WRIT 101: College Composition

- Instructor: Nicole Roché
- Mailbox: LA 133
- Office: Liberal Arts 229
- Phone: (406) 243-5231
- Office Hours: 2-3 p.m. T, 1-3 p.m. W
- Email: nicole.roche@umontana.edu
- Course Website: https://sites.google.com/site/writ101roche/

“Alice: Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?
Cheshire Cat: That depends a good deal on where you want to get to.
Alice: I don’t much care where.
Cheshire Cat: Then it doesn’t much matter which way you go.
Alice: ...So long as I get somewhere.
Cheshire Cat: Oh, you’re sure to do that, if only you walk long enough.”

—Lewis Carroll

Course Description

For many of us, the places we have visited, lived, and want to visit or live greatly define us as people. Place can have strong personal, political, and symbolic meanings for us. WRIT 101 invites you to consider how place can be seen as closely tied to your identity and major concerns as a thinker and writer. Throughout the semester, we will use place as a backdrop for honing your critical reading and writing skills, including your place as a student at the University of Montana. Along the way we will use inquiry-based research, collaborative work, and multiple writing genres to help you learn how to enter academic conversations with poise and confidence. We will embrace complexity and uncertainty as you work to better understand how place might be significant for you. Our primary goal will be to help you discover and explore your unique “place” as a thinker and writer while also preparing you for the variety of writing tasks you will face throughout your college career and beyond. In order to help you see your evolution as a writer, this class—like all WRIT 101 classes—will use the portfolio system of evaluation.

Course Texts
- Andrea Lunsford, et al, Everyone’s an Author
- Course website

Other Requirements
- working folder
- notebook for in-class writing
- binder for final portfolio
Major Inquiry Projects

Expect to write and revise three different projects and one reflective introduction over the course of this class, in addition to other informal writing in and out of class. I will give you a detailed assignment sheet as we begin each of these major assignments.

1. Listen, Then Tell Us What You Heard: Writing the Personal Academic Essay—Due Th 10.1
2. Putting in Your Oar: Writing the Op-Ed—Due Th 10.22
4. Portfolio and Portfolio Introduction—Due Th 12.10

Your three major inquiry projects will give you the opportunity to compose in a range of genres for a range of academic and civic situations. You’ll have opportunities to use observations and experience as evidence, as well as to learn strategies for composing effective arguments and conducting academic research.

You will have the chance to develop all of your major projects through a process of inquiry and drafting. You’ll compose papers in and out of class, alone and with your small group. For some of your writings, I’ll ask you to bring enough draft copies to share with your group or ask you to email your papers to group members for an online workshop. All inquiry projects must be completed for you to pass the course. I will respond to these projects with written comments focused on suggestions for revision, but I will also mark them using a check system to help you know where you stand on a specific project.

Common Policies and Procedures

General Class Expectations

- All reading assignments will be completed by the assigned date.
- All writing assignments must be turned in on time.
- Attend class.
- Actively, vocally, and appropriately participate in class discussions.
- Any individual assignments (including requests for conferences) will be completed by the assigned date

Grading

I encourage you to talk with me at any time to better understand my comments or to discuss your overall progress and success in the class.

- Participation 35%
- Final Portfolio 65%

**You must earn a C- in this class to be awarded credit
**You must turn in your portfolio and complete all major papers by their deadlines in order to receive credit for this course.

Grading Policy

Students enrolled in WRIT 101 are graded by the traditional letter grade A, B, C, D, F or are given NC for no credit. The NC grade does not affect grade point average. It is reserved for students who have worked unusually hard, attended class regularly and completed all assignments but whose skills are not at a passing level at the end of the semester.
**Attendance**

If you miss the first two classes, you will need to drop the course on Cyberbear and take the class another semester. This is university policy and the reasoning behind it is that important groundwork for the semester is put in place in the first few class meetings. Students without that foundational framework are better served by taking the course when they can give it the attention it deserves.

More than two absences from a T/Th class will compromise your grade. 5 or more absences from a T-Th class will result in a failing grade. Here’s the breakdown:

- 3rd absence: final grade drops one letter grade
- 4th absence: final grade drops one letter grade
- 5th absence: final grade is an F

Without attending class, you cannot perform your role as a student involved in learning, planning, inventing, drafting; discussing reading and writing; learning and practicing rhetorical moves and concepts; or collaborating with your instructor and classmates. Personal situations and required university events may arise that, on a rare occasion, make it impossible for you to be in class. Remember, however, that’s why a few absences are allowed; please reserve those for emergencies.

