

English 101: Composition and Reading

Course Description

- 3 UNITS 54 Lecture Hours
- *Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of ELIC 151 or ENGL 45 or ENGL 50 or qualification by the MJC assessment process.*
- *Recommended for Success: Before enrolling in this course, students are strongly advised to satisfactorily complete READ 184.*
- Fundamental skills in reading and writing at the college level. Emphasis on exposition, argument, research, and information competency. 8,000 word writing requirement, at least 6,000 of which must be in essays that have a developed thesis. 2,000 - 3,000 words of the 8,000 must be research-based writing with MLA formatting and documentation.
- Not repeatable. (A-F or P/NP) Transfer: (CSU, UC)

Professor Nathan Bento

- Office: Founders Hall 260K
- Phone: (209) 548-5797
- Email: benton@yosemite.edu
- Office hours: **T, TH** 9:30am-12:00pm

I will make every effort to help you to succeed in this course and ensure that your experience of English 101 is meaningful. In return, please take the time to read this syllabus carefully and contact me right away if you have any questions or concerns. I will respond to emails within 24 hours, usually sooner, but I am slower on the weekends. If I do not respond to your message within 24 hours, assume I did not get your email.

Regular Effective Contact with Students

Regular effective contact helps make online classes the equivalent of face-to-face classes.

I will be contacting students keeping you up-to-date on course information in the following ways:

- Weekly announcements
- Providing feedback in Grade Book
- Participating in class discussions

Like you, I'm juggling many responsibilities every day, so I have limited availability during traditional business/college hours, but I want to help you succeed in this course.

You can also volley your question to your classmates using the **Q&A Cafe** chat space discussion thread. This forum is designed for you all to help each other with specific questions. Often, one student may have a skill area that others may not. Don't be shy!

Required Books

For this class we have two required books:

- *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde

Dover Thrift Edition

ISBN 0-486-27807-7

- *They Say/I Say* by Gerald Graff, Cathy Birkenstein, and Russel Durst

Norton Fourth Edition

ISBN 978-0-393-63168-5

You will also need a notebook for journal writing

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, the student should be prepared to:

1. Read and think critically.
2. Select credible sources.
3. Legitimately use scholarly sources by summarizing, paraphrasing, quoting, and documenting according to MLA conventions, integrating source ideas with their own ideas, and avoiding plagiarism.
4. Write papers that demonstrate competent control over written language, academic form, style, and tone.

Your Responsibilities

By enrolling in this class:

- You agree to uphold the standards of academic integrity described in the [Student Handbook](#)
- You agree to complete all readings and related assignments on time.
- You agree to be available for the exam dates listed. There are no make-up exams unless a legitimate emergency occurs, and I am notified immediately.

Assignments

All assignments are designed to develop your college and professional skills. These include the

Assignment	Description	Percent of Class Grade
Essay 1	1,300-word essay Final Draft (on Canvas)	15%
Essay 2	1,300-word essay Final Draft (on Canvas)	20%
Essay 3 (Research Paper)	2,000-word essay Final Draft (on Canvas)	30%
Final Exam	1,300-word essay (on Canvas)	10%
Assignments	Journal writes, first drafts, peer reviews, quizzes, tests, research classes, and other assignments	25%

ability to produce reader-based, thesis-driven writing; effective summary; textual engagement; find and evaluate sources; and critical thinking. This work will be challenging, and though it may be difficult at first, as you learn more and we work together, your skills will grow to meet these academic demands.

- **Essays:** You will be writing three 1,300-word essays in MLA format (double-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins).
- **Research Paper:** You will be writing one 2,000-word research paper with in-text citations and a Works Cited page in MLA format (double-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins).
- **Other Assignments:** You will be doing journal writing, essay drafts peer reviews, quizzes, research classes, discussions, workshops, and other assignments.

Grading

Grading Breakdown

Grading Scale

- A= 90%-100%
- B= 80%-89%
- C=70%-79%
- D=60%-69%
- F=0%-59%

Novel Quizzes and Comprehensive Exam

You will have regular assigned readings on the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

You will have online open-book quizzes on each reading.

After completing the book, you will have a comprehensive exam on it. This exam will also be an online open-book test on the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. The exam will be comprehensive (covering the entire book from Preface to the final chapter).

Policy on Late Work

Late work will not be accepted except in cases of extreme emergency.

If you are ill or have an emergency situation that prevents you from meeting the deadline on an assignment, contact me as soon as possible.

Revision Policy

You can revise all your essays once except the final exam. For an essay to be eligible for revision, it needs to have been submitted by the due date, and it must have been completed and have met the minimum length requirements. The last day for submission of revisions is 21 April 2019.

Attendance Policy

As this is an online course, a student's attendance is required virtually. I highly encourage students to log on to the course daily, to check for announcements, due dates, discussions, etc. Staying on top of the course content is the responsibility of each student. Students are responsible for reading and preparing according to the convenience of their schedule. However, students should be aware that discussions, assignments, and essays are due according to the timeline provided on the syllabus and calendar. Therefore, staying on top of the schedule is important, as we will all be reading, writing, and researching at similar stages throughout the semester, and several of our discussion boards will require you to work semi-collaboratively with your peers—discussing concepts and exchanging ideas.

