

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
The City University of New York

Department of ENGLISH

Title of Course:	Course Number:	ENG 121
	Class Hours per Week:	7
<b>ENGLISH 121: COLLEGE COMPOSITION &amp; INTRO TO LITERATURE IN TANDEM</b>	Lab Hours:	0
	Credits:	6

A. Description

English 121 combines English 201 into a one-semester course. It is designed for students with a high level of reading and writing proficiency. Departmental permission is required. The course introduces students to academic writing. Students completing English 121 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. Students are introduced to literary criticism and acquire basic knowledge necessary for the analysis of texts (including literary terms and some literary theory); they gain proficiency in library and Internet research; and they hone their skills as readers and writers. Students will be prepared for the analytical and research-based writing required in upper-level courses across the curriculum; they will also be prepared for advanced courses in literature.

B. Prerequisites and /or Corequisites

Students must have received a 72 or higher on the CUNY Assessment Test in Writing and a 90 or higher on the CUNY Assessment Reading exam or 107 or higher on the Accuplacer Reading exam.

C. Student Outcomes

Students will be able to

- attain the skills acquired in English 201 in a single accelerated course for unusually competent and highly motivated students
- achieve fluency, vocabulary, style, and interpretive skills at a level that will allow them to excel in advanced courses in English and related disciplines
- read and analyze literature at a college level
- master the procedures of research writing
- write many kinds of prose, whether for personal, academic, or career purposes

D. Required Texts and/or Supplementary Materials

Faculty generally assign texts from those recommended by the Composition Coordinator for English 201. Typically, a teacher will assign an anthology that combines literature with essays

and a writing handbook or rhetoric. Some recent possibilities are the following:

*Literature and the Writing Process*, McMahan, Day, Funk (MacMillan)  
*Lives through Literature*, Keating and Levy (MacMillan)  
*Responding to Literature*, Stanford (Mayfield)  
*Concise Handbook*, Troyka (Prentice Hall)

*Prentice Hall Guide to Grammar and Usage*, Harris (Prentice Hall)

#### E. Evaluation and Requirements of Students

Students are expected to complete substantial reading assignments and write ten to twelve revised and edited essays varying in content and mode. Some writing assignments will involve analysis and interpretation of literature, and some will involve critical thinking and argumentation. A research project introducing students to the procedures and principles of MLA and APA documentation will be included. Students will receive letter grades, A through F, based on their overall performance in the course, with greatest emphasis on the quality of their writing.

#### **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](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu). For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

#### F. Outline of Topics

Weeks 1-3: The Writing Process

- A. The Stages of the Writing Process: Invention, Development, and Revision
- B. Editing and Proofreading
- C. Arranging and Revising Essays: Using Readings to Support a Thesis
- D. Writing and Critical Thinking

Weeks 4-6: Literature and the Writing Process

- A. Interpreting and Responding to Literature
- B. Analyzing Short Stories and Novels
- C. Problems with Paraphrasing and Quoting
- D. Describing Characters and Setting
- E. Developing a Thesis in Response to a Story

Weeks 7-9: Complex Writing Modes and Strategies; Interpreting Drama

- A. Planning and Writing Analytical and Interpretive Essays
- B. Writing about Drama; Analyzing Characters and Themes
- C. Writing Comparative Essays

Weeks 10-12: The Research Paper: Argumentation and Supporting a Thesis with Research

- A. Using the Library; the CUNY+ System
- B. Gathering and Organizing Material
- C. Quoting and Paraphrasing; Using Sources to Support a Thesis
- D. Presenting Material in MLA or APA style

Weeks 13-14: Completing Research Paper; Interpreting Poetry

- A. Revising and Editing Research Paper
- B. Analyzing and Responding to Poetry; Figurative Language
- C. Evaluating Literature: Style, Emotion, and Meaning