

English Composition II, ENG 1121 (5421)

M/W 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM in Namm 1005

Professor Rebecca Devers

Email: rdevers@citytech.cuny.edu

Office hours: Monday through

Mailbox: Namm 512

Office: Namm 528

Thursday 11:30AM to 12:30 PM,

Office phone: 718-260-5118

and by appointment

Course description

This course develops and refines the skills you learned in English 1101. You will read and discuss challenging texts (which will include many different genres), and respond to those texts through your own writing. You'll also participate in the drafting and revising process by reading and discussing papers written by your classmates. This semester, our reading and writing will focus on New York City. We will endeavor to see NYC itself as a text that can be read and revised.

Please note: The novel *Push*, by Sapphire, is included on the reading list. This is the book that inspired the recent film *Precious*. The book is set in Harlem and addresses several themes of city life. Also, the author will be visiting campus this semester as part of the Literary Arts Festival in April. The book contains graphic language and deals with difficult topics, including sexual abuse. At points, the abuse is described in detail. In our class discussions, we will talk about why authors might choose to write about such topics, or to use such language. I expect the class to talk about these and other questions thoughtfully and respectfully. If you are uncomfortable reading this text, please see me during office hours, or email me, so that we can work out an alternative reading or writing assignment. I'm happy to work with you or answer any questions you have.

Course requirements

As soon as possible, please acquire the following:

The Place Where We Dwell: Reading & Writing about New York City. By Juanita But and Mark Noonan. ISBN 978-0-7575-4616-7. Available in the book store.

New York: The Big City. By Will Eisner. ISBN: 978-0-393-32805-9. Available in the book store.

Push: A Novel. By Sapphire. ISBN: 978-0679766759. On order at the book store.

Rules of Thumb: A Guide for Writers, 8th edition. By Jay Silverman, Elaine Hughes, and Diana Roberts Wienbroer. ISBN 0-07-338400-3. Available in the book store.

Access to a reliable computer, with internet (email) access and a printer. You will also need a flash drive or some other way to save your work.

An up-to-date collegiate dictionary.

A three-ring binder devoted to this class. I will expect you to keep all handouts, and all work you do in this class (including drafts that have my feedback on them). Consider organizing your notebook into sections, like "Course Materials," "Papers," "Assignments," and "Grade Sheets." See me if you'd like help organizing your course materials.

You'll also receive handouts and photocopied readings in class.

Required assignments:

Six essays of 600-750 words each. Two of these will be revisions.

One library research paper of 1200-1500 words.

Final exam

The competencies for this course clearly state: "Students may not pass ENG 1121 without submitting an acceptable library research paper and without passing the final examination."

Other requirements of the course

In addition to the materials listed above, this course requires a number of other commitments from you, namely,

Regular attendance: This course is designed as a seminar-type class, which means that active

participation is necessary if you and your peers are to succeed in this class. I expect you to come

to class prepared (which means, you've read the assigned readings and you've completed any homework assignments). I also expect you to come to class on time and stay for the duration of our meeting. Arriving more than 10 minutes late, or leaving more than 10 minutes early will result in half an absence. Using cell phones or music devices that you plug into your ears will also result in half an absence, since it demonstrates to me that you are not, in fact, actually present and engaged *mentally* in our classroom. You are allowed 3 absences from this class without penalty. The fourth absence may result in a WU grade. If you do miss a class, please know that you are responsible for making up any missed work, and for the information we covered while you were gone. If your religion is not directly recognized by the school calendar, and you anticipate missing classes for religious reasons, please see me as soon as possible.

Responsible scholarship: I expect you to complete all assignments on time, and to do so honestly. We will discuss academic integrity and plagiarism early in the semester. Know now, however, that I will not tolerate any academic dishonesty in my course. The school's statement on academic integrity is below; if you have any questions about plagiarism and how to avoid it, please ask me.

New York City College of Technology Policy on Academic Integrity

Students and all others who work with information, ideas, texts, images, music, inventions and other intellectual property owe their audience and sources accuracy and honesty in using, crediting, and citing sources. As a community of intellectual and professional workers, the College recognizes its responsibility for providing instruction in information literacy and academic integrity, offering models of good practice, and responding vigilantly and appropriately to infractions of academic integrity. Accordingly, academic dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York and at New York City College of Technology and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension, and expulsion. The complete text of the College policy on Academic Integrity may be found in the catalog.

