**New York City College of Technology**

**The City University of New York**

**Syllabus Spring 2020**

**Course**: English ENG 1101, Section C/D 361

**Instructor**: Prof. Sarah Schmerler **email**: [sschmerler@citytech.cuny.edu](mailto:sschmerler@citytech.cuny.edu)

**Mailbox**: Namm 529

**Class Time and Location**, Mon + Wed 1:00-2:15 PM Namm 523   
and Wed (lab) 12:00PM-12:50PM Namm 1018

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, time TBA ; Location of Office Hour: Namm Cafeteria

OVERVIEW

**Course Description:**

English Composition I is a course in how to write effectively across a variety of genres; how to conduct research and inquiry in a way that is effective and ethical; and how to communicate and contribute meaningfully within an intellectual community of scholar/peers. The skills students acquire in Comp I are designed to seamlessly transfer into a student’s other areas of intellectual and academic interest. Comp I provides the foundation for becoming a strong student within any academic discipline or major.

There are three major Units in this course: Literacy, Genre Awareness, and Inquiry. In addition, students will maintain a Writer's Journal and participate in Lab/Circle discussions.

Throughout the three Units, students will be reading deeply and annotating effectively, writing drafts and revising, collaborating, and presenting what they have learned/discovered.

**Learning Objectives**

The learning objectives for ENG 1101 are outlined in a separate document which will be distributed and discussed in class.

**Grading Rubric**

UNIT 1: Literacy Awareness/ Literacy Narratives: 20%

UNIT 2: Genre Awareness and Genre-Switch Writings: 20%

UNIT 3: The Genre of Research/Inquiry Project and Presentation: 15%

Writer’s Journal/Notebook: 15%

Class Participation\*: 15%

Final Exam: 15%

(\*class participation includes: active Circle time presentation and participation; meaningful contribution to in-class discussion; timely completion of readings; a record of good and on-time attendance)

Required Readings Recommended Readings Materials and Supplies

**Required Readings (<$ or Zero$)\***

Congratulations: Your Professor has made low- or zero-cost texts a Big Part of This Course! The majority of the texts you will read for this class will be posted Online by the Professor or distributed in class. That said...

•My efforts to keep costs down for you does not excuse you from obtaining all readings in a timely fashion as assigned.

• If assigned texts are Online, YOU ARE EXPECTED TO PRINT THEM and BRING them to class. If you were not present on the day they were distributed, you are still responsible for obtaining them and reading them as assigned.

• You are responsible for keeping your zero- or low-cost readings in a binder or folder.

**Required Textbooks:**

• *The Little Seagull Handbook with Exercises*, 3rd edition or later. Authored by Bullock, Brody, and Weinberg. Published by W. W. Norton & Co. (If you already own or purchased a similar guide for use in another class, see me for approval.)

I also expect you to have access to style and grammar help on the Internet. I suggest you bookmark and have ready access to [The Purdue Owl](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html), an online site with information on grammar, style, punctuation, citation, and other resources.

**Recommended Texts:**

• *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*, by Stephen King. Published by Pocket Books, NY.

• *They Say/I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing* (with Readings). Authored by Graff, Birkenstein, and Durst. Published by W.W. Norton & Co.

\*This list of Readings may be revised over the semester. Be sure to check our course website for updates.

**Materials You Will Need for This Class ($$):**

• The Merriam-Webster Dictionary app downloaded onto your phone and ready for use! (small fee)

• An etymological dictionary bookmarked on your phone and ready for use. I recommend etymonline.com

• Pens in at least two different colors for annotation and peer review; pencils

• At least two notebooks in which to complete your handwritten assignments

• At least two folders in which to keep your class readings

• 3-ring binders and folders for your Journal Check and the work you present to the professor

Important Policies Important Information Plagiarism Statement

**Assignment Lateness/My Extensions Policy**: If you wish to appeal for an extension on an assignment, you must do so in writing as close as possible to the due date, stating your name and course and section number, the date, your reason for requesting an extension, and a reasonable date at which the assignment will be turned in to the Professor’s Mailbox in Namm 529. Extensions are granted at the Professor’s discretion.

