



ENGL 1101: Composition & Rhetoric

Fall 2010, Section 7, CRN 81403

Section 20, CRN 81416

Dr. Remler

Dr. Remler's Contact Information:

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Office Hours: M W 11:00-12:00 or by appointment

Course Description: According to the university catalog, ENGL 1101 is “a composition course focusing on skills required for effective writing in a variety of contexts, with emphasis on exposition, analysis and argumentation and also including introductory use of a variety of research skills.” As a result of taking this course, you should be able to meet the following objectives:

- Progress through all stages of the writing process to compose competently written essays and other works of writing
- Evaluate in small groups your writing and the writing of your peers
- Revise your writing according to peer and instructor evaluations
- Analyze and evaluate, orally and in writing, written works of professional writers.
- Conduct research in the field, in the library and online
- Incorporate researched information into your writing.
- Document sources using MLA documentation style.
- Use computers as a writing, research and communications tool.

In order to proceed to ENGL 1102, students must earn the grade of C or higher. Students who earn grades below C must repeat the course to earn a higher grade.

Instructional Note: I have designed this course to take place in an active learning environment. You will participate in much discussion with your peers in small groups, pairs or in whole class contexts. Be prepared to share your writing with others, and be prepared to offer constructive feedback on your classmates' work. This course will include very few lectures, and it will include many interactive workshops.

Textbooks and Materials: You will need the following textbooks for this course:

- *Texting: Clear Communications for Various Contexts* and *The Little Penguin Handbook*—both books are bundled together and sold at the AASU bookstore.
- Access to online technologies

Computer technologies are available to you at no charge in university computer labs. I will communicate with you regularly by e-mail using your student e-mail address. If you prefer that I use additional e-mail addresses, you must let me know what those addresses are, and you must also contact me immediately if those addresses change.

Course Policies: Students must adhere to the following policies in order to succeed in this course:

Attendance: Because this course is designed for active learning, your attendance is very important. While you should anticipate coming to class every day, unexpected situations may arise that will keep you from class. Your attendance affects your grade, as outlined in the grading contract, which appears later in this document. Please also be aware of the following matters relevant to the course attendance policy:

- Absence from class does not excuse students from being prepared upon return. It is the students' responsibility to learn what they missed during an absence and how to be prepared upon return to class. Students may consult the course blog to find out what they missed and what they need to do for the next class.
- I do not accept late assignments. Absence is not a valid reason for late work. Assignment deadlines are set at the beginning of the semester. Assignments are due on the deadline, whether you are here or not. I require out of class essays to be turned in via e-mail, so absence should not affect your ability to turn in papers. Students absent on days the class does in-class work cannot make up that in-class work.
- I expect students to arrive to class on time. I reserve the right to address habitual tardiness on an individual basis as I see fit. Consult the grading contract. Habitual tardiness can also affect your grade.
- I reserve the right to dismiss and count absent any student who is obviously not participating in class (sleeping, doing algebra homework, operating a cell phone in any way) or obviously not prepared for class (no book, no homework). Because the dismissal results in an absence, it can affect your grade.
- Students are responsible for contacting me about any emergency circumstances which might affect attendance (hospitalization, serious injury, serious illness in family, etc.). Such emergencies may necessitate withdrawal from the course without penalty, and I will be glad to help you with that should the need arise.
- Students who have been called for active military service or for jury duty must inform me of those responsibilities as soon as possible.
- Students' part-time or full-time jobs do not constitute reasons for letting academic responsibilities lapse. Employment is an important responsibility. A college education is also. If you are working and going to college simultaneously, you have made two important, simultaneous commitments in your life. If those commitments conflict with each other, it is your responsibility to resolve that conflict.

Assignments

All essays written out of class should be composed on a computer as specified in assignment descriptions. All assignments done in class may be handwritten; handwriting must be legible. If I can't read your writing, I can't grade it.

All reference to primary and secondary sources should be documented appropriately in current MLA documentation style as outlined in the *Little Penguin Handbook*. Failure to document sources will be considered **plagiarism**, a violation of AASU's **honor code**. Because all students and faculty are required to be familiar with and abide by the honor code and code of conduct, I will address cases of plagiarism according to the code as outlined in the university catalog and on the university web site at www.sa.Armstrong.edu/Activities/hccoc.htm.

