

Miami Dade College
Fall 2018: English Composition 1 (ENC 1101-0405/4790)
Mon/Wed/Fri: 10:30 a.m. – 11:35 a.m. Wolfson Bldg. 3, Room 3422-00
Sep 24-Dec 14, 2018

Instructor: Suchismita Dutta

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Office hours: Wed 11:45 a.m.- 12:45 p.m. or by appointment

English Composition 1: Writing the American Dream



Freedom Flights Cuban refugees crowd into a processing area at the Freedom Tower in 1967. Juan Clark Collection

From the “Journey to Freedom”: The Exile Experience Archive, MDC Freedom Tower

Required reading:

- *A Writer’s Reference* by Diana Hacker & Nancy Sommers- 9th ed., *Literature for Composition* by Barnet, Burto, Cain, Nixon- 11th ed.
- *Writing about Writing: A College Reader* by Douglas P. Downs and Elizabeth Wardle, 2018 ed.
- *The Everyday Writer* (TEW), ed. Andrea Lunsford, Cheryl Glenn, Alyssa O’Brien
- “Sweat” by Zora Neale Hurston
- “Battle Royal” by Ralph Ellison
- “Two Kinds” by Amy Tan
- “Introduction: The Desi Chain” from *Life on the Hyphen* by Gustavo Perez Firmat
- We will also explore “The Exile Experience” archive at the Freedom Tower

**You will be given scanned/digital copies of all required texts at the beginning of the semester.*

Course description: This is the first required general core course in college-level writing. Students will compose essays and other works using various methods of development. **This course fulfills 8,000 words of the Gordon Rule requirement.**

Note: This course must be completed with a grade of “C” or better [3 credits].

Prerequisites: Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) score of 440 or more on the verbal subtest; American College Testing (ACT) score of 17 or more on the English subtest; Computerized Placement Test (CPT) score of 83 or more on the English subtest; or ENC 0021 with a grade of “S.”

This course is intended to serve as an introduction to the kind of writing, reading, and thinking that take place at a university. We will read challenging essays that would help to formulate our own writing. Peer review, collaboration with class-mates, active participation in classroom discussions, and revision are some of the methods that you will adopt to develop your own writing. The primary goal of this course is to polish your writing skills and help you become a more expedient, more thorough, and a more sophisticated writer.

Students will work with multiple sources, engage in inquiry-based projects and present their findings in non-written formats (e.g., oral, visual, multimodal) where appropriate.

Policies and Procedures

Your attending this class implies full understanding and constitutes full acceptance of the terms of this contract regarding its policies and procedures. Should you need further clarification, please see me personally.

1. **ATTENDANCE:** Students are expected to attend class as attendance will be factored into the participation grade. After three unexcused absences, the participation grade will be lower by half a point. Therefore, after three unexcused absences an A will become an A-. If you miss excessively, you may fail the course.

***Unless otherwise arranged, late papers will not be accepted,** as they are an extremely important determinant to our class progress. You will also be evaluated on the basis of your participation in the group/ class workshops so take each class seriously.

2. **LATENESS:** The student must report to class on time. **Excessive tardiness will be penalized.**
3. **CODE OF HONESTY:** The student is bound by Miami Dade College’s academic honesty code. As such, the student is expected to conduct his academic affairs in a forthright and honest manner. In the event that students are suspected of classroom cheating, plagiarism or otherwise misrepresenting their work, he will be subject to procedural due process. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to the following:
 - cheating on an examination;
 - receiving help from others in work to be submitted, if contrary to the stated rules of the course;
 - plagiarizing, that is the taking and claiming as one’s own the ideas, writings, or work of another, without citing the sources;
 - submitting work from another course unless permitted by the instructor;
 - stealing examinations or course materials;
 - falsifying records;
 - assisting anyone to do any of the above

A detailed discussion of the above may be found in the Students' Rights and Responsibilities Handbook or at <http://www.mdc.edu/pdf/procedures/4074.pdf>.

As a result of this course, students will demonstrate how to:

1. Discuss writing metacognitively
2. Engage in critical questioning
3. Use texts as invitations and opportunities for writing and thinking
4. Deploy more sophisticated rhetorical strategies in their writing
5. Achieve the smooth flow of ideas through appropriate use of transitional words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs
6. Express ideas clearly and concisely
7. Edit and proofread your own writing to correct mechanical errors
8. Maintain the focus of an argument
9. Reflect on your own writing and the writing of others (peers and professionals)
10. Describe the choices you've made in composing your texts and why those were or were not appropriate
11. Cite sources informally

Things to Remember:

- All papers should be typed and printed in 12-point font, using Times New Roman and double-spaced. Once we have reviewed the MLA format in class, students will be expected to follow standard MLA conventions for all their papers.

