other catastrophic events. Turnitin.com should provide you with an email confirmation for successfully submitted assignments.

Formatting: All work, unless otherwise noted, should be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font with black type. Pages must be numbered and should have standard one-inch margins on all sides. Major essays should adhere to MLA format, which we will discuss in greater detail.

Conferences: Scheduled conferences with the instructor are mandatory. Students are expected to bring TWO hard-copy drafts to the conference. Conferences allow you to work through and reflect on your writing as a process and enable me to help you with areas in which you may be struggling.

Plagiarism: Since the goal of this course is to gain experience writing and thinking critically, plagiarizing someone else's writing, ideas, or work (presenting it as your own) defeats our purpose. While we will discuss plagiarism in

class, it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with FIU's strict disciplinary policies regarding plagiarism, which are available at policies.fiu.edu.

It is your responsibility to monitor your grades via Blackboard. I do not give progress reports. If you are curious about your standing in this class, please speak with me. Addressing your questions and concerns is part of my job. In the unlikely event that we can't resolve an issue, you can contact Kimberly Harrison, director of writing programs, or Mike Creeden, Associate Director.