WRIT 101: College Composition

Instructor Information
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Course Description
In College Writing 101, you will engage in a study of your place in Montana. This course is designed to challenge you to learn the skills you’ll need to excel as a scholar at the University of Montana. Throughout the semester you will learn to engage rhetorical habits of mind in order to write confident, graceful, research-based academic essays that explore topics vital to your life.

The purpose of WRIT 101 is to help you develop your abilities as a writer and reader of texts to encourage you to think critically and communicate effectively in the world. I’ll ask you to inquire into different personal, academic, and civic contexts and compose and read different genres. I’ll also help you develop flexible reading, writing, and research processes to help you develop as a college writer. Much of your work will involve different kinds of collaboration, including small group workshops and. Because writing development is an important process that takes place over time and across different writing situations, all WRIT 101 classes use portfolio evaluation as the primary means to assess your work in class.

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

Other Requirements
- working folder (all drafts must be saved for final portfolio)
- 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 10/2)
2. Putting in Your Oar: Writing the Op-Ed (Due 10/23)
3. Where You Live and What You Live For: Writing the Lifeplace Essay (Due 11/18)
4. Portfolio and Portfolio Introduction (Due 12/11)

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 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 and brought to class on discussion days.
- All writing assignments must be turned in on time.
- **All papers and homework must be typed.** Papers should be in 12 pt. Times New Roman font, double spaced, with 1 inch margins, printed in black ink. If I cannot read your portfolio, I cannot grade it.
- Attend class.
- Actively, vocally, and appropriately participate in class discussions.
- Any individual assignments (including requests for conferences) will be completed by the assigned date.
- Technology (laptops, tablets, phones, etc.) may only be used during class time for class related activities (taking notes, reviewing Moodle readings, etc.) Any other use will negatively impact your participation grade.

**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 enroll in 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.

**MWF classes**

More than three absences from a M-W-F class will compromise your grade. 6 or more absences from a M-W-F class will result in a failing grade. Here’s the breakdown:

- 4th absence: final grade drops one letter grade
- 5th absence: final grade drops one letter grade
- 6th absence: final grade is an F

Here’s the reasoning behind the attendance policy. 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. Extensions will only be allowed if communicated before the due date and approved by instructor.

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.

Note: Obvious inattention (sleeping, texting, etc.) may be counted as an absence. Frequent late arrivals may also be counted as absences.

**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.

**Classroom 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 in Writ 101, but contribute more thoughtful discussion comments and write more insightful essays, thus receiving better final grades. To that end, I take the Writ 101 classroom community 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.

Our Writ 101 community is based on a foundation of mutual respect. In accordance with UM policy, discrimination or harassment of any kind will not be tolerated in our classroom community. Excerpts from UM’s policies are attached (see definitions in the resources section), and serve as our guidelines for community-building. I expect each student to respect the opinions, beliefs, and identities of their classmates and for the level of discourse in class to remain civil and academic. A failure to respect your classmates and/or the instructor will have an adverse impact on your participation grade.

**Late Work**
Your work needs to be typed, printed, 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 receive no 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

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1 Adapted from the classroom guidelines of Alicia Mountain and Beth Hubble.
Code and talk with your instructor. The Council of Writing Program Administrators describes plagiarism as follows: “plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source.” Academic honesty is highly valued in the University community and acts of plagiarism will not be tolerated.

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 comments from me, 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.
Composition Program Plagiarism Policy for WRIT 101/201

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 will 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
**RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS**

**Student Advocacy Resource Center (SARC)**  
24-hour Support Line: 406-243-6559  
General office line: 406-243-4429  
Regular office hours: Monday- Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.  
Located in Curry Health Center (East Entrance, Upstairs) in Room 108

**Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action/Title IX Coordinator**  
Eric M. Gutiérrez  
[eric.gutierrez@umontana.edu](mailto:eric.gutierrez@umontana.edu)  
406.243.5710  
University Hall 020

**Curry Health Center Counseling**  
406-243-4711  
West Entrance, Downstairs and to the Left: Room 076

**Financial Aid Office**  
(406) 243-5373  
[faid@mso.umt.edu](mailto:faid@mso.umt.edu)

**Crisis Hotline:** 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

**UM Public Safety:** (406) 243-4000

**GrizWalk:** (406) 243-2777

- **Discrimination** is exclusionary conduct that is based upon an individual’s race, color, religion, national origin, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, sex, age, political ideas, marital or family status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation.

- **Harassment** may take various forms, including, name-calling, graphic or written statements (including the use of cell phones or the Internet), or other conduct that may be physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating. Harassment does not have to include intent to harm, be directed at a specific target, or involve repeated incidents. Sex-based harassment includes sexual harassment and non-sexual harassment based on stereotypical notions of what is female/feminine v. male/masculine or a failure to conform to those gender stereotypes.

- **Sexual Harassment** can include unwelcome: sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, including sexual assault. Sexual harassment, including sexual assault, can involve persons of the same or opposite sex.
Week #1

M 8.31 Class welcome. Overview of syllabus, policies, and expectations.
   HW:
   Write: Double Draft + 1 exercise
   Review: Syllabus

W 9.2 Introductions, Double Draft discussion, answer syllabus questions.
   HW:
   Read and prepare: chapter 1
   Read and prepare: “The Importance of Writing Badly” by Bruce Ballenger (Moodle)

F 9.4 Discuss Ballenger reading and chapter 1.
   HW:
   Read and prepare: chapter 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

M 9.7: No Class, Labor Day

W 9.9 Discuss chapter 2. Introduction of paper #1 assignment.
   HW:
   Read and prepare: chapter 3.
   Invent: choose two strategies listed on page 26 and explore possible topics for the PAE.
   Invent: List 6 possible topics and a question for each topic.

