**ENGL105: Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric**

Section 031 – MWF – 1:25 PM-2:15 PM – Greenlaw 106

“You don't write because you want to say something, you write because you have something to say.”

― F. Scott Fitzgerald

Instructor:

Grant Glass – grantg@live.unc.edu

Office: Greenlaw 505

Office Hours: 1-3 Thursday and 2:30-4 Friday or by appointment

Required Materials:

* UNC Writing Program. *The Tarheel Writing Guide*, 2016.
* Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say, I Say*: *The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*, 2014. 3rd ed.
* Your fully charged laptop (equipped with Microsoft Word or Google Docs).

Course Description:

Welcome to ENGL105! In this course, we will investigate how writing is deployed across the disciplines at the university (specifically in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities). We will discover how different disciplines frame research questions, evaluate evidence, and make knowledge claims. Further, we will investigate how the medium or mode can influence the way you write. In order to accomplish the objectives set for this course, you cannot think about writing as merely an assignment that satisfies a list of requirements to achieve a grade. Rather than looking at this class and writing like that, I want you to view writing as dynamic and problem-based. In this class, you will participate in writing activities that call upon you to think about and place yourself in realistic rhetorical situations. Your writing will become dynamic by actively responding to practical situations common to academic communities and engaging with those communities. I want you to view your writing, as well as yourself as a writer, as a work in progress. This course is more than a series of essays for grades; it is a progression of encounters with rhetorical situations and genres that will prepare you to be a successful college writer.

We will work toward the following goals:

* Reimagine, redefine, and understand the complexities of “writing” and “rhetoric.”
* Develop skills and awareness around your own writing and writing process.
* Develop writing strategies, awareness, and self-­assessment skills to help you confidently approach future writing challenges that you encounter in your academic and professional lives at UNC and beyond.
* Tailor compositions to specific audiences and rhetorical situations by analyzing and adapting genre conventions in multiple communities.
* Develop a social and process-­oriented approach to composition in which collaboration and revision are central components.
* Compose across technologies and modalities in words, sounds, images, video, and hypertexts.
* Identify, evaluate, and appropriately use relevant research and resources to support your compositions.

Course Design:

The course will be organized around the following principles:

**Student-centered:** My instruction will emphasize process: how to read, write, analyze, interpret, understand, and create oral, written, or multimedia texts. My role in this class is not that of a traditional teacher who stands at the front of the room and lectures. Rather, I am someone who offers structure, motivation, support, perspective, and feedback as YOU engage with your classmates and the course projects. While I will ultimately take on the role of the judge at the end of the semester, my main focus is on empowering you to make decisions about your writing because that’s when you learn the most.

**Workshop format**: Classes will be taught using a workshop approach that emphasizes the role of learning by writing and promotes interactive, experiential learning. Each of you will become a member of a small working group. These groups will serve as writing groups, discussion groups, and smaller cohorts in the larger classroom community. We will be using Sakai (UNC’s online course management system) and the course WordPress site as forums for posting and responding to drafts in progress and as a communication system so that you can access the syllabus and daily homework assignments electronically.

**Process-based approach**: We will move through three units, each one containing short “feeder” assignments that build into one substantial unit project. The feeder assignments are generally designed to give you practice with a particular skill (such as finding potential grants or analyzing secondary sources), while the unit projects will ask you to synthesize primary and secondary research. Using a process-based approach, you will write multiple drafts, receive ongoing feedback from your peers and instructor, and participate in evaluating your own and others’ projects throughout the composition process.

Course Policies:

***Please remember that the syllabus functions as a contract between the instructor and the students.*** You are responsible for knowing and abiding by these policies. Everyone has an “off” day now and then, but when you are here, your brain should be working.

*Technology*

* **Computers**: Please bring your computer to class every day. Be sure that it is fully charged because our classroom has limited and inconveniently placed outlets.
* **Cell Phones**: You can use your cell phone as a classroom tool to take pictures of the board or print materials, record short lectures, navigate Sakai, view our readings, etc. However, cell phones should not be used for endeavors unrelated to class during class sessions.
* **Other Devices**: Tablets and any other devices are welcome as long as you are using them for work related to this course.

In this class, we will use **Sakai** ([www.sakai.unc.edu](http://www.sakai.unc.edu)), UNC’s online course management system for a number of course assignments. If you have difficulty accessing our Sakai page, please let me know ASAP.

**Remember:** just because you have access to the Internet during class does not mean that you should be using our class time to post on YikYak or update your Tinder profile. If I notice that your participation is suffering due to technological distractions, I will ask you to come in for a conference so that we can discuss a plan of action.

Finally, it is important that you check your email and our Sakai site daily for messages and updates, as these will be our primary forms of communication inside and outside of class. Please keep all correspondence courteous and professional. I aim to respond to email within 48 hours during business hours (Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm). Note: I will not acknowledge nor respond to emails that include questions that could be answered by looking at the syllabus and/or unit project sequences.

