**Overview of This Semester’s Work Plan – UNITS 1, 2, 3 and Final Exam**

*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*:

**UNIT 1**: 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 700 words; 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. You will learn about discourse communities, and how we switch voices to appeal to readers.

Major Assignment(s) of UNIT 2: Genre Awareness/Genre Switch Papers – length: various; 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

Post Script

See our **OpenLab course site where your individual readings and day-to-day exercises are posted and updated on a regular basis**. <https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/schmerlereng1121sec402spring2020/>

Please schedule a one-on-one **meeting** with me **after each major assignment** so that I can keep you on track and help you with any problems or concerns.

BTW: smaller assignments are just as important as the larger ones you type and hand in for a grade. I check your Journals regularly and each assignment builds upon the next.