I reserve the right to adjust the policy in cases of significant, documented illness or emergency. Please note that instances of poor time management on your part do not constitute extenuating circumstances. If you must miss class, you are responsible for obtaining any handouts or assignments for the class from a classmate. Make sure you talk with me in advance if you are worried about meeting a deadline or missing a class.

If you must miss class, you are responsible for obtaining any handouts or assignments for the class. Make sure you talk with me in advance if you are worried about meeting a deadline or missing a class.

**Participation**

Participation includes coming to class prepared and on time, taking part in class discussions, asking questions, contributing your knowledge and insights in whatever form is appropriate, and striving to make all your contributions excellent. It also includes doing the required reading and writing for each class. Note: Please come to class on time. Lateness will hurt your grade because it is an unnecessary interruption and because latecomers are likely to miss valuable information. Please see Participation Grade Descriptors for more information.

**A Note about Community**

In many ways, Writ 101 will be unlike most of your other courses. Our class investigates the ways that text, reading, and composition form links of understanding between author and audience—roles that we each adopt. I urge you to take risks in your research, to explore the range of your own written voice, to question the perspectives that you find most comfortable, and to share your uncertainties with your peers and me. I’ve found that students who take these risks not only deepen their intellectual engagement, but they also contribute more thoughtful discussion comments and write more insightful essays.

To that end, I take our classroom community very seriously. It’s my aim to create an academic space where risk-taking is a highly valued part of our discourse and students are comfortable expressing vulnerability. (This might involve asking what feels like a silly question, graciously disagreeing with a statement that’s been made, sharing a relevant part of your personal history, or expressing how your background and identity inform your ideas.) Obviously, respect and open-mindedness are required from all of us. Hopefully it goes without saying that discrimination or harassment of any kind will not be tolerated in our classroom community. Let’s all work together to cultivate an atmosphere where everyone feels welcome and free to express themselves openly and honestly.

**Late Work**

Your work needs to complete and in class with you to be considered "on time."

- Late or handwritten homework does not receive credit.
• Emailed assignments are considered late.
• Late formal essays are unacceptable. They will not receive revision comments from me.
• If you miss class, the homework is due the next class period.
• You are always welcome to complete assignments early if you will be missing class.

**Academic Conduct**

You must abide by the rules for academic conduct described in the Student Conduct Code. If you have any questions about when and how to avoid academic dishonesty, particularly plagiarism, please review the Conduct Code and talk with me, your instructor.

According to the University of Montana Student Conduct Code, plagiarism is “representing another person’s words, ideas, data, or materials as one’s own.” The Composition program recognizes that plagiarism is a serious academic offense, but also understands that some misuse of information can occur in the process of learning information literacy skills. Therefore, if student writing appears to have been plagiarized, in full or in part, intentionally or unintentionally, or due to poor citation, the following procedure will take place:

• The student will be made aware of areas in the text that are not properly integrated or cited.
• The student will receive no credit on the paper; it is up to him/her to prove that he/she turned in original work.
• The student will be asked to provide the teacher with copies of the research she/he used in writing the paper.
• The student and teacher will meet to discuss research integration.
• *If the student cannot provide documentation of her/his research, further disciplinary action will be taken.*

In the case that the student is unable to provide evidence of his/her original work or in the case that the teacher has evidence that the student has repeatedly plagiarized his/her work, the teacher will consult with the Director of Composition for direction with further disciplinary action. In the case of blatant or egregious offenses, or in the case of repeated plagiarism, the Director of Composition will work with the Dean of Students to determine further disciplinary action.

*Students should review the Student Conduct Code so that they understand their rights in academic disciplinary situations. The Student Conduct Code can be found here: [http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php)*

**Students with Disabilities**

Qualified students with disabilities will receive appropriate accommodations in this course. Please speak with me privately after class or in my office. Please be prepared to provide a letter from your DSS Coordinator.

-------------------------------

**Daily Short Assignments**

You will receive comments but no grade on informal writing submissions. Short assignments play an important part in your overall participation grade.

**Major Inquiry Projects**

To give you a sense of the check system I’ll be using, please refer to the following descriptors.