*Plagiarism/The Honor Code*

The honor code applies to everything that we do at this university, including our use of outside sources in our research and writing. Our work in this class will conform to the principles and procedures defined in the *Instrument of Student Judicial Governance* (<http://instrument.unc.edu/>). The research that we do this semester, whether primary or secondary, print or online, formal or informal, will require careful documentation on your part. We will review citation guidelines early and often throughout the semester. The need to cite your sources applies to all your work, including drafts as well as final versions of your feeders and projects. When in doubt: CITE.

If I suspect you of plagiarizing all or part of a paper, even unintentionally, I am required to report the offense to the Honor Court. If you think you are running into trouble with an assignment, PLEASE come and speak with me.

*Non-Discrimination Policy*

We can never guarantee that a classroom will be a completely “safe” space. However, I believe that **our classroom should be a sacred space where students can share their thoughts and ideas without fear**. The University is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment and to ensuring that educational and employment decisions are based on individuals’ abilities and qualifications. Consistent with these principles and applicable laws, it is therefore the University’s policy not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or veteran status as consistent with the University’s Policy on Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment and Related Misconduct. No person, on the basis of protected status, shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to unlawful discrimination, harassment, or retaliation under any University program or activity, including with respect to employment terms and conditions. Such a policy ensures that only relevant factors are considered and that equitable and consistent standards of conduct and performance are applied.

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and support applied to offenses against other protected categories. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, I encourage you to investigate these resources:

* SAFE@UNC:<http://safe.unc.edu/resources/>
* UNC Campus Conversation on Sexual Assault:<http://campusconversation.web.unc.edu/resources/>
* Know Your IX:<http://knowyourix.org/>

*Accessibility Statement*

Disabilities can be visible and invisible, and I am dedicated to ensuring that all students succeed in my course. If there are circumstances that may affect your performance in this class, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can work together to develop strategies for adapting assignments to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. If you have information you wish to share with me about a disability, disorder, or neurodiversity issue, if you have emergency medical information you think I should know about, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please set up an appointment with me to discuss this during office hours.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill ensures that no qualified person shall by reason of a disability be denied access to, participation in, or the benefits of, any program or activity operated by the University. In compliance with UNC policy and federal law, qualified students with psychological, physical, and other disabilities are eligible to receive “reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to education opportunities, programs, and activities” (<http://www.unc.edu/depts/lds/faculty-policies.html>). If you anticipate such accommodations and/or have concerns that should be discussed, please notify me as soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Additionally, you may seek out student support services at the Accessibility Resources and Services Office (<https://accessibility.unc.edu/students>) and through the Learning Center (<http://learningcenter.unc.edu/>)

Resources:

The **UNC Writing Center**, located in SASB North and in Greenlaw Hall #221, offers free tutoring services for students. You may visit the Writing Center to ask for help with a specific paper, whether you are concerned with developing ideas and content, organizing your assignment, or working on style issues. To make an appointment, browse the Writing Center's online resources, or send a draft online, please go to (<http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/>). To make the best use of your time there, please bring a copy of both your assignment sheet and your draft with you. The Writing Center will not proofread papers or discuss grades with you.

Additionally, the **Purdue Online Writing Lab** (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/>) and your textbook, *The Tarheel Writing Guide*, are fantastic resources for learning more about mechanics, style, grammar, and citations.

Note: If you need help, ASK! These writing courses are small so that we can all get to know and trust one another. **If you are falling behind or need extra help, please let me know.** We can discuss brief concerns before or after class, and we can have an extended conversation and/or writing conference during my office hours. To schedule an appointment, please email me.

**Fall 2016 Semester at a Glance:**

Important University Dates:

Tuesday, 8/23: FDOC

Monday, 9/5: Labor Day (classes cancelled)

Tuesday, 10/11: 9:30am-12:30pm classes are cancelled for University Day

Thursday,10/20- Friday, 10/21: Fall Break (classes cancelled)

Wednesday, 11/23- Friday, 11/25: Thanksgiving Holiday (classes cancelled)

Wednesday, 12/7: Last Day of Class

Due Dates (All Assignments Due in Sakai Dropbox by 5:00pm):

Sunday, 9/4: Unit 1 Feeder1

Sunday, 9/18: Unit 1 Feeder 2

Sunday, 10/2: Unit 1 Final Project

Sunday, 10/9: Unit 2 Feeder 1

*Wednesday*, 10/19: Unit 2 Feeder 2

Sunday, 11/6: Unit 2 Final Project

Sunday, 11/13: Unit 3 Feeder 1

Sunday, 11/20: Unit 3 Feeder 2

Friday, 12/2: Unit 3 Final Project

Friday, 12/9: Final Portfolio Due

Class Schedule:

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|  | Monday | Wednesday | Friday |
| Week 1 | 8/22  | 8/24 (#1)FDOC | 8/26 (#2) |
| Week 2 | 8/29 (#3) | 8/31 (#4) | 9/2 (#5)U1F1 due on Sunday by 5:00pm |
| Week 3 | 9/5No Class - Labor Day | 9/7 (#6) | 9/9 (#7) |
| Week 4 | 9/12 (#8) | 9/14 (#9) | 9/16 (#10)U1F2 due on Sunday by 5:00pm |
| Week 5 | 9/19 (#11) | 9/21 (#12) | 9/23 (#13) |
| Week 6 | 9/26 (#14) | 9/28 (#15) | 9/30 (#16)U1 Project due on Sunday by 5:00pm |
| Week 7 | 10/3 (#17) | 10/5 (#18) | 10/7 (#19)U2F1 due on Sunday by 5:00pm |
| Week 8 | 10/10 (#20) | 10/12 (#21) | 10/14 (#22) |
| Week 9 | 10/17 (#23) | 10/19 (#24)U2F2 due by 5:00pm | 10/21No class - fall break |
| Week 10 | 10/24 (#25) | 10/26 (#26) | 10/28 (#27) |
| Week 11 | 10/31 (#28) | 11/2 (#29) | 11/4 (#30)U2 Project due on Sunday by 5:00pm |
| Week 12 | 11/7 (#31) | 11/9 (#32) | 11/11 (#33)U3F1 due on Sunday by 5:00pm |
| Week 13 | 11/14 (#34) | 11/16 (#35) | 11/18 (#36)U3F2 due on Sunday by 5:00pm  |
| Week 14 | 11/21 (#37) | 11/23No class - Thanksgiving Holiday | 11/25No class - Thanksgiving Holiday |
| Week 15 | 11/28 (#38) | 11/30 (#39) | 12/2 (#40)U3 Project due by 5:00pm |
| Week 16 | 12/5 (#41) | 12/7 (#42)LDOC | Final Portfolio due by 5:00pm |

Evaluation and Grading

Because grades often cause counterproductive anxiety for both students and teachers and because they distract us from the real work of learning, this course will employ a method known as contract grading. Your final grade for this course will be based on two things:

1. Your work in class according to the grading contract (pg. 6 and 7)
2. The quality of the work you include in your final portfolio

Contract grading is intended to shift your focus productively: it assures you that, if you work hard and demonstrate the professionalism necessary to fulfill the contract, you will receive a grade above what the university considers an average grade. I hope this will permit you to concentrate less on your performance on the course and more on growing as a writer and thinker.

* To qualify for a **B (83%)**: You must follow the contract for the entire semester by fulfilling the behaviors, activities, and practices it necessitates. *Only students who have fulfilled the contract can earn higher than a* **B**.
* For grades higher than a **B**: I will evaluate only the *quality* of the writing and the finished products overall in the final portfolio to determine your final grade in the course. To earn an **A**, your projects must be of exceptional quality - i.e. ready for publication in a genre-appropriate source (undergraduate science journal, etc.). **A** grades can only be earned by submitting **A** projects.
* For grades lower than a **B**: You will earn a lower course grade for not fulfilling the contract. If you have breached the contract, but the work in your final portfolio demonstrates exceptional quality, your final grade may improve up to a **B-** at my discretion. ***You are responsible for being aware of and following the contract stipulations whether I comment on them or not at the time.*** I will help you remain aware by notifying you periodically of minor or major breaches of contract.

**ENGL105i Grading Contract to Earn a “B” (83%)**

1. **Attend class and be on time for class consistently; 3 tardies = 1 absence.** Being more than 20 minutes late for class without prior approval counts as an absence. More than 2 absences (without prior approval) throughout the semester is a major breach of the contract.
2. **Complete every assignment thoroughly, thoughtfully, and punctually.** I expect your best effort and attention to all reading, writing, and day-to-day activities in the course. Please note that absence does not excuse you from completing any missed assignments. It is your responsibility to figure out what assignments you have missed and to work out an appropriate timeline with me for making them up.
3. **Engage actively** in all in-class exercises, writing workshops, and activities. Participate intensively and diligently with your working group; slouchers will not be tolerated. Collaborate with your classmates by offering consistently thoughtful questions, reactions, feedback, and discussion related to their work and ideas. By closely engaging with your peers' work, both you and your classmates will grow as writers, and we will all learn and benefit from a collectively engaged community.
4. **Give thoughtful peer feedback** during class workshops and work faithfully with your group on other collaborative tasks (e.g., sharing papers, commenting on drafts, peer editing, on-line discussion boards, answering peer questions).
5. **Sustain effort and investment on each draft of all assignments** (at least 2-3 drafts on average).
6. **Make substantive revisions** when the assignment is to revise--extending or changing the thinking or the organization--not just editing or touching up. While you do not have to make every change suggested by your readers, final drafts of your assignments should show growth from original drafts and evidence of your thoughtful engagement with peer and instructor feedback.
7. **Copy-edit successfully** all final revisions of main assignments until they conform to the conventions of edited American English. While we will prioritize higher-order concerns (ideas) over lower-order ones (sentence-level cosmetic issues), your attention to detail reflects your level of professionalism. The same standard for print projects applies equally to multimedia projects.
8. **Attend 1 scheduled conference with me during each unit to discuss drafts at the end of each unit.** Office hours are the primary way (as opposed to written comments) that you will get my feedback on your work, so come early and often, and feel free to meet with me at any stage of the writing process.
9. **Submit a complete final portfolio** with an introductory cover letter and final versions of your unit projects.