

# English Composition I

## Course Text

*About Writing: A Guide* by Robin Jeffrey

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## Course Description

This course helps students develop transferable writing skills by exploring the steps involved in the writing process through various rhetorical modes: narration, persuasion, compare/contrast, and argument. Students will write and revise approximately 12 pages as a requirement for the course, as well as critically review the work of professionals and peers. The importance of both global and sentence-level revision is highlighted throughout the course, as students are encouraged to consider revising their work for enhanced readability. Students also learn effective and ethical research techniques, utilizing the Modern Language Association's (MLA-Version 8) formatting recommendations.

## Course Objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- State a purpose and stick with it--providing appropriate evidence and details as needed by the genre, purpose, style and audience.
- Organize an essay into a well-written introduction, body, and conclusion.
- Identify and compose the following types of writing: narrative, persuasion, exploratory, compare/contrast, and argument.
- Consider the rhetorical nuances of writing and how these considerations play out in writing: audience, form, purpose, and style.
- Understand and explore the rhetorical purposes and best case scenarios for summarizing, paraphrasing, and/or utilizing direct quotations.
- Curate appropriate primary and secondary sources in order to develop an understanding of a chosen issue and to define an idea and persuade a reader.
- Analyze and evaluate the validity of the various kinds of reading materials.
- Explore and analyze both reader and professional writings, as they relate to course topics and assignments.
- Develop a clear and precise vocabulary about what works and what needs to work in a particular piece of writing by participating in critical reading review.
- Give credit to sources when credit is due using the Modern Language Association's (MLA's) format and style guide.
- Successfully revise and proofread all aspects of an essay.

- Throughout all stages of the writing process, demonstrate control over language: grammar, mechanics, and tone.

## MLA Research Guidelines and Formatting

This course follows the research guidelines of the Modern Language Association (MLA). These guidelines are reflected in the [MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers](#) (8th ed.).

## Important Course-Related Terms

In this course, different terms are used to designate tasks:

- **Tutoring:** memberships include online tutoring for students to access with any content/subject related questions in the place of faculty. If your tutor is not able to answer your questions please contact a student advisor.
- **Graded Exercises:** Informal writing opportunities or quizzes. These are graded for completion.
- **Writing Assignment\*:** A written piece that will be submitted for a grade when the final draft is complete. Your final grade for each assignment is calculated from the raw score provided from. If you have any questions about your calculated Assignment grade, please contact your course advisor. Writing exercises and assignments may only be submitted as .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .txt files.
- **Graded Quiz:** A graded online assessment.

## Academic Integrity Statement

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an honest, truthful and responsible manner. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and academic misconduct. Failure to comply with the Academic Integrity Policy can result in a failure and/or zero on the attempted assignment/examination, a removal from the course, disqualification to enroll in future courses, and/or revocation of an academic transcript.

## Course Completion Policy

In order for a course to be considered complete, all required coursework must be attempted, submitted, and graded. Required coursework consists of graded assignments. Any Academic Integrity Policy violations may prevent a course from being considered complete.

## Course Evaluation Criteria

Your score provides a percentage score and letter grade for each course. A passing percentage is **70%** or higher.

There are a total of 1000 points in the course:

Topic	Assessment	Points Available
1	Graded Exercise: Academic Honesty Quiz	40

Topic	Assessment	Points Available
1	Graded Exercise: Setting an Intention Activity	20
2	Writing Assignment: The Personal Narrative	225
3	Writing Assignment: The Persuasive Letter	225
4	Writing Assignment: The Compare/Contrast Essay	225
5	Writing Assignment: The Argumentative Essay	225
6	Graded Exercise: Revisiting Your Intention	20
6	Graded Exercise: Final Self-Assessment	20
Total		1000

All required assignments must be submitted in order to be issued a transcript.

### Course Topics and Objectives

Topic	Lesson Topic	Subtopics	Objectives
1	Course Introduction		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the Course</li> <li>Review the Academic Honesty Policy</li> <li>Assess understanding of plagiarism and academic honesty</li> </ul>
2	Getting Started		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set an Intention</li> </ul>
3	Writing Assignment 1 - The Personal Narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Telling a story</li> <li>Story format</li> <li>Story development</li> <li>Transitions</li> <li>Character description</li> <li>Sensory details/imagery</li> <li>Dialogue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and engage content as necessary</li> <li>Draft and edit the Personal Narrative</li> <li>Participate in optional draft review through reader review, tutoring and the writing center</li> <li>Submit your Personal Narrative for evaluation</li> </ul>
4	Writing Assignment 2 - The Persuasive Letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Persuasive writing</li> <li>Rhetorical situation</li> <li>Thesis/claim development</li> <li>Language/audience/tone</li> <li>Appeals: logos, pathos, ethos</li> <li>Persuasive vs argument writing</li> <li>Organization</li> <li>Topic sentences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and engage content as necessary</li> <li>Draft and edit the Persuasive Letter</li> <li>Participate in optional draft review through reader review, tutoring and the writing center</li> <li>Submit your Persuasive Letter for evaluation</li> </ul>

Topic	Lesson Topic	Subtopics	Objectives
5	Writing Assignment 3 - The Compare/Contrast Essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploratory writing</li> <li>• Thesis/claim development</li> <li>• Research/evidence</li> <li>• Compare/contrast signal phrases</li> <li>• Utilizing credible sources</li> <li>• MLA style and formatting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and engage content as necessary</li> <li>• Draft and edit the Compare/Contrast Essay</li> <li>• Participate in optional draft review through reader review, tutoring and the writing center</li> <li>• Submit your Compare/Contrast Essay for evaluation</li> </ul>
6	Writing Assignment 4 - The Argumentative Essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taking a position</li> <li>• Analysis</li> <li>• Policy claim/support points</li> <li>• Counterargument</li> <li>• Rebuttal</li> <li>• Organizational structure</li> <li>• Scholarly evidence</li> <li>• MLA style and formatting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and engage content as necessary</li> <li>• Draft and edit the Argumentative Essay</li> <li>• Participate in optional draft review through reader review, tutoring and the writing center</li> <li>• Submit your Argumentative Essay for evaluation</li> </ul>
7	Course Wrap-Up		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze course intention</li> <li>• Final self-assessment</li> </ul>

## Appendices

Appendix A

Appendix B

Appendix C

Appendix D

Lessons on Writing

Revision and Proofreading Tools

Formatting and Submitting Your Work

Procuring and Citing Sources

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