

## English 201 Syllabus Spring 2019

Instructor: Ilya Bratman

Course: English 201-08 (1901), M/W 8AM-9:15AM, Room NB 1.69

English 201-13 (1914), M/W 930AM-1045AM, Room Westport 107W

Office Location: 524 West 59th Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, English Department

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:40am-12:00pm and/or by appointment, must make an appointment!

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### **Course Description:**

Course Prerequisite: ENG 101

This course introduces students to the rhetorical characteristics and writing styles from across the disciplines. Instructors choose a single theme and provide students with reading and writing assignments, addressing the differing literacy conventions and processes of diverse fields. Students learn how to apply their accumulated repertoire of aptitudes and abilities to the writing situations presented to them from across the disciplines.

### **Course Theme:**

Life is all about *persuasion*. You persuade your parents to forgive you when you make mistakes and persuade your friends to join you on your next adventure. We all persuade various groups of people, an audience, to follow us, to buy our product, to agree with our point of view, to change their perspective, to act a certain way. Attending John Jay College of Criminal Justice and living in the current conditions and circumstances of our political and social systems, all of us struggle with the concepts of justice and human rights. Only with adequate and powerful words can our leaders and educators provide a path forward. Words have more meaning than we can imagine. We will work together on developing effectiveness in crafting our messages. We will explore the nature of the relationship between language and audience. We will also build an awareness and self-reflection of our own writing conventions, challenges and strengths. With our current politics as a backdrop for our course, we will practice the art of persuasion and communication across genres and disciplines.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- **Invention & Inquiry:** Students learn to generate, explore and expand their ideas in a meaningful, thorough and complex way.
- **Awareness & Reflection:** Students learn to reflect on their own writing and learning and increase their understanding of who they are as writers and learners.
- **Writing Process:** Students learn methods of composing, drafting, revising, editing and proofreading.
- **Claims & Evidence:** Students learn to develop substantial, plausible claims, provide valid and/or strong arguments, and show why and how their evidence supports their claims.
- **Research:** Students learn rhetorical and stylistic choices that are appropriate and advantageous to a variety of genres, audiences and contexts.
- **Sentence Fluency:** Students learn to write clear, complete and correct sentences and use a variety of complex and compound sentence types.
- **Conventions:** Students learn to control language, linguistic structures, and the punctuation necessary for diverse literary and academic writing contexts.

### **Course Texts**

Materials will be assigned each week, and available online on Blackboard or as PDFs.

### **Attendance Policy:**

Students are expected to attend all classes, and to stay for the entire period.

**Students will be allowed four absences, yet are expected to find out from other students the work missed, then complete and hand in all work missed from that class.** If you are absent, remember to refer to the syllabus, blackboard for assignments.

**Any more than four absences could result in the loss of one letter grade.**

**Missing 6 classes could result in failure of the class. This is not punitive, but reflects the philosophy that you need to be in class, and participating in order to earn enough credit to pass.**

\*PLEASE NOTE - THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS AN EXCUSED ABSENCE. If the circumstances of your life are such that missing five or more classes is likely, it is in your best interest to withdraw and repeat the class during a different semester.

\*PLEASE communicate with me right away if you are having issues with attendance and/or participation.

### **Lateness Policy:**

Students are expected to arrive **on time** for all classes. Arriving late to class, more than just once or twice, will negatively affect your grade. If you do arrive late, be mindful to sit down quietly so as not to disturb anyone.

### **Manuscript Format and E-Portfolio:**

All out-of-class assignments will be double-spaced, with 1-inch margins on all sides and in 12-point type of a standard font (i.e. Times New Roman). All projects and homework assignments will be uploaded on your own E-Portfolio page. Sometimes, I will ask you to print out your assignment and bring it to class. There will be group assignments as well and you will need to work together in the same format and each student will submit the full assignment on E-Portfolio.

### **Late Assignments**

Late papers/assignments will be accepted one class meeting after the due date for a full grade drop. For example, if your B paper is due Tuesday, and you turn it in Thursday, it will go from a B to a C. Some assignments are full credit, and turning them in one class period late will earn you half of that assignment's points. **Assignments more than one class meeting late will not be accepted for credit. Because of this, missed assignments easily lead to failure of the class.**

### **E-Portfolio, Digication**

Papers and all assignments must be uploaded to **DIGICATION** by the date and time indicated in class. If there are any extenuating circumstances, please contact me as soon as possible (not after you have missed the due date), however, please do not discuss these extenuating circumstances with me during class time. We will have an E-Portfolio Workshop in the first two weeks of the course. E-Portfolio is a part of your grade.

### **Class Environment:**

Because much of the format of the class will be group discussion that is based on assigned readings, it is essential (and your grade will reflect) that you keep up with the readings and contribute to the learning process of the class. Be prepared, thoughtful, and willing to regularly participate in group discussions.

- **Unless asked to do otherwise, please turn your cellphones/texting devices/laptops/Ipads off and put them away during class. Those who violate this rule will leave their electronics at the front of the room until class is over.**
- Coffee, soda, water, etc. are permitted, but food is not allowed in the classroom.
- Sleeping during class will not be permitted (see 'coffee').
- This is a college class, and behavior problems, though not anticipated, will not be tolerated.

### **Active Participation**

Your physical and mental presence in the class is invaluable to the work we will do. I expect that you will attend each class and participate fully in discussing reading and course projects. Active participation also includes completing assignments for in-class discussion. ***Learning is a collaborative activity, and I expect that you will be attentive to, engaged with, and respectful of everyone in the class.*** I also want to remind you not to abuse our classroom space. You're welcome and encouraged to bring a laptop to class, but please refrain from checking your email, Facebook, and other personal interests that are available through the web while we are in class. The web will be a great resource for our class, but make sure when you're online that what you're doing relates directly to what we're doing in class.

