

**New York City College of Technology**

English 1101

What Is Writing?:

An Introduction to College Writing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Fall, 2013

Office Hours: M/W 2-3 and by appointment

**Professor Rodgers**

Office: Namm 503

[jrodgers@citytech.cuny.edu](mailto:jrodgers@citytech.cuny.edu)**Course Description**

This course is designed to assist students in further developing the writing, reading, and critical thinking practices needed to participate in various academic and professional communities. The course will focus on a study of the use, structure, significance, and applications of reading and writing in a digital age. The course is not only structured around an inquiry into various issues related to writing and reading, but, through that inquiry, asks students to develop their understanding of—and comfort with—the writing process, explore their unique relationships to writing and language, and consider how writing relates to critical thinking. The overall goal of the course is to better enable students to structure and complete written work in future courses, as well as to use writing as a means of expression and problem-solving in various academic, creative, personal, and professional projects. There will be a strong emphasis on writing, close textual analysis, and research methods.

Since this is a Hybrid course, we will be meeting as a class only once a week, on Mondays. Our second weekly class session will take place on the Open Lab. Though it is up to you to schedule your second class session, please make sure you find a dedicated weekly time-slot for this.

**Course Web Site**<http://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/whatiswritingfall2013/>

You will find all of our course assignments and links to or copies of additional course readings on this site. Please make sure that register for Open Lab and add this course to your profile.

**Required Texts**

All of the required texts for this course are Open Access, which means that the copyright holder has made them available to you for free. See below for details.

- 1) Rodgers, Johannah. What Is Writing? A Brief Introduction to Writing as an Act of Communication (this is available in print and on the Web). Please let me know if you would like a printed copy.
- 2) [Norton Field Guide to Writing Web Site](http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/write/fieldguide/index.asp) (Web only:  
<http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/write/fieldguide/index.asp>).  
If you would like a print copy of this text, please come talk to me. There are several places where you can purchase this book, which is available on several different reading platforms, including mobile phones.
- 3) A College-level English Dictionary. You can use reliable dictionaries on the web, e.g., Merriam Webster (<http://www.merriam-webster.com>), Oxford, and/or a dictionary that you already own.

In addition to the titles listed above, we will be using several different texts for our course this semester, all of which are available on the Web. I have made every effort to ensure that the required texts for this course are both affordable and portable. Please make sure that you bring whatever texts that we will be discussing to class with you.

### **Supplies**

One notebook for In-Class Assignments and Notes.

One notebook (digital or paper) for your Learning Journal.

One binder or a folder with pockets for Assignments and Course Handouts.

### **Course Requirements**

**Learning Journal:** You will complete one to two JOURNAL assignments every week. These are informal writing and reading assignments, which are REQUIRED but which are written only for you. As a result, you do NOT need to edit and proofread these assignments. You will submit your Learning Journal as part of your Final Writing Portfolio at the end of the semester. For details, see our course Web site.

**Course Notes:** This is a self-directed assignment that I will collect at various points during the semester. For details, see Course Schedule.

**Reading and Writing Assignments (RWA):** Related to the writing process, research methods, and course readings and themes, these assignments will be discussed in class before they are due and, once completed, will form the basis of various discussions and writing projects. See Course Schedule for details and due dates. These assignments must be typed. Please make every effort to get these assignments in on time. The work in our course is cumulative and it is very important to keep up with the assignments. If you hand in an assignment within one to two classes of its due date, I will generally give you full credit for the assignment. However, in general, late assignments WILL BE GIVEN 0-50% CREDIT and will be reviewed and returned at my discretion.

**Formal Writing Projects:** We will be discussing, drafting, and revising each of the formal writing projects for several weeks before they are due. You will be given a letter grade for these projects based on a grading rubric assessing various issues related to academic writing, all of which will be reviewed and discussed during the course of the semester. See Course Schedule for details and due dates.

1/ Narrative Essay (2-3 pages)

2/ Textual Analysis Essay (2-3 pages)

3/ Research Project (4-5 pages)

**Final Writing Portfolio:** Over the course of the semester, I would like you to keep all of the writing that you do. At the end of the semester, you will compile your notes, writing assignments, journals, drafts, and essays into a final writing portfolio.

**Exams:** The English department requires that our course include two exams: a midterm exam and a final exam. We will discuss and prepare for these exams in the course of the semester. The midterm exam is an in-class reading response essay; the final exam is made up of two parts: a one paragraph summary of a reading and an in-class reading response essay.

**A Note on Course Workload:** Per CUNY guidelines, please calculate two hours of work per credit hour per week, EXCLUSIVE OF CLASS TIME. This means that for a 3 credit course, you will need to budget 8.5 hours/week (2.5 class hours plus 6 hours independent study/class preparation). Taking into consideration your other professional, educational, and personal obligations, please make sure that you have the time to do the work for this course and successfully complete it. If you do not have the time to accommodate the work for this course, I STRONGLY encourage you to consider taking this course at some point in the future when you will have the time to successfully complete it.

**A Note on What College Is:** While the notion and function of “college” changes over time and one that we will discuss in this class, the one thing that does not change is that deciding to go to college is a choice. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE HERE. Instead, it is your choice to be here. Please keep this in mind and try to keep an open mind towards the work you are asked to do. We will be spending quite a bit of time together this semester. Let’s try to make this time as productive and pleasant as possible.

### **Grading**

This course is about the practice of reading and writing, your exploration of that practice, and your engagement with it. I will ask you to do some things and it is expected that you will complete these assignments, which will be assessed on whether or not you complete them, as well as on the effort and attention you appear to have expended in completing them.

