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WRIT 101.01: College Writing I

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WRIT 101: College Composition I

Instructor Information
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Course Description
WRIT 101 is designed to challenge you to learn the skills you'll need to excel as a scholar at the University of Montana. Throughout the semester you will learn to engage rhetorical habits of mind in order to write confident, graceful, academic essays that explore topics vital to your life.

My goal is for students to be able to write clear, effective, and meaningful essays within a variety of genres. In order to achieve this goal, together we will explore:

- **Ourselves** — How can language help us to know ourselves better and to express our unique self?
- **Our Communities** — Where and with whom are we in community, and how can language bring us into real connection and presence with our communities?
- **Our Contributions** — How do we want to contribute to the people and places that matter to us?

Our aim will be to build bridges between two very important reasons for writing: to foster our intellectual and personal growth; and to carry that consciousness into the world we share with others in a meaningful way. Together, I hope that we will expand our understanding of the possibilities that language, writing, and education offer within and beyond the classroom.

WRIT 101 is designed for you to experience writing as both a learning process and a practice capable of accomplishing multiple outcomes in diverse contexts. With this goal in mind, you will participate in writing for different audiences and purposes, and in several genres—personal narrative, persuasive, and analytical. This exposure should equip you with the knowledge and tools to write in the many other contexts that you will likely encounter in the future. Assignments will involve self-reflection designed to help you develop writing strategies that meet your individual needs and goals. I'll also help you develop flexible reading, writing, and research processes to help you develop as a college writer. Much of your work will involve different kinds of collaboration, including small group workshops, individual writing conferences, and presentations.

Because writing development is an important process that takes place over time and across different writing situations, all WRIT 101 classes use portfolio evaluation as the primary means to assess your work in class. This means that over the course of the semester you will receive copious amounts of feedback, suggestions for revision, and encouragement to take risks in your writing, but you will not receive any letter grades until you submit your final portfolio at the end of the class. The reasoning behind this pedagogy is that portfolio evaluation shifts the focus of your writing from product to process based. To do this you will be asked to reflect and revise your work over the entire semester. You will be invited to think about writing in deep, meaningful ways without getting distracted by traditional letter grades. I understand that this methodology is challenging at first because it asks you
to break habitual and fossilized patterns of submitting work and receiving a grade. However, it is important to note that as you develop as a writer, the habits of mind you will learn in WRIT 101 will enable you to transfer your writing processes into other situations such as classes in your major, job materials, etc. and in order for transfer to occur it is critical that you honor process over product.

Course Texts

* A Guide to College Writing I
  * Triple Divide
  * Course website/Moodle

Important Note about Required Course Texts: Due to the interactive nature of WRIT 101 the required textbooks are designed as workbooks. This means you will be expected to use these texts dynamically—you will need to sign forms, complete checklists, reflect on revisions and conferences, perform invention work, complete journal entries, etc. By the end of the semester your workbook will be well loved with many pages missing as they become part of your final portfolio. For this reason, you must purchase a new copy of the texts from the UM bookstore. Since a used copy will be missing critically important material the bookstore will NOT be selling any used copies. Please refrain from selling used copies to your peers who are taking the course in a different semester, as you will not be helping them by selling them an incomplete book that they cannot use.

Other Requirements

- notebook for in-class writing
- binder/folder for final portfolio

Major Assignments/Portfolio

Expect to write and revise three different projects/major assignments and one reflective theory of writing (does not get revised) over the course of this class, in addition to other informal writing in and out of class. I will give you a detailed assignment sheet as we begin each of these major assignments.

The four major assignments listed below make up the contents of your portfolio; in addition, reflective writing assignment from Major Assignment #1: Writing Genre #2, the short assignments/writing genres connected to Major Assignments 2 & 3, and the revision checklists from the “Guide to College Writing” textbook are also part of your portfolio.