### **Ethical Participation**

I ask that we all be respectful of one another and the wonderfully diverse opinions, ethnic backgrounds, gender expressions and sexual orientations, social classes, religious beliefs, and ethnicities among us. In the same spirit, written work in this course should employ inclusive language, which shows that the writer honors the diversity of the human race by not using language that would universalize one element of humanity to the exclusion of others. For example, use men and women or people instead of the generic man; use they or alternate he and she instead of the generic he.

### **Blackboard:**

In the event that I am unable to come to class due to some reason, I will post class activities on Blackboard so that we will not lose our place in the calendar. We will go over Blackboard in the early weeks of the semester.

### **Grading Policy**

You will be graded on your participation as well as your completion of several assignments over the course of the semester, as listed below. Every homework assignment, including engaging the class reading in class, counts. When you skip on preparation, you are throwing away a piece of your grade that should be cake. DON'T DO IT! BE PREPARED!

The portfolio is your responsibility. You are expected to save all drafts of all work.

### **Academic Performance:**

93%+= A;

90+=A-;

87+=B+;

83+=B;

80+=B-;

77+=C+;

75+=C;

70+=C-;

60+=D;

less than 60 pts. = F

Course Grade Is Achieved as Follows:

A, A-	Excellent
B+	Very Good
B, B-	Good
C+, C, C-	Satisfactory
D+, D, D-	Poor
F	Fail

Projects:

**1. Social Science/Ethnographic Persuasive Paper - 20%**

- a. Proposal – 5%
- b. Annotated Bibliography – 5%
- c. Draft – 5%
- d. Final Paper and Presentation– 5%

**2. Social Media Project – 15%**

- a. Report – 5%
- b. Presentation – 5%
- c. Campaign – 5%

**3. Interview Project – 15%**

- a. Topic, research – 5%
- b. Script – 5%
- c. Report and Reflection – 5%

**4. Mission Statement – 10%**

- a. Draft – 5%
- b. Final Statement – 5%

**5. Final Reflection, Reflective Journal – 10%**

**Attendance, Writing Center Workshops (4) – 10%**

**Active Participation – 10%**

**Free Writing, Memo Writing, Homework – 5%**

**E-Portfolio – 5%**

Plagiarism and academic dishonesty:

Plagiarism and cheating are violations of CUNY's policy on academic integrity:

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words, or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the ideas or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source.

Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. *Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.*

It is the student's responsibility to recognize the difference between statements that are common knowledge (which do not require documentation) and restatements of the ideas of others. Paraphrasing, summarizing, and direct quotation are acceptable forms of restatement,

as long as the source is cited. Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The Library has free guides designed to help students with problems of documentation.

([http://www1.cuny.edu/portal\\_content/2004/policies/image/policy.pdf](http://www1.cuny.edu/portal_content/2004/policies/image/policy.pdf))

By registering in this course, you are promising to abide by all the requirements stated in this policy. Students in breach of this policy are liable to severe penalty, including disciplinary action. See also pp. 44–5 of the JJC Undergraduate Bulletin for further explanation. See also *MLA Handbook*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed., 2.

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you think you may need to request accommodations and academic adjustments, please notify me as soon as possible. Students may request such accommodations for issues such as, (a) disability, (b) pregnancy, childbirth or a related medical condition, (c) religion, and (d) status as a victim of domestic violence, sex offense or stalking. If you think these or any other issues may affect your performance in this class, please notify me as soon as possible, and contact the appropriate office. For accessibility accommodations for disability, pregnancy, or any medical condition, see <http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/accessibility>, and contact JJay's Office of Accessibility Services. OAS is located at L66 in the new building (212-237-8031). For religious accommodations, contact the Office of Student Affairs. Victims of domestic violence, sex offense, or stalking, should contact JJay's Title IX Coordinator. Prior to granting accommodations in this course, the instructor should receive written verification of a student's eligibility. "Qualified students . . . will be provided reasonable academic accommodations if determined eligible by the Office of Accessibility Services. It is the student's responsibility to initiate contact with the office and to follow the established procedures for having the accommodation notice sent to the instructor." Source: *Reasonable Accommodations: A Faculty Guide to Teaching College Students with Disabilities*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., City University of New York, p. 3.

([http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/studentlife/Reasonable\\_Accommodations.pdf](http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/studentlife/Reasonable_Accommodations.pdf))

### **The Writing Center:**

The Writing Center, located in room 1.68 New Building, is a service that provides free tutoring to students of John Jay. The Center has a staff of trained tutors who work with students to help them become more effective writers, from planning and organizing a paper, to writing and then proofreading it.

You are asked to attend at least **FOUR workshops** of your interest at your convenience at the Writing Center during the semester. You will need to provide the attendance slips to me electronically via email. *524 West 59 Street, Room 1.68 New Building, 212.237.8569, or go on to their website - <https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/writing-center>, to learn more.*

### **Backing up Your Work**

As you may have learned the hard way in the past, it's a good habit to save important files such as course work to a location aside from your laptop or whatever computer you may use for your classes—for example, Google Drive and/or an external hard drive. Hard drives crash, thumb drives get lost, and unfortunately, laptops can get stolen. While I'll be sad along with you should this happen to you, it's your responsibility to make sure you back up your work so that life—and your effective participation in this course—can go on.

**Let's have fun and be creative!!!**

**This syllabus is subject to change.**