I do not accept late assignments. I establish deadlines at the beginning of the semester to give you enough time to complete your work. If I change a deadline, I will do so in writing with sufficient advanced notice for you to adjust your plans.

Technical difficulties are not a valid reason for missing deadlines. Hard drives crash, printers run out of ink and computer labs get crowded. Therefore, it's imperative that you save multiple copies of your work and do so often. If you choose to do your work at the last minute, that's your business, but you should deal with Murphy's Law on your own.

However, should you suffer an unavoidable emergency that prevents you from completing an assignment on time, you may consult me in my office to request an extension. I will address those requests on an individual basis as I see fit. I do not promise to grant the extension, but I will certainly consider your request carefully. I have never granted more than one extension per student.

You have several types of assignments to do this semester. They are categorized as follows:

- **In- class/Homework Assignments:** These assignments may be done during class time, or they may be done on your own time, depending on the assignment. You may do some assignments in small groups or pairs; other assignments you may do on your own. These assignments demonstrate your skills in various aspects of writing, using language, and conducting online, library and field research.
- **Practice Regents' Essays:** These handwritten essays are done in class during a 60 minute time frame; they demonstrate your basic writing skills. They will be scored the same way actual Regents' Essay Exams are scored.
- **Campus Read Paper:** This essay will focus on the campus read selection, *Waddie Welcome and the Beloved Community*. This paper will be written outside of class and will require you to examine specific aspects of this text. More specific guidelines appear on the course website, and you'll receive a hard copy of them later on this term.
- **Extended Essays:** These two essays will require field and/or library research. They will be written outside of class, but the concepts we cover in class will help you build skills needed to write these papers. More specific guidelines appear on the course website, and you'll receive them in hard copy later this term.

Grades

I will expect you to adhere to a grading contract, which appears on the course blog as well as on a separate handout. The grading contract outlines what you will have to do to earn your desired letter grade. If you have any questions about the grading contract over the course of the term, I invite you to visit me in my office to discuss it.

Important Information for Students

Regents' Testing: All students within the University System of Georgia must satisfy their regents' testing requirement by the time they reach their 45th credit hour¹. Our practice regents' essays should adequately prepare you for the regents' exam; however, if you'd like more practice opportunities, practice essay topics are available in the Writing Center. For more detailed questions about regents' essay requirements, consult me or contact Greg Anderson, our Director of Academic Advisement, at 344-2570.

Students with Disabilities: According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with disabilities may request accommodations for those disabilities (including extended time on tests or in-class writing assignments) by contacting Kelly Woodruff in Student Affairs at 344-2744. Ms. Woodruff can assist you with obtaining an advocacy letter which permits you to receive accommodations for those disabilities. If you have any questions about such accommodations, you may consult me.

Writing Center: The writing center, located in Gamble 109, is available to provide constructive feedback and writing assistance on written assignments for any class. All good writers seek out constructive feedback on their work. For that reason I encourage you to consult the writing center on a regular basis. Writing center services are free, and they are available by appointment. The center's hours of operation are posted on the Writing Center door.

Technology Services: Student technology services is available to assist you with computer applications. The help desk is located in the Academic Computing Center. The local phone number is 344-2518.

¹ Some students are exempt from taking the regents' exam because of their scores on the Achievement Test. In order to acquire that exempt status, students must submit those test scores to AASU's registrar's office. To determine whether you are required to take the regents' exam (most students are), consult your transcript on SHIP or see your advisor. It is your responsibility to check your transcript and your regents' status.

Course Outline

Because of the workshop design of this class, it's likely we'll have to alter the following schedule. Using attendance sheets and the class blog, I'll update you on a daily basis regarding homework assignments. **Keep in mind that if I change a deadline for a paper, I will do so well ahead of time in writing so that you can adjust your calendar.**

August 16

Introductions and discussion of class theme.