- Major Assignment #1: Funds of Knowledge Narrative: Emboldening Character and Curating Your Heritage
- Major Assignment #2: Inquiry-Based Research Essay
- Major Assignment #3: Cultural Analysis: Understanding the “Other” and Searching for Common Ground
- Major Assignment #4: A Writer’s Recipe (aka Your Theory of Writing)

Your major assignments will give you the opportunity to compose in a range of genres for a range of academic and civic situations. You’ll have opportunities to use observations and experience as evidence, as well as learn strategies for composing effective arguments and conducting academic research.
You will have the chance to develop all of your major projects through a process of inquiry and drafting. You'll compose papers in and out of class, alone and with your small group. For some of your writings, I'll ask you to bring enough draft copies to share with your group or ask you to email your papers to group members for an online workshop. All major assignments must be completed for you to pass the course. I will respond to these projects with written comments focused on suggestions for revision, but I will also mark them using a check system to help you know where you stand on a specific project.

**Common Policies and Procedures**

**General Class Expectations**

- All reading assignments will be completed by the assigned date.
- All writing assignments must be turned in on time.
- Attend class.
- Actively, vocally, and appropriately participate in class discussions.
- Any individual assignments (including requests for conferences) will be completed by the assigned date.

**Grading**

I encourage you to talk with me at any time to better understand my comments or to discuss your overall progress and success in the class.

- Participation 35% (Attendance, being on time for class, in-class participation, contributions to peer workshop and small group work, freewriting assignments, 10 journal entries, presentations, timely submission of ALL pre and post-conference worksheets, library research journal from the textbook, etc.)
- Final Portfolio 65% (Major Writing Assignments 1-4, Major Assignment #1: Writing Genre #2 & #3, the short assignments/writing genres connected to Major Assignments #2 & #3, and the revision checklists from the “Guide to College Writing” textbook are all part of your portfolio.

**You must earn a C- in this class to be awarded credit**

**You must turn in your portfolio and complete all major assignments by their deadlines in order to receive credit for this course.**

**Short & Informal Writing Assignments**

You will receive comments from me, but no grade on informal writing submissions. Short assignments play an important part in your overall participation grade. Short assignments include journals, freewriting, etc.

**Major Writing Assignments**

To give you a sense of the check system I'll be using, please refer to the following descriptors.

- **Check:** A project with a check generally meets its rhetorical goals in terms of purpose, genre, and writing situation without need for extensive revision. Written comments will elaborate on strengths, weaknesses, and strategies for focused revision.
Check minus: A project with a check minus meets the basic requirements, but would benefit from significant revision and a stronger understanding of rhetorical decision-making. Written comments will elaborate on strengths, weaknesses, and strategies for revision.

Unsatisfactory: A project with a U does not meet basic standards, and requires extensive development and attention. An unsatisfactory submission may be incomplete or inappropriate to the assignment. Such a submission may receive a request to rewrite within a week in order to receive teacher comments.

Grading Policy
Students enrolled in WRIT 101 are graded by the traditional letter grade A, B, C, D, F or are given NC for no credit. The NC grade does not affect grade point average. It is reserved for students who have worked unusually hard, attended class regularly and completed all assignments but whose skills are not at a passing level at the end of the semester. Letter grades will be awarded at the end of the semester.

Attendance
If you miss the first two classes, you will need to drop the course on Cyberbear and enroll in another semester. This is university policy and the reasoning behind it is that important groundwork for the semester is put in place in the first few class meetings. Students without that foundational framework are better served by taking the course when they can give it the attention it deserves.

More than two absences will compromise your grade. Six or more absences from a Monday-Wednesday-Friday class will result in a failing grade. Here’s the breakdown:

- 4th absence: final grade drops one letter grade (A drops to B)
- 5th absence: final grade drops two letter grades (A drops to C)
- 6th absence: final grade is an F

Here’s the reasoning behind the attendance policy. Without attending class, you cannot perform your role as a student involved in learning, planning, inventing, drafting; discussing reading and writing; learning and practicing rhetorical moves and concepts; or collaborating with your instructor and classmates. Personal situations and required university events may arise that, on a rare occasion, make it impossible for you to be in class. Remember, however, that’s why a few absences are allowed; please reserve those for emergencies.