We will discuss grading policies for assignments and essays in detail over the course of the semester. Grades for the course will be based on the following:

- 10% Course Notes and Class Participation
- 10% Reading and Writing Journal
- 25% Reading and Writing Assignments (Completion=50%; Grade=50%)
- 25% Essays
- 20% Midterm and Final Exam
- 10% Final Portfolio

Although grades will be calculated based on the percentages listed above, this calculation, and your ability to receive a passing grade for the course, are dependent both upon your completion of all essays and assignments, upon course attendance, and upon passing the final exam.

You are expected to arrive on time and attend all classes; City Tech’s attendance policy states that more than three absences can result in a failing grade for the course. Arriving late or leaving early will count as a partial absence.

The work for this course is cumulative, which means that one assignment builds from the next and it is difficult to catch-up once you fall behind. Please remember that being absent is not an excuse for missing or late work, so be sure to get notes and assignments from a classmate or from our course Web site so that you can be informed and prepared for every class.

While I plan to attend each one of our classes, I am also aware that illnesses and emergencies arise. As a result, it is my policy to grant students three absences to manage over the course of the semester. Grades for those students who have no absences will be positively impacted; those with three absences will not be affected; and those with more than three absences will

be negatively effected. With four absences, a student cannot expect to receive a grade higher than a B, with five, a grade no higher than a C, with six, a grade no higher than a D. With seven absences, a student will receive a failing grade for the course. Please also keep in mind that three latenesses are the equivalent of one absence and that leaving a class before its completion will be counted as an absence. Finally, if situations arise that are beyond your control and that will result in a prolonged absence, please come talk to me.

### **Course Policies**

**Participation:** Class participation is vital to lively and focused discussions. Everyone must speak at least once each class period, no matter how shy or nervous you might be. Be respectful to your classmates, and please be free of distractions such as cell phones, food, or other non-course material.

**Preparedness:** Preparedness means that you will have read the text scheduled for that day and underlined passages you feel are important or about which you have questions and respect the voices and opinions of your fellow students.

**Essays and Assignments:** Essays and writing/reading assignments are due at the BEGINNING OF CLASS on the date indicated. Late essays will not be accepted. Essays and assignments must be typed. Essays should be formatted according to MLA guidelines, which will be reviewed in class and are explained below and on our course Blackboard site. Please make sure that you retain a copy of all assignments, essays, and handouts. If you must miss a class, please consult with one of your classmates or our course Blackboard site regarding any assignments you may have missed.

**Formatting papers:** Use MLA guidelines, which include the following recommendations: Double-space the text of your paper, and use a legible font (e.g. Times New Roman). The font size should be 12 pt.. The left and right margins of your document should be 1.25 inches. In the upper left-hand corner of the first page, list your name, your instructor's name, the course, the date, and the assignment title. Include a title for all essays and for any assignments for which a title may be appropriate.

**Contacting Me:** The best ways to contact me are in-person before and after class and during my office hours. If you need to get any assignments or essays to me, please either leave them in my mailbox, which is located in Namm 503, or bring them to class. I am unable to e-mail assignments to students and unable to receive assignments or essays via e-mail.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you have any type of disability, please come discuss this with me so we can make arrangements to tailor any course policies or assignments to your specific needs.

**Plagiarism:** Any part of submitted work that has appropriated another's ideas or language, intentionally or unintentionally, without proper acknowledgement of the source, is considered plagiarism. You will receive a failing grade for work that is plagiarized, and the English Department will be notified. No excuses, exceptions, or rewrites. Please see our course Blackboard site for the complete City Tech plagiarism policy and please do not hesitate to talk to me if you have any questions about practical or theoretical issues related to plagiarism.

**Cell Phones, Computers, Other Electronic Devices, etc.:** Cell Phones, computers, and other electronic devices need to be turned off and stored away during class. Anyone using a computer or cell phone for purposes unrelated to a class activity will be marked absent for that class.

**Semester Course Schedule :** Below, you will find an Overview of our Fall Class Schedule. For a detailed class schedule that includes reading and writing assignments, please consult our course OpenLab site.

\*Online Class Session

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Exam/Essay Due Dates</b>
Week 1 August 28	Introductions/What Is Writing?	
September 2 September 4	no class no class	
Week 2 September 9 September 11*	Writing, Reading, Rhetoric	
Week 3 September 16 September 18*	Writing Processes	
Week 4 September 23 September 25*	Reading in Response	
Week 5 September 30 October 2*	Reading in Response and Summary Writing	Final Draft Essay 1 DUE
Week 6 October 7 October 9*	Introduction to Argumentation	
Week 7 October 14 October 16*	Writing and Revising College Essays	
Week 8 October 21 October 23*	Summary Writing and Midterm Prep	
Week 9 October 28 October 30*	Revision	MIDTERM
Week 10 November 4 November 6*	Intro to Research	Final Draft Essay 2 DUE
Week 11 November 11 November 13*	Research Projects: Library Visit	LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW (W) FROM COURSES
Week 12 November 18 November 20*	Research Projects	
Week 13 November 25 November 27	Research Projects no class	
Weeks 14/15 December 2 December 4	Research Projects Research Projects	
December 9	Final Exam Prep	Research Project Proposal/Annotated Bibliography DUE
December 11	FINAL EXAM PART I/Researched Response Essay DUE	
December 16	FINAL EXAM PART II/Portfolio DUE	
December 18	Make-Up Exam	