• *Check*: A project with a check generally meets its rhetorical goals in terms of purpose, genre, and writing situation without need for extensive revision. Written comments will elaborate on strengths, weaknesses, and strategies for focused revision.
• **Check minus:** A project with a check minus meets the basic requirements, but would benefit from significant revision and a stronger understanding of rhetorical decision-making. Written comments will elaborate on strengths, weaknesses, and strategies for revision.

• **Unsatisfactory:** A project with a U does not meet basic standards, and requires extensive development and attention. An unsatisfactory submission may be incomplete or inappropriate to the assignment. Such a submission may receive a request to rewrite within a week in order to receive teacher comments.

---

**Portfolio Letter Grade Descriptors for WRIT 101**

**A**
Superior portfolios will demonstrate initiative and rhetorical sophistication that go beyond the requirements. A portfolio at this level is composed of well-edited texts representing different writing situations and genres that consistently show a clear, connected sense of audience, purpose and development. The writer is able to analyze his or her own writing, reflect on it, and revise accordingly. The portfolio takes risks that work.

**B**
Strong portfolios meet their rhetorical goals in terms of purpose, genre, and writing situation without need for further major revisions of purpose, evidence, audience, or style/mechanics. The writer is able to reflect on his or her own writing and make some choices about revision. The writer takes risks, although they may not all be successful.

**C**
Consistent portfolios meet the basic requirements, yet the writing would benefit from further revisions of purpose, evidence, audience, or writing style/mechanics (or some combination) and a stronger understanding of rhetorical decision-making involved in different writing situations and genres. The writer composes across tasks at varying levels of success with some superficial revision. The writer has taken some risks in writing and exhibits some style.

**D**
Weak portfolios do not fully meet the basic evaluative standards. Most texts are brief and underdeveloped. These texts show a composing process that is not yet elaborated or reflective of rhetorical understanding related to composing in different genres and for a range of writing situations. Texts generally require extensive revisions to purpose, development, audience, and/or style and mechanics.

**F**
Unacceptable portfolios exhibit pervasive problems with purpose, development, audience, or style/mechanics that interfere with meaning and readers’ understanding. Unacceptable portfolios are often incomplete. A portfolio will also earn an F if it does not represent the writer’s original work.

---

**Participation Letter Grade Descriptors for WRIT 101**
A
Superior participation shows initiative and excellence in written and verbal work. The student helps to create more effective discussions and workshops through his/her verbal, electronic, and written contributions. Reading and writing assignments are always completed on time and with attention to detail. In workshop or conferences, suggestions to group members are tactful, thorough, specific, and often provide other student writers with a new perspective or insight.

B
Strong participation demonstrates active engagement in written and verbal work. The student plays an active role in the classroom but does not always add new insight to the discussion at hand. Reading and writing assignments are always completed on time and with attention to detail. In workshop or conferences, suggestions to group members are tactful, specific, and helpful.

C
Satisfactory participation demonstrates consistent, satisfactory written and verbal work. Overall, the student is prepared for class, completes assigned readings and writings, and contributes to small group workshops and large class discussions. Reading and writing assignments are completed on time. In workshop or conferences, suggestions to group members are tactful and prompt, but could benefit from more attentive reading and/or specific detail when giving comments.

D
Weak participation demonstrates inconsistent written and verbal work. The student may be late to class, unprepared for class, and may contribute infrequently or unproductively to classroom discussions or small group workshops. Reading and writing assignments are not turned in or are insufficient. In workshops or conferences, suggestions to group members may be missing, disrespectful, or far too brief and general to be of help.

F
Unacceptable participation shows ineffectual written and verbal work. The student may be excessively late to class, regularly unprepared, and not able to contribute to classroom discussions or small group workshops. This student may be disruptive in class. Reading and writing assignments are regularly not turned in or are insufficient. In workshops or conferences, the student has a pattern of missing, being completely unprepared, or being disruptive.

Reading/Homework Schedule
(Subject to change.)

**Week #1**

**T 9.1**

HW: Double Draft + 1 exercise.

**Th 9.3**

HW:
Read and Prepare: Chapters 1, 2
Invention: A) List 10 places - other than your dorm room or home - where you spend time (on or off campus). B) Write 10 sentences describing Missoula (either from your own opinion or other peoples’). C) List at least 5 complaints you or others have about Missoula or UM.
Week #2
T 9.8
HW:
Read and Prepare: Chapters 3, 15, 16.
Invent: Choose two strategies listed on pg. 26 and explore possible topics for the PAE.
Invent: List 6 possible topics and a question for each topic.

