**Writing and Rhetoric I (ENC 1101)**

**Spring 2018**

**Instructor:** Ms. Lucia Baez

**Class Hours:** Period 1, 3, and 7

**E-mail:** My email address is Lbaez1@dadeschools.net, and Remind 101 is the best way to contact me. If you don’t get a response within 24 hours, please follow up.

**Office Hours:** By appointment. We can set up a convenient time to meet, or we can talk by phone or online. Office hours are your time to get personalized feedback on your writing, and students who seek additional feedback on their work generally tend get more out of the class.

**Introduction**

What is writing? What is rhetoric? These are the questions we’ll be exploring in this class. Because writing, like speaking, is personal and everyone has their own style, chances are everyone in the class will have different ideas of what writing is, how rhetoric works, and what the best ways to write and communicate are. One of the goals of this class is to make you more sensitive and attuned to your rhetorical choices: how you communicate, whether in writing, in speaking, in a text message, a tweet, a photo, or any other medium, depending on what you want to say and to whom you want to say it. You make rhetorical choices all the time, often without even knowing it, and the goal here is to become more aware of these choices so that you can empower yourself. Not everyone thinks before they speak or write, but by becoming more conscious of how you use language, you’ll have an edge in getting the things you want, whether it’s ordering lunch, landing a job, or connecting with those around you.

No one is born a good writer. Just like any other skill, writing is a craft that you can develop and improve over time through practice, experimentation, and reflection. Regardless of the writing classes you've taken (or haven't taken) in the past, you already have the skills necessary to succeed in this class—you are a human being who knows how to put words together. It's just a matter of honing those skills. Why would you want to get better at writing? That's something you'll have to answer for yourself, because everyone's relationship to writing is personal and unique. Maybe you'll need it for your career or to help your family, maybe right now you just want to get better at it so you can succeed in your other classes, or maybe you have a story to tell. Either way, in this class you'll learn more about your own personal writing process—how you work as a writer—and I hope you'll find that being a more thoughtful writer helps you to organize your ideas, make sense of what's going on in your life, communicate with others, and reach your goals.

**By the end of ENC 1101, you should** **be able to do the following:**

-Respond in writing to various rhetorical purposes and address the needs of various audiences;

-Develop your ideas through a recursive process of writing, revision, and editing;

-Display appropriate format, structure and stylistic choices to meet audience needs and to satisfy your rhetorical purpose;

-Develop an effective thesis and support it with reasons and evidence;

-Interact with complex texts, explore alternative perspectives, and articulate and support your own perspective in response;

-Incorporate sourced materials into your own work through effective use of quotation, summary, paraphrase and citation using MLA or other appropriate style manual;

-Exhibit appropriate syntax, punctuation, and spelling;

-Develop a rhetorical vocabulary for understanding and talking about writing.

**Course Materials**

**Required Texts:**

-Ramage, John, John Bean and June Johnson. *The Allyn and Bacon Guide to Writing*. New York: Pearson, 2016. Customized for Florida International University. Sixth edition. ISBN: 9781323510964. (E-book ISBN: 978132348994-9)

-Lunsford, Andrea. *The Everyday Writer*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2013. Customized for Florida International University. Fifth edition. ISBN: 9781457673221.

**Required Online Components:**

-**Canvas (canvas.fiu.edu)**: We will be using Canvas for submitting homework, online discussions and the sharing of various course information such as assignment sheets and weekly schedules.

-**Turnitin.com**: Turnitin.com will be used through Canvas to submit both major essays and smaller homework assignments. Through Turnitin.com, you can view and print our comments and grades on your work. Turnitin.com also monitors submitted assignments for potential plagiarism.

**Other Resources:**

**-FIU’s Center for Excellence in Writing** ([writingcenter.fiu.edu](http://writingcenter.fiu.edu)): The CEW provides students with free, one-on-one feedback sessions for any writing assignment.

-**Google Drive** ([drive.google.com](http://docs.google.com/)): Google Drive provides free online document storage and word processing, spreadsheets, etc.

**-FIU Department of English Website** ([writing.fiu.edu](http://writing.fiu.edu/)): Our department website has a variety of resources to help you become familiar with your rights and responsibilities as an FIU student.

**-FIU Disability Resource Center** (drc.fiu.edu): If you have a physical or learning disability (or you suspect that you might), the DRC can help you in your transition to college life.

**Policies**

**Participation:** Your written and spoken contributions to this class are essential, both for your own improvement as a writer and critical thinker and for the class as a whole. Much of our time in class will consist of large- and small-group discussions as well as in-class writing assignments, and while each class session will have specific goals or outcomes, it’s really up to you to determine the mood of the class. By offering your own insights, opinions, and questions, you’ll make the class discussion more fun and interesting for everyone. In order to make good contributions, however, you’ll need to come to class prepared. This means completing reading and writing assignments prior to class so that you can participate fully in the discussion. **In order to encourage engagement in class discussions, the use of phones, laptops, and tablets is discouraged unless it is directly related to the class.**

Showing up to class on time and attending regularly will earn you a participation grade. Anything above that will require more effort on your part. **You can improve your participation grade by** contributing regularly to class discussion with informed opinions and questions, participating actively during group work, and staying alert and engaged throughout class. **You can damage your participation grade by** showing up late to class, missing class frequently, talking while others are talking, using your laptop, tablet or phone for non-class-related tasks, or sleeping.

**Attendance:** The work we do in class will be directly connected to homework and major writing assignments. As such, attendance—including arriving on time—is crucial, and will be a significant part of your participation grade. If you arrive more than five minutes past the starting time of class, you will be considered late. Per English Department policy, you must attend at least 80% of face-to-face meetings. **This means that missing six or more classes is grounds for failing the course.**

**Grading:** To pass ENC 1101, you must receive a final grade of C or higher, and you must submit a satisfactory draft of all of the major writing projects assignments. Your final grade consists of the following components:

**- Unit 1:** Analyzing What You See (15%)

**- Unit 2:** Analyzing What You Read (15%)

**- Unit 3:** Synthesizing Your Ideas (20%)

**- Unit 4:** Writing Under Pressure (10%)

**- Homework/Online Work** (25%)

**- Participation/Attendance** (15%)

**Revisions: All good writers revise in some way or another, and revision should not be seen as a punishment or something you only do when you receive a low grade. While revision will be a part of the process for all writing projects in this class, you will have the opportunity to revise and resubmit the writing projects from Units 1 and 2 for a higher grade once you receive a grade and comments on the final draft. If the revision shows significant improvement, you will receive a higher grade, which will replace the original grade. In order to submit a revision, you must first submit a final draft and receive a grade and comments. Deductions for lateness carry over to revised grades. Again, think of this class as a place to experiment with your writing and ideas, learn from challenges and mistakes, and grow as a writer and thinker.**

**Late Work:** If you know that you will need more time to complete an assignment, you must notify me **before** the deadline in order to be eligible for full credit on the assignment. Late homework assignments submitted without permission lose 50% for each day late. Final essay grades lose 2% per day late.

**Plagiarism:** Since the goal of this course is to gain experience writing and thinking critically, plagiarizing someone else’s writing, ideas, or work (presenting it as your own) defeats our purpose. While we will discuss plagiarism in class, it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with FIU’s strict disciplinary policies regarding plagiarism (https://ugrad.fiu.edu/academic\_misconduct). You are also not allowed to submit work that you have written for any other classes, including previous 1101 classes.

(This syllabus was made through the efforts of Nick Vagnoni, and the FIU English Department)