I reserve the right to adjust the policy in cases of significant, documented illness or emergency. Please note that instances of poor time management on your part do not constitute extenuating circumstances. If you must miss class, you are responsible for obtaining any handouts or assignments for the class from a classmate. Make sure you talk with me in advance if you are worried about meeting a deadline or missing a class.

Participation
Participation includes coming to class prepared and on time, taking part in class discussions, asking questions, contributing your knowledge and insights in whatever form is appropriate, striving to make all your contributions excellent, and completing all 10 journal entries. It also includes doing the required reading and writing for each class. Lateness will hurt your grade because it is an unnecessary
interruption and because latecomers are likely to miss valuable information. Please see Participation Grade Descriptors for more information.

**Late Work**
Your work needs to be typed, printed, and in class with you to be considered “on time”.
- Assignments submitted (via email or hardcopy) after the deadline are considered late.
- Major assignments submitted late without prior arrangement with me will receive no revision comments from me.
- Major assignments submitted late will be impacted in the final portfolio grade; tardiness will cause you to miss out on important feedback regarding revisions.
- If you miss class, the homework is due the next class period. Homework refers to reading assignments, journals, etc. and NOT major assignments. If you are absent the day a major assignment is due you must contact me to discuss the situation—you are not automatically given an extension until the next class period.
- You are always welcome to complete assignments early if you will be missing class.

**Academic Conduct**
You must abide by the rules for academic conduct described in the Student Conduct Code. If you have any questions about when and how to avoid academic dishonesty, particularly plagiarism, please review the Conduct Code and talk with your instructor. The Council of Writing Program Administrators describes plagiarism as follows: “plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source.” Academic honesty is highly valued in the University community and acts of plagiarism will not be tolerated.

**Composition Program Plagiarism Policy for WRIT 101**
According to the University of Montana Student Conduct Code, plagiarism is “representing another person's words, ideas, data, or materials as one's own.” The Composition program recognizes that plagiarism is a serious academic offense, but also understands that some misuse of information can occur in the process of learning information literacy skills. Therefore, if student writing appears to have been plagiarized, in full or in part, intentionally or unintentionally, or due to poor citation, the following will procedure will take place:

- The student will be made aware of areas in the text that are not properly integrated or cited.
- The student will receive no credit on the paper; it is up to him/her to prove that he/she turned in original work.
- The student will be asked to provide the teacher with copies of the research she/he used in writing the paper.
- The student and teacher will meet to discuss research integration.
- If the student cannot provide documentation of her/his research, further disciplinary action will be taken.

In the case that the student is unable to provide evidence of his/her original work or in the case that the teacher has evidence that the student has repeatedly plagiarized his/her work, the teacher will consult with the Director of Composition for direction with further disciplinary action.
In the case of blatant or egregious offenses, or in the case of repeated plagiarism, the Director of Composition will work with the Dean of Students to determine further disciplinary action.

Students should review the Student Conduct Code so that they understand their rights in academic disciplinary situations. The Student Conduct Code can be found here: http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php

Students with Disabilities
Qualified students with disabilities will receive appropriate accommodations in this course. Please speak with me privately after class or in my office. Please be prepared to provide a letter from your DSS Coordinator.

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WRIT 101 Daily Schedule

(Subject to change! I will keep you updated in class, via email and/or on Moodle)

Week 1

Jan 22—Welcome and Introductions

Jan 24—Reading: “Shitty First Drafts” (Lamott) M, “Freewriting” (Elbow) M
Writing: Journal #1

Jan 26—Reading: “Paint Me Nothing Like Your French Girls” (Torres) pg. 76 TD, “Throwback Tuesday: Instructions to the Portrait Artist” (Dew) pg. 24, Introduction & Chapter 1 GCW

Week 2

Jan 29—Reading: “Total Eclipse” (Dillard) M
Writing: Instructions to the Portrait Artist

Jan 31—Reading: “Papo and Me” (Torres) pg. 77 TD, “domingos” (Herrera) pg. 106 TD, and Chapter Two GCW
Writing: Journal #2

Feb 2—Reading: Elements of Style M
Writing: Elements of Style mini-presentations (detailed instructions on Moodle)