Throughout the semester, the feedback you receive from me and your classmates should give your ideas for revision and help you meet the standards of college-level writing. If you are ever uncertain about your standing in the class or about any of your papers, or if you need individual help with this course, schedule an appointment with me. The Writing Center ((305) 237-3466 <http://www.mdc.edu/wolfson/academic/ArtsLetters/english/writing.asp>) can also help you at any stage of the writing process. If I think it's necessary, I will ask you to use the Writing Center on a regular basis.

- If you are not satisfied with your grade and want to discuss your performance in the course, feel free to contact me/ schedule an appointment.
- The use of cell phones and social media is strictly prohibited in the classroom.

The Draft Process:

You are required to take each of your essays for this class through multiple drafts or stages. As you work through the cycle, you'll have the chance to assess your work and receive feedback from me and your peers. Do not treat early drafts as blow-off work, and plan to write the "real" essay at the final stage. I will eventually see all of your work for each essay, and I will want to see evidence that you treated each draft as a formal assignment.

Accessibility and Accommodations

If you have received accommodations from MDC's accessibility resources (ACCESS), please let me know. Whether or not you have documentation, I hope to make our learning experience as

accessible as possible to all. Please let me know early in the semester if you have any concerns regarding your learning potential, participation, or general access in this course.

<http://www.mdc.edu/access/about.aspx>

Grading Scale:

A	94-100	C	73-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	60-66
B-	80-82	F	0-59
C+	77-79		

F: Fail. An F is usually given to those who don't do the work or have excessive absences.

However, if your work is poor and shows little understanding of the needs of the assignment, you will receive an F.

Overall Grade Distribution:

- Class participation + attendance: 20%
- Presentation: 20%
- Blackboard posts: 10%
- Major papers: 50%

Fall'18, English Composition 1 Schedule:

Week 1

M 9/24 Introduction, review syllabus, discuss course policies

W 9/26 Introduction to Zora Neale Hurston, Decoding the "thesis statement"

F 9/28 PPT presentation on reading strategies/ effective writing strategies/ writing rubric; close reading of "Sweat" by Hurston

Week 2

M 10/1 Close reading of "Sweat," discuss main themes & note down keywords

W 10/3 Continue discussing Hurston; introduction to the MLA format; how to use Purdue Owl?

F 10/5 Finish "Sweat"; how to enter a research conversation? Intro paragraph & thesis statement due in class

Week 3

M 10/8 Workshop draft #1. PPT presentation on "what is plagiarism and how to avoid it?"

W 10/10 Let's learn: How to write an argumentative essay? How to cite properly?

F 10/12 Draft #2 of Hurston; peer review, discuss critical thinking & argument

Week 4

M 10/15 How to maximize your Google search? How to be a responsible research writer? How to deliver a presentation?; ***sign up for presentations***

W 10/17 Visit MDC Freedom Tower Exhibit; collect your metadata

F 10/19 Organize your data & start preparing for presentations

Week 5

M 10/22 Continue prepping, work on your handouts/PPT/ lecture

W 10/24 Student presentations

F 10/26 Student presentations

Assignment #1 due by Sunday, Oct. 28 (midnight) via email

Week 6

M 10/29 Student presentations

W 10/31 Introduction to Ralph Ellison, background, history, writing style

F 11/2 Close reading of Ellison's "Battle Royal"

Week 7

M 11/5 Continue discussing "Battle Royal"; brainstorm assignment prompts

W 11/7 Finish "Battle Royal"; workshop thesis statements

F 11/9 work on draft#1 of Ellison

Week 8

M 11/12 Holiday- Veterans Day

W 11/14 Draft #2 due; peer review

F 11/16 Peer review continued

Assignment #2 due by Sunday, Nov 18 (midnight) via email

Week 9

M 11/19 Introduction to Gustavo Pérez Firmat, background, history, writing style

W 11/21 Close reading of excerpts from *Life on the Hyphen*, finding connections through Firmat's disconnect

F 11/23 Thanksgiving

Week 10

M 11/26 Finish *Life on the Hyphen*; workshop draft#1

W 11/28 Draft #2 peer review

F 11/30 Introduction to Amy Tan's "Two Kinds"

Assignment #3 due by Sunday, Dec 2 (midnight) via email

Week 11

M 12/3 Close read "Two Kinds"; brainstorm research questions

W 12/5 Continue close reading, workshop thesis statements

F 12/7 Workshop draft #1

Week 12

M 12/10 Peer review draft #2

W 12/12 final assignment writing day

F 12/14 Reflect: Make connections between all the texts you have read this semester

Final assignment due on Tue, December 18 by midnight.