F 9.11 Discuss chapter 3, PAE assignment, and research questions
   HW:
   Read and prepare: Chapter 15 and 16.

Week #3

M 9.14 Discuss chapters 15/16 and research strategy. Introduction to library resources.
   HW:
   Research: explore library databases.
   Write: Begin your research journal; complete first 7 questions (page #1).

W 9.16 Information technology lesson. Overview of detailed inquiry assignment.
   HW:
   Read and prepare: chapters 21,22,23
   Write: Detailed inquiry due

F 9.18 Discuss chapters 21, 22, 23
   HW:
   Complete: your research journal

Week #4
Week #5

M 9.21 Pair Conferences – **bring your research journal.**  
**HW:**  
**Read and prepare:** assigned PAE samples.

W 9.23 Pair Conferences – **bring your research journal.**  
**HW:**  
**Read and prepare:** assigned PAE samples.

F 9.25 Review paper samples of the PAE.  
**HW:**  
**Write:** paper sketch. 1-2 pages double-spaced, **MAX**, typed.

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**Week #5**  
**M 9.28** PAE sketch workshop, reflection, and trouble-shooting.  
**HW:**  
**Write:** complete workshop draft, including works cited page.

**W 9.30** PAE workshop and questions.  
**HW:**  
**Revise and polish:** workshop draft.  
**Review:** assignment sheet details.

**F 10.2** PAE Due/Begin Op-ed unit.  
**HW:**  
**Invention:** Review your invention work from the beginning of paper #1: what were some of the complaints you or others had about Missoula or UM? Can you add more to the list?  
**Read and prepare:** chapter 13 and 7.

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**Week #6**  
**M 10.5** Discuss chapter 13 in detail.  
**HW:**  
**Invention:** list 6 possible topics and research questions for paper #2.  
**Research:** Begin exploratory research.

**W 10.7** Discuss chapter 7.  
**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?

**F 10.9** Discuss homework. Mini-lecture on thesis statements/major claims.  
**HW:**  
**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.  
**Bring:** your primary piece to class

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**Week #7**  
**M 10.12** Begin analysis of your primary piece
HW:
Analyze: your primary piece (who is speaking, what is at stake, etc.)
Write: what are your thoughts and opinions about this subject?
Research: conduct exploratory research
Write: a detailed inquiry for paper #2

W 10.14 Discuss primary pieces and detailed inquiries.
HW:
Read and prepare: chapter 14

F 10.16 Discuss chapter 14.
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: sketch for paper #2

Week #8
HW:
Write: a full workshop draft of paper #2 for Tuesday.

HW:
Revise and polish: your workshop draft.
Review: the assignment sheet details to make sure you have all required materials.

F 10.23 Op-ed due/ Begin Lifeplace essay
HW:
Read and prepare: chapter 8. What are the main characteristics of narrative? When reading “Lydia’s Story” (pg.128) and “Literacy: A Lineage” (132.) look for the genre characteristics from chapter 8.
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
M 10.26 Discuss chapter 8, narrative, and belief statements.
HW:
Read and Prepare: “Homeplace (a site of resistance)” by bell hooks (Moodle).

W 10.28 Discuss bell hooks reading.
HW:
Read and prepare: Three samples from the “This I Believe” website.
Invention: add to your list of beliefs and consider how they might relate to place. Are there places or scenes where your beliefs have been formed or tested?

F 10.30 Discuss sample essays.
HW:
Read and prepare: Derek Owens’ chapter excerpt. Focus on the way these authors engage research in their work.
Research: your place.
Week #10

M 11.2 Discuss Owens.
   HW:
   Read and prepare: Jess Walter’s “Statistical Abstract”. Focus on the way this author engages research in his work.
   Research: your place.

W 11.4 Discuss Walter.
   HW:
   Review: Owens and Walter’s essays. Compare and contrast their use of information, their relationship to place, and their tone. Which essay do you prefer? (And why?)

F 11.6 Compare and contrast Owens and Walter. Discuss research strategies.
   HW:
   Read and prepare: Student writing samples of the Lifeplace essay.

Week #11

M 11.9 Discuss student samples of the Lifeplace essay.
   HW:
   Write: paper sketch

W 11.11 No Class, Veterans Day

F 11.13 Sketch workshop.
   HW:
   Write: Workshop draft of the Lifeplace essay for class on Monday.

Week #12

M 11.16 Workshop of the Lifeplace essay.
   HW:
   Revise and polish: Lifeplace essay draft.
   Review: assignment sheet details.

W 11.18 Lifeplace essay due/introduce portfolio
   HW:
   Review: assignment sheets for the portfolio and the portfolio intro carefully. What questions do you have?
   Gather: your working folder together and bring everything to class.

F 11.20 Continue discussion of final assignments. Invention work for portfolio intro.
   HW:
   Read: revision samples. Why did the author make the changes they made?

Week #13

M 11.23 Discuss revisions and revision vs. editing.
   HW:
   Revise: your work for the portfolio.
   Write: the introduction to your portfolio.
W 11.25 No Classes, Thanksgiving Break

F 11.27 No Classes, Thanksgiving Break

Week #14
M 11.30 Pass back the Lifeplace essays and review the comments.
   HW:
   Revise: your work for the portfolio.
   Write: the introduction to your portfolio.

W 12.2 End of the Semester Conferences

F 12.4 End of the Semester Conferences

Week #15
M 12.7 Revision workshop.
   HW:
   Review: the feedback from peers and make your final edits.
   Compile and arrange: your portfolio.

W 12.9 Workshop for portfolio intro.
   HW:
   Revise and polish: everything to turn in on Thursday.
   Collect and arrange: portfolio.

F 12.11 Portfolio due.

Week #16
Exam week, December 14-18, pass back portfolios/grades during the scheduled exam period.