**New York City College of Technology**

**The City University of New York**

**Syllabus Spring 2020**

**Course**: English ENG 1121, Section D 402

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

**Mailbox**: Namm 529

**Class Time and Location**, Mon + Wed 8:30-9:45AM Namm 519

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

OVERVIEW

**Course Description:**

English Composition II builds on the work we did in Composition I, only now we go deeper. The skills students acquire in Comp II are designed to seamlessly transfer into a student’s other areas of intellectual and academic interest.

There are three major Units in this course: Genre, Research, and Multi-Modal. 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.

COURSE UNITS

Unit 1: Genre Analysis

In this unit you will learn about the voices and opinions of different discourse communities. You will write in different styles and analyze the tone and impact of each type of writing.

Unit 2: Research Paper/Project: “A Call to Action”

In this unit you will identify an issue within a discourse community that you belong to, conduct research, and write a strong paper that suggests a course of action related to the issue.

Unit 3: Multi-Modal Project: Your “Call to Action” Remix

In this unit you will translate the call to action from a research paper into a genre that your discourse community uses/interacts with – most notably, in a digital format.

Units 1-3 culminate in the student’s submission of a Final Portfolio of their completed work at the end of the semester.

There will be Mini Units tailored to the class’ unique needs: The goal of these mini units (topics range from grammar and punctuation to reflection writing, mindfulness, etc., as needed) is to help students do the very best they can on the Final Portfolio.

**Learning Objectives**

The learning objectives for ENG 1121 are outlined in a separate document which will be distributed and discussed in class.

**Grading Rubric**

Class Participation: 20% This includes active Circle Time presentation and participation; meaningful contribution to in-class discussion; timely completion of readings and daily writing assignments; a record of good and on-time attendance.\*

Unit Projects: 30% (total) This includes your major projects: the genre analysis, the call to action, and the call to action remix. They will be graded based on rubrics that we will discuss in class. Please note that this means that each of your major projects is worth only 10% of your grade. Why? Because I want to see you revise—and the best versions of what you write and perform will be the revised versions that appear in your final portfolio.

Final Portfolio (final drafts and author’s My Journey statement): 50%  This is the key component of the course; it is equivalent to a final exam. I expect you to revise significantly—focusing on “higher-order issues” like organization, development, and thesis rather than just on “lower-order issues” like grammar and punctuation. I also expect you to write a very thoughtful author’s statement called “My Journey” in which you reflect on your growth over the course of the semester as a writer and student including reflections on your writing practices, what you’ve created during the semester, and how you might apply the experiences you had in this course in other contexts.

\*In terms of attendance, you should be in the classroom both physically and mentally. Missing more than 5 classes can result in a 0 in this section, and regular lateness can be subject to 1/3 of an absence.

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:**

• *Understanding Rhetoric: A Graphic Guide to Writing* (2nd edition) published by Bedford/St. Martin’s.

• *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. We mean this! 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 1121**

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

Genre: 1st paper due – February 19th

First Journal Check Day (journal submission): March 4

Final genre papers due: March 25

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

Research and Inquiry plan 1 due: Mar 31

Research and Inquiry plan 2 due: April 1

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

Second Journal Check Day: April 20

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

Multi-Modal Projects due: May 6, 11, 13 (see Professor for your timed slot)

*May 16-22 – Final Examinations Week*

Final Portfolio Due Date: May 13

Class Party May 18

A BREAKDOWN OF THE 3 UNITS WE WILL COVER THIS SEMESTER

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!