Discussion Boards

Each discussion board will have unique requirements. Please read them carefully. Nearly each one requires 350-500 words or more contribution related to questions or prompts or contribution of authentic written material intended for drafts. Each discussion board is worth ten points. Your grade will be determined by your content, the post's length, and your fair natured exchange with your classmates. Be sure to use response posts as an opportunity to challenge one another, build upon arguments, move ideas in new directions, add to an ongoing conversation, etc. These exchanges are far more interesting than simple agreements.

Discussion Etiquette

The nature of this course makes for a lively class at times, yet your participation should not disrupt or dominate any portion of the lesson. Your comments should aim to enhance greater understanding of the subject of discussion and not criticize or denigrate any member of our classroom community. Please be mindful that virtual communication requires a level of courteousness that is even higher than that of face-to-face communication, as speakers and listeners do not have the added advantage of gestures, facial expressions, etc. to smooth out any confusing connotations implied by either member of the conversation. Any student found to be posting aggressive language, intrusive rhetoric, and/or inflammatory remarks should expect to be banned from participation and to have all posts and/or comments removed. To reengage in the class, the student will need to speak to me. If the conduct continues, that student will need to speak directly with the Vice President of Student Services before returning to class.

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism includes copying writing or merely ideas from the published or unpublished work of another person without full, clear acknowledgment of the source. If you paraphrase or summarize what someone else has said, you must acknowledge that source even when you put those ideas into your own words. You are plagiarizing if you cut and paste bits and pieces of writing from the Internet or any other source and make it appear as if you wrote those words (i.e. if you don't use quotation marks and cite the source). Plagiarism also includes copying from yourself--that is, turning in material that you wrote for another class. MJC has a college-wide definition for academic dishonesty which covers plagiarism and its consequences.

Any assignment where academic dishonesty is involved will automatically receive a failing grade, which may result in the student failing the course. A report will be filed. See MJC's statement on academic integrity in the [MJC Catalog](#). If you are having difficulty with an assignment, see me for help.

How to Succeed in English 101

- **Complete all assignments in a timely manner** (including homework, WC visits, and major essays). You cannot pass the class if you are missing major essays and have a final course grade lower than a C.
- **Take class and reading notes daily** (review them daily). Don't worry if parts of the reading seem confusing).
- **Participate in class regularly and always ask for clarification if you feel lost, confused, or frustrated.**
- **Utilize student support services** (instructor office hours, Library and Learning Center, DSPS, student success specialists, counselors, and computer labs)

- **Focus on the process of learning, not the grade** (recognize and appreciate your growing skills and knowledge).
- **Be open to challenges and support your classmates** (try out new ideas and skills in discussions and on assignments; be receptive to an respectful of views that challenge your way of thinking).
- **Start research early** (don't wait until the last minute).
- **Develop peer support networks** (form study groups, collaborate to accomplish challenging tasks, reach out for help when absent).

Canvas Help

If you are having problems with Canvas, click on the "**Help?**" question mark in the lower left corner of your Canvas screen for current help desk hours, phone numbers, and Canvas tutorials. You can also do Google searches and find YouTube videos on just about anything you need on Canvas.

Technology

This course has a technological component. You will need to compose essays, exams and homework on a computer, access grades and materials on Canvas, and upload papers to Turnitin through Canvas. You will also need to conduct research using online databases. MJC provides students with computer labs with internet access.

If you need technology help, contact the [Help desk](#). Phone: (209) 575-7900

The Writing Center

The [Writing Center](#) is part of the Library & Learning Center.

Students work one-on-one with a trained tutor on all aspects of the writing and reading process:

- How to read college-level texts
- How to write more effectively
- How to revise paragraph arrangement
- Brainstorming and prewriting
- Grammar and syntax

Trained tutors will empower you to be a more skillful writer, reader, and critical thinker. To make an appointment, call 209-575-6346 (East Campus) or 209-575-6676 (West Campus).

Accommodations for Students

MJC is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with documented physical or learning disabilities or differences. The college encourages students with documented disabilities or differences to contact instructors during the first week of class to discuss appropriate accommodations to ensure equity in grading, classroom experiences, and outside assignments.

Should you have a disability or difference that might impede your progress, contact [Disability Services](#) in Student Services, room 112 on East Campus 209-575-6225 or mjcdsps@mjc.edu M-F 8AM-5PM.

Mental Health Therapy

Mental Health Therapy is available at Modesto Junior College if you have:

- Difficulty coping with life or day-to-day functions
- Impulsive behaviors or mood swings
- Feelings of sadness, hopelessness most of the time
- Constant thoughts about a traumatic event
- The need to use prescriptions, drugs, or alcohol to numb emotional pain
- Thoughts of suicide
- Excessive worrying
- Irrational fears that interfere with life
- An unusual or highly troubled relationship with food

College can be frustrating and stressful! If you need help coping, contact [Health Services](#):

- **East Campus** Morris Memorial 108, Phone: 209-575-6037
- **West Campus** Yosemite Hall 114, Phone: 209-575-6360

I reserve the right to change the syllabus at any time. If any changes are made, they will be announced on Canvas.