Another aspect of responsible scholarship is doing your best to meet course requirements. If you find you are having trouble keeping up with your assignments, please see me during office hours so we can arrange a make-up schedule. Formal papers are due at the start of class on the days indicated on the course calendar, and must adhere to MLA guidelines.

Revision: You will be asked to work on assignments in stages, turning in outlines, early paragraphs, or complete drafts as the assignment warrants. You will also be asked to participate in peer review sessions and in-class writing workshops. These processes are key components of the course, and are not negotiable. Failure to participate in these revision processes will result in the reduction of your final paper grade by at least 10 points. You will also be asked to revise "finished" pieces which have already been graded, since writing is itself always a process, not a product.

How your grade is calculated: Your final grade for this course will be calculated according to the percentages listed here.

Papers:	30%	Final Exam:	10%
Revisions:	30%	Participation:	15%
Research paper:	15%		

Students with disabilities

If you have a disability that requires accommodation, please see me as soon as possible so I can accommodate you. If you think you may have a disability that requires accommodation, see the Student Support Services Program in Room A237, or call them at 718-260-5143.

Course calendar (subject to change; revisions will be announced)

- M 1/31- Introduction to course. Defining “New York City.”
- W 2/2- Discuss Eisner, “The Treasure of Avenue C,” in *New York: The Big City*, pp 1-12
- M 2/7- Paper 1 assigned. Discuss plagiarism and academic integrity.
- W 2/9- Discuss Eisner, “Sentinels,” in *New York: The Big City*, pp 64-82. Discuss “The Colossus of New York” by Colson Whitehead in *The Place Where We Dwell*, pp 6-10.
- M 2/14- Rough draft due; peer review in class.
- W 2/16- Paper 1 due in class. Discuss research project in class.
- M 2/21- No class
- W 2/23- Paper 2 assigned today. Discuss “From Doo Wop to Hip Hop: The Bittersweet Odyssey of African-Americans in the South Bronx” by Mark Naison in *The Place Where We Dwell*, pp 216-228.
- M 2/28- Continue discussing Naison. Research project: Research topic due.
- W 3/2- Rough draft due in class. Work with music in groups.
- M 3/7- Paper 2 (music review) due. Quotation and close reading workshop.
- W 3/9- Library workshop. Research project: Research question due.
- M 3/14- Discuss “Savage Inequalities” by Jonathan Kozol in *The Place Where We Dwell*, pp 151-159.
- W 3/16- Continue discussing Kozol
- M 3/21- Revision 1 due in class. Discuss *Push* by Sapphire, Chapter 1
- W 3/23- *Push*, Chapter 2
- M 3/28- Finish discussing *Push*
- W 3/30- Rough draft of Paper 3 due (school narrative). Peer review in class.
- M 4/4- Paper 3 (school narrative) due. Discuss poetry in class (we’ll read together in class). Bring *The Place Where We Dwell*.
- W 4/6- Continue discussing poetry. Paper 4 assigned. Research project: List of possible sources due today.
- M 4/11- Discuss “Arts Education” by Jonathan Mandell in *The Place Where We Dwell*, pp 276-281.
- T 4/12- City Tech Literary Arts Festival: Sapphire
- W 4/13- Discuss Eisner, “Street Music” in *New York: The Big City*, pp 49-61. Outline due in class.
- M 4/18- Spring break, no class
- W 4/20- Spring break, no class
- M 4/25- Spring break, no class
- W 4/27- Paper 4 due. Discuss street art.
- M 5/2- Handout: “Livin’ in the City. The Urban Space as Creative Challenge” by Lukas Feireiss and “‘Desires will break out of homes and put an end to the dominion of boredom and the administration of misery’: Park Fiction” by Alain Bieber. Revision 2 assigned today. Research project: Summary due today.
- W 5/4- Continue discussing street art: student-chosen texts.
- M 5/9- Continue discussing street art: student-chosen texts. Research project: Summary due today.
- W 5/11- Revision 2 due.
- M 5/16- Research workshop: bring all materials for library paper. Research project: Summary due today.
- W 5/18- Research paper due. Discuss preparing for the final exam.
- M 5/23- Final exam, Part I
- W 5/25- Final exam, Part II