**Missing Class? Get a Buddy!:** Even if you miss class, you are still responsible for knowing what’s up. You must get the contact information of at least one other person in class and check with them to find out what you missed; you should also check our Course’s OpenLab Website regularly for assignment due dates and other important info. Your *CunyFirst email address is the one I will* *use* so check it as well, for any important changes or cancellations.

**Backup Your Work:** You must keep electronic copies of your submitted work in draft and final versions..

**Office Hour**: I use this time as a lively and meaningful extension of the work we do in class, and students who show up get the kind of specialized attention that just can’t happen during lecture hour. I strongly recommend you visit. My office hours are like no other! They will help you get un-stuck if you are struggling, so don’t wait with a question or problem until it’s too late.

**OpenLab**: CityTech has its own open pedagogy system – OpenLab. Our course will have its own site there, where you can find postings on readings, resources, course cancellations, course materials (like your syllabus), and assignments. It will be your responsibility to activate your City Tech email account, register on OpenLab, and join our course site as a member. Free instruction sessions on how to use OpenLab are available on campus.

**Library Card**: Your CityTech ID is also a library card, giving you access to books and periodicals throughout the CUNY system, as well as powerful databases that would cost thousands of dollars to access, were they not free with your CUNY education. You must go to the [Library](https://onesearch.cuny.edu/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=CUNY_ALEPH006062498&vid=ny&search_scope=everything&tab=default_tab&lang=en_US&context=L&isFrbr=true) in person to activate your card before you can use it.

**Printing and Stapling**: Your Professor does not like double-sided printing. Your Professor expects you to staple or properly bind your papers.

**Plagiarism/Academic Integrity**: Below, you will find the college’s official policy on Academic Integrity. Let me phrase it in my own words, here, so we are clear: IF YOU PLAGIARIZE, I WILL FAIL YOU. And yes, I have a plagiarism detector app, so I will know.

**If you need special accommodations** for test taking, studying -- anything -- let me know as soon as possible so that I can help. See the college's official statement, below. The people at the Center for Student Accessibility are very helpful and you can find them in room L-237, and at 718/260-5143.

**Counseling is Available for Students experiencing educational issues or emotional issues including stress outside of college:** This is a great service You can call them at 718 260-5030 or visit the Counseling Services Center in Namm 108 to make an appointment**.**

**And finally…** If you are having trouble or are struggling in any way, do not hesitate to contact me.

**University Policies**

**Accessibility Statement:** City Tech is committed to supporting the educational goals of enrolled students with disabilities in the areas of enrollment, academic advisement, tutoring, assistive technologies and testing accommodations. If you have or think you may have a disability, you may be eligible for reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments as provided under applicable federal, state and city laws. You may also request services for temporary conditions or medical issues under certain circumstances. If you have questions about your eligibility or would like to seek accommodation services or academic adjustments, please contact the Center for Student Accessibility at 300 Jay Street room L-237, 718 260 5143 or <http://www.citytech.cuny.edu/accessibility/>.

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Statement:** 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 at New York City College of Technology and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension, and expulsion. <http://www.citytech.cuny.edu/academics/docs/academic_integrity_policy.pdf>

**Professor Schmerler’s Personal Plagiarism Statement**

“I have a zero-tolerance policy for Plagiarism.

“Essays.com,” “Bartleby.com” and similar sites and services can never be appropriated, in whole or in part, in any assignment. Rest assured that I will use a plagiarism checker (software) to root out copied material. Punishment is as follows:

You will get an “F” on the assignment in which you plagiarized. This is my gift to you. It sends a message that your plagiarism is mild and I am allowing you to continue as my student. If your plagiarism is severe, or you plagiarize a second time, I will not only give you an “F” on the assignment in question, but I will file an official report. This report will go on your record, and may result in your expulsion from college.

Not knowing what constitutes plagiarism does not excuse you from sanction.”

Important Dates for Assignments Spring 2020

(Note: dates are subject to revision. Check OpenLab for a finalized Course Schedule. Dates for submission of important graded work are in red or highlighted in green.)

**SCHEDULE OF WORK, SPRING 2020, English 1101**

First Week of Semester, Jan 25-Jan 27: Overview of course; short writing assignments; OpenLab registration

Literacy Narrative: 1st first draft due – February 10th ; final draft due – February 19th

1st Genre Switch Assignment due: March 2nd

First Journal Check Day (journal submission): March 4

2nd Genre Switch Assignment due: March 25

*Faculty to Inform Students of Mid-Term Grades: March 26* (our class informed by March 25)

Research and Inquiry Worksheet 1 due: Mar 31

Research and Inquiry Worksheet 2 due: April 1

April 7 – *classes follow a Wednesday schedule*. Also, by this date, namely, prior to Spring Break, your tentative and working Research Project has been approved by Professor. (See her during Office Hour is you can not finalize this during class period.)