Week 3

Feb 5—Reading: “A Field of Silence” (Dillard) M
Writing: Journal #3
Feb 7—Reading: “The Dead” (Joyce) M

Feb 9—Reading: “Blankie” (Sipes) pg. 138 TD, “Drifters” (Stark) pg. 59 TD, “Boo” (Newsom) pg. 38 TD, and “From Me to You” (Their) pg. 171 TD

Week 4

Feb 12— In-Class Workshop
Writing: Journal #4, Draft of MA #1

Feb 14—Reading: “Politics and the English Language” (Orwell) M

Feb 16—Reading: Chapter 3 GCW
Writing: Major Assignment #1 Narrative, Revision Checklist, Peer Review Due

Week 5

Feb 19—PRESIDENTS DAY NO CLASS

Feb 21—Reading: The Argonauts (Nelson) M, “Reflection: Major Assignment #1 (Stark) pg. 84 TD, Chapter Four GCW
Writing: Major Assignment #1 Reflection

Feb 22—Reading: An Attack on Homelessness” (Brown-Fitzgerald) pg. 7 TD, “Wasting Away” (Dew) pg. 19 TD, Unused Mental Healthcare” (Edelman) pg. 93 TD and “Concussion Reduction in Football” (Harrington) pg. 99 TD

Week 6

Feb 26—Reading: “Interior and Exterior Landscapes” (Silko) M
Writing: Research Topic Reflection

Feb 28—Reading: “Letter from Birmingham Jail” (King) M

March 2—Reading: “American Resurrection” (Williams) pg. 85 TD, “Unfair Beauty Standards” (Sarmento) pg. 133 TD, and Chapter Five GCW

Week 7

March 5—Reading: “Introduction” to The New Jim Crow (Alexander) M
Writing: Journal #5

March 7—Reading: “Wasting Away” (Dew) pg. 19 TD and “Self-Love and Social Media” (Smith) pg. 143 TD
March 9—Writing: (Prospectus and Annotated Bibliography for MA #2 Due) or (Report on Research in Progress and 6 Source worksheets)

**Week 8**

**March 12**—Reading: “Ferguson Reminds us of the Importance of Global Context” (Davis) M

**March 14**—In-Class Workshop
Writing: **Journal #6**

**March 16**—Reading: “An Environmental History of Progress” (Loo & Stanley) M

**Week 9**

**March 19**—Reading: Chapter 6 GCW
Writing: **Major Assignment #2 Essay Due**

**March 21**—Reading: “The Achievement of Desire” (Rodriguez) M
Writing: **Post Essay Reflection**

**March 23**—Reading: “Fences Against Freedom” and “The Border Patrol State” (Silko) M

**Week 10**

**March 26**—Spring Break No Class

**March 28**—Spring Break No Class

**March 30**—Spring Break No Class

**Week 11**

**April 2**—Reading: “What Makes Superman So Darned American?” (Engle) M
Writing Due: (MA #3 Connecting Key Terms) and **Journal #7**

**April 4**—Reading: “I Just Wanna be Average” (Rose) M

**April 6**—Reading: “Violence Mourning Politics” (Butler) M

**Week 12**

**April 9**—Reading: “My Grizzly Story” (Bass) M
Writing: **MA #3 Prospectus and Bibliography**

**April 11**—Reading: “Political Activism and Protest” (Davis) M
Writing: **Journal #8**
April 13—Reading: “A Prayer for the Salmon’s Second Coming” (Duncan) M

Week 13

April 16—In-Class Workshop
Writing: Journal #9

April 18—Reading: TBD

April 20—Reading: TBD
Writing: Major Assignment #3 Essay Due (Email)

Week 14

April 23—Reading: “Is Nature Necessary” (Phillips) M

April 25—Revision Workshop

April 27—Revision Workshop

Week 15

April 30—Revision Workshop
Writing: Journal #10

May 2—Revision Workshop

May 4—Revision Workshop

Week 16

May 7—Final Portfolio Due 10-11 AM

May 9—Finals Week

May 11—Finals Week