August 18

Discussion of practice Regents' Exam, write practice Regents' Exam

August 23

Development and Style

August 25

Development and Style
Practice Regents' Essay

August 30

Introductions and Conclusions

September 1

Introductions and Conclusions
Practice Regents' Exam

September 6

Holiday

September 8

Discussion of *Waddie Welcome*

September 13

Incorporating Quotations and Citing in MLA Style

September 15

Proofreading Workshop

September 17 (Friday)

***Waddie Welcome* paper due**

September 20

Investigation
"Enclosed, Encyclopedic, Endured"

September 23

Conducting Close Observation
"Inside Dope"
Observation Practice

September 27

Conducting Interviews
"I'm Not Leaving"
"Georgia Gets F"
Interview Practice

September 29

Incorporating Quotations from Interviews into papers, citing interviews, "Language and Intelligence"

October 4

Pronoun Reference

October 6

**Midpoint of Semester
Investigation Paper Due**
Discussion of argumentation paper
Discussion of library databases

October 11

Fall break

October 13

Library Assignment

October 18

Argumentation
"Letter from Birmingham Jail"
"To Be or Not to Be"

October 20

Proposal
"Walk on the Wild Side"

October 25

Incorporating Information from Sources

December 6

Analysis Papers Due

October 27

Citing Sources
“Riverkeepers”
“Cell Phones and Cars Don’t Mix”

November 1

Works Cited Workshop

November 3

Works Cited Workshop

November 5 (Friday)

Argumentation Paper Due

November 8

Analysis
“Toys”

November 10

“The Man Who Was Almost a Man”
Discussion

November 15

“A Small, Good Thing”
Discussion

November 17

Writing Literary Analysis

November 22

Writing Literary Analysis

November 29

Catch-up Day

December 1

Ketchup Day ☺



Grade Contract

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This contract outlines what students should expect to accomplish in order to earn their desired grades this term.

The argumentation essay and evaluation essay will be scored according to the LLP grading standards, which appear on pages 10-12 of *Collages: A Reader for Composition*. The practice Regents' Essay Exams will be scored according to the Regents' Testing Service rubric, which appears in the Appendix of *Collages: A Reader for Composition*.

To earn an A for ENGL 1101, students must meet the following *minimum* criteria:

- Turn in all essay assignments:
 - Regents' Essays: must earn passing scores on all
 - Waddie Welcome essay: must earn an exceptional score (see essay rubric)
 - Extended essays: must earn *at least* one exceptional score and two satisfactory scores (see essay rubric)
- Complete and turn in homework/class work assignments, missing no more than three.
- Attend class regularly, missing no more than three days and arriving on time regularly.
- Arrive to class prepared, participate in workshops, and be dismissed from class no more than one time.

To earn a B for ENGL 1101, students must meet the following *minimum* criteria:

- Turn in all essay assignments:
 - Regents' Essays: must earn passing scores on all
 - Waddie Welcome essay: must earn *at least* a satisfactory score (see essay rubric)
 - Extended essays: must earn *at least* three satisfactory scores (see essay rubric)
- Complete and turn in homework/class work assignments, missing no more than three.
- Attend class regularly, missing no more than three days and arriving on time regularly.
- Arrive to class prepared, participate in workshops, and be dismissed from class no more than one time.

To earn a C in ENGL 1101, students must meet the following *minimum* criteria:

- Minimum requirement for essay assignments:
 - Regents' Essays: must earn passing scores on at least one
 - Waddie Welcome essay and extended essays: must turn in all four and earn satisfactory scores on *at least three* of them
- Complete and turn in homework/class work assignments, missing no more than five.
- Attend class regularly, missing no more than five days and arriving on time regularly.
- Arrive to class prepared, participate in workshops, and be dismissed from class no more than three times.

Students meeting the following *minimum* criteria will earn a D in ENGL 1101.

Note: Students should not strive for this grade. In order to take ENGL 1102, students must earn the grade of C or higher in ENGL 1101:

- Regents' essays: earn failing scores on two or more or fail to turn in one or more essays
- Waddie Welcome and extended essays: turn in at least three of these essays and earn a satisfactory score on at least one of them.
- Attend class missing no more than six days
- Arrive to class prepared, participate in workshops and be dismissed from class no more than five times.

Students who do not meet the criteria for a D in ENGL 1101 will earn an F in the course.

By the end of the term, a student may end up meeting some criteria for one grade but other criteria of another grade. In such instances, Dr. Remler will consult with the student to determine the grade the student has earned.

I have read and understand Dr. Remler's grading contract.

Signed _____

Date: _____