Second Journal Check Day: April 20

Research/Inquiry Projects due: Apr 22, 27, 29 (see Professor for your timed slot)

Final Exam preparation: May 6, 11, 13

*May 16-22 – Final Examinations Week*

Our Final Exam will be on May 18

A BREAKDOWN OF THE 3 UNITS WE WILL COVER THIS SEMESTER

English 1101 is comprised of 3 UNITS. Each UNIT consists of numerous small writing exercises, reading activities, and homework assignments, plus one major Paper or Project. Below is an overview that will give you a sense of the role each Unit will play in your learning experience and goals this semester:

The first Unit – LITERACY AND LANGUAGE – provides an opportunity for you to become aware of your history and relationship to the Written Word. For about 5 weeks, we will unpack the experience of Reading, itself, and your Relationship to Language, in general. We will bring awareness, not only to the way you read and write, but of how you have learned to write, up until now, and of how you intend to write in future. By the end of this course, you will become a more effective communicator – that is my goal for you – but first, in UNIT 1, we must unpack the way you worked in high school, and create college-ready writing habits.

Major Assignment of UNIT 1: Your Personal “Literacy Narrative” – length a700 words, minimum; due Feb 19

UNIT 2: GENRE AWARENESS. The new writing habits (the ones you started in Unit 1) are very important: they will serve you in your future college education, across the board, no matter your major. This requires a great degree of reading and writing flexibility or “transfer” (the ability to write in a host of practical, real-life situations), and it is this practical need that is met by this Unit, which takes approximately 4 weeks to complete. After completing Unit 2, you will be able to analyze the way various forms of writing are constructed, and be able to put your unique “voice” into these diverse forms. Your analytical and creative skills will both be put to the test over the approximately 3-4 weeks it will take to complete this Unit. You will be given a series of readings, “treasure hunts” (gathering and simple research) activities, and unusual writing assignments inspired by your personal research and real-life situations.

Major Assignment(s) of UNIT 2: Genre Awareness/Genre Switch Papers – length: as needed; due Mar 25

UNIT 3: Research and Inquiry. What is true and what is false? How can you use your writing ability to impact a larger community in a positive way? This UNIT will approach the “research paper” in a new way. Unit 3 asks that you become a self-directed reader and writer – able to go out, get information, synthesize it, and fuse your unique opinion with it in a way that is Honest and Clear. Plagiarism, Academic Integrity, and Library Skills will be addressed here. You will complete worksheets, brainstorm, and explore your topic through various rough drafts (possibly in groups, as well as alone) until you arrive at working Research Thesis; you will complete Citations and/or Annotated Bibliographies in proper MLA format; you will work in groups (as assigned). Unit 3 is the shortest of the three Units, because it overlaps with the skills you will be exploring in Unit 2. Citation exercises, research worksheets, and writing assignments will begin in the middle/end of Unit 2, and continue over 2 more weeks, at which point you will present a final Inquiry Paper or Project.

Major Assignment of UNIT 3: Research/Inquiry Project – length 850 words minimum; due Apr 25-29

Final Exam: The last week or more of semester will be spent preparing you for the Final Exam. This exam is an essay, written in response to a writing prompt on a topic we have covered during the course of the semester (you will be able to choose from at least 3 prompts). The exam is timed – 75 minutes. If you require special accommodations/have an IEP, please make the Professor aware of your need early, so that you can take the exam stress free.

Final Exam. No specific length. Timed. 75 minutes. Date: May 18

Note: the “shorter” assignments in each Unit are **just as important** as the final projects, because they act as “scaffolds”/drafts for the finished work. You should be putting as much effort into these short drafts, and learning from the feedback you receive on them, as you would a polished, final paper. Not only the Professor will respond to your short assignments; in Lab/Circle time/and small group time, you will be getting feedback from your peers/fellow writers. Your contribution to our Community of Writers is much appreciated and noted by the Professor!