

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York

Title of Course:	Course Number:	ENG 101
ENGLISH 101: COLLEGE COMPOSITION	Class Hours per Week:	4
	Lab Hours:	0
	Credits:	3

A. Description

English Composition is the standard freshman writing course. The course introduces students to academic writing. By its conclusion, students will be ready for English 201 and for the writing they will be asked to do in advanced courses across the curriculum. Students completing ENG 101 will have mastered the fundamentals of college-level reading and writing, including developing a thesis-driven response to the writing of others and following the basic conventions of citation and documentation. They will have practiced what Mike Rose calls the “habits of mind” necessary for success in college and in the larger world: summarizing, classifying, comparing, contrasting, and analyzing. Students will be introduced to basic research methods and MLA documentation and complete a research project. Students are required to take a departmental final exam that requires the composition of a 500 word thesis-driven essay in conversation with two designated texts.

B. Prerequisites and/or Corequisites

A passing score of 56 on the CUNY CATW Writing Test and a passing score of 65 on the ACT Reading Test. Students may be exempted from these tests and enter English 101 if they have a 75 on the Regents English Test or a 480 on the Verbal SAT. Students who have completed 45 or more credits from another college (English-speaking only) are also exempted from the ACT examination.

C. Student Outcomes

Students will be able to

- Organize, develop, and revise at least four thesis-driven essays that include substantial support and use a variety of rhetorical strategies
- Summarize, paraphrase, and quote from readings
- Critically analyze numerous readings
- Demonstrate a command of edited American English, using vocabulary and syntax appropriate to college-level work
- Demonstrate a command of the MLA conventions of citation and documentation

D. Required Texts and/or Supplementary Materials

The Composition Coordinator and the Composition Committee maintain a list of recommended

texts that is continually evaluated and updated. Many instructors assign both a reader and a rhetoric or handbook. Some creative literature such as a short novel may included, but the primary emphasis is on expository prose. Some currently recommended texts are the following:

50 Essays: a Portable Anthology, Samuel Cohen (New York: Bedford/St. Martin's)
They Say, I Say Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein (W. W. Norton & Co.)

E. Requirements and Evaluation of Students

Students receive letter grades, A through F, based on their writing in the course and their performance on the departmental final examination. The coursework counts 2/3 of the grade, and the examination counts 1/3. Students are expected to write at least six essays of at least 500 words during the course and will learn to revise their work through several drafts. They may also be asked to keep journals in which they respond to reading assignments and do short written assignments of other kinds.

College Attendance Policy

At BMCC, the maximum number of absences is limited to one more hour than the number of hours a class meets in one week. For example, you may be enrolled in a three-hour class. In that class, you would be allowed 4 hours of absence (not 4 days). In the case of excessive absences, the instructor has the option to lower the grade or assign an F or WU grade.

Academic Adjustments for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. BMCC is committed to providing equal access to all programs and curricula to all students.

BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea 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.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC's web site, www.bmcc.cuny.edu. For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

F. Outline of Topics

Weeks 1-2: The Writing Process

- A. Invention: Brainstorming, Clustering, Focused Writing, Thesis Statements
- B. Arrangement: Grouping, Outlining, Paragraphs, Essay Structure
- C. Writing and Revising: Audience and Voice
- D. Proofreading and Reviewing Grammar and Mechanics

Weeks 3-5: Simpler Modes of Developing Essays

- A. Using Narration to Develop an Idea
- B. Descriptive Writing: Portraying Persons and Places
- C. Developing Essays by Illustration

Weeks 6-9: Varieties of Expository Writing

- A. Analysis of Cause and Effect
- B. Critical Thinking
- C. Definition and Enumeration
- D. Comparison and Contrast

Weeks 10-14: Argumentation and Preparation for Final Examination

- A. Developing Argumentative Essays by Example
- B. Critical Thinking in Argumentation
- C. Responding to Argumentative Readings
- D. Preparation for Final Examination