Th 9.10
HW:
Write: Detailed inquiry – This is the topic you commit to!
Research: Explore library databases.
Write: Begin your research journal; complete first 7 questions (pg. #1).

Week #3
T 9.15
HW:
Read and prepare: Chapters 21,22,23
Research: Your topic.
Write: Complete your research journal.

Th 9.17
Conferences – Bring your research journal.

Week #4
T 9.22
HW:
Write: Paper sketch. 1-2 pages double-spaced, MAX, typed.

Th 9.24
HW:
Write: Complete workshop draft, including Works Cited page.

Week #5
T 9.29
HW:
Revise and Polish: Workshop draft.
Review: Assignment sheet details.

Th 10.1
HW:
***Paper #1: PAE Due***
Read and Prepare: Chapters 13 and 7.
Invention: List 6 possible topics and research questions for paper #2.
Research: Begin exploratory research.

Week #6
T 10.6
HW:
Read: Argument “Long Live Paper.”
Analyze: Answer Who’s Arguing, What’s at Stake, What’s the Claim? Look for appeals and fallacies. How does this essay serve as an example the op-ed assignment for this class?

Th 10.8
HW:
Read and Prepare: Chapter 14.
Write: A detailed inquiry for Paper #2.
Research: Topics that are interesting to you and FIND a solid primary editorial or article for analysis and response in Paper #2.
Research: The topic of the primary piece.
Analyze: Your primary piece (who is speaking, what is at stake, etc.)
Bring: Your primary piece to class.

Week #7
T 10.13
HW:
Write: Analyze your primary piece following the format we’ve used in class.
Write: What are your thoughts and opinions about this subject?
Write: Sketch for Paper #2.

Th 10.15
HW:
Write: Midterm response; participation grade check in. Directions: Find and review the participation grade descriptors. In a 1-2 page response, assign yourself a current participation grade and explain why you believe that grade is appropriate.
Write: A full workshop draft of Paper #2 for Tuesday.

Week #8
T 10.20
HW:
Revise and Polish: Your workshop draft.
Review: The assignment sheet details to make sure you have all required materials.

Th 10.22
HW:
***Paper #2: Op-Ed Due***
Read and Prepare: Chapter 8. What are the main characteristics of narrative?
Invention: Write 10 statements of belief. What are things you believe? Your beliefs can be big (“I believe in love”) or small (“I believe in tipping the pizza guy”), or somewhere in between.

Week #9
T 10.27
HW:
Read and Prepare: “Lydia’s Story” (pg. 128) and “Literacy: A Lineage” (pg. 132) and look for the genre characteristics from Chapter 8.

Th 10.29
HW:
Read and Prepare: Derek Owens’ chapter excerpt. Focus on the way these authors engage research in their work.
Research: Your place.

Week #10
T 11.3
HW:
Read and Prepare: Jess Walter’s essay. Focus on the way these authors engage research in their work.
Research: Your place.

Th 11.5
HW:
Write: Paper sketch.
Week #11
T 11.10
HW:
Write: Full draft for class on Tuesday, including Works Cited.

Th 11.12
HW: Workshop revisions.

Week #12
T 11.17
Conferences (No Class)—Bring your most recent draft to your scheduled time.

Th 11.19
Conferences (No Class)—Bring your most recent draft to your scheduled time.

Week #13
T 11.24
HW:
***Paper #3: Lifeplace Essay Due***
Review: Assignment sheets for the portfolio and the portfolio intro carefully. What questions do you have?
Revise: Either paper #1 or paper #2 (or both!) for the portfolio.

Th 11.26
No Class—Thanksgiving Break

Week #14
T 12.1
HW:
Write: Begin drafting your portfolio introduction.

Th 12.3
HW:
Write: Portfolio introduction.
Revise: Papers/major revision.
Review: Portfolio assignment sheet; arrange portfolio.

Week #15
T 12.8
HW:
Revise and Polish: Everything to turn in on Thursday.
Collect and Arrange: Portfolio.

Th 12.10
Last Day: ***FINAL PORTFOLIOS DUE***

Week #16
Exam week: Pick up portfolios and grades during scheduled exam slot.