

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York

Department of ENGLISH

Title of Course:	Course Number:	ENG 314
ENGLISH 314: ADVANCED COMPOSITION	Class Hours per Week:	3
	Lab Hours:	0
	Credits:	3

A. Description

English 314 teaches the writing of formal and informal essays, articles and reviews in a personal voice. Through the reading of modern and contemporary essayists students will learn to identify the unique qualities of writers in order to develop an individual style applicable to the various disciplines of public and personal writing.

B. Prerequisites and/or Corequisites

A grade of B or better in English 201 or English 121 or by departmental approval

C. Student Outcomes

Students will

- Discuss course content in a range of critical contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of themes and genres of course texts (including making informed decisions in their own writing).
- Critique the complexities and differences among course texts (which may include student writing).

D. Required Texts and/or Supplementary Materials

Ten on Ten: Major Essayists on Recurring Themes, Atwan (St. Martin's)

Eight Modern Essayists, Smart (St. Martin's)

The Contemporary Essay, Hall (St. Martin's)

The Bedford Reader, Kennedy (St. Martin's)

Handbook for Writers, Troyka (Simon and Schuster)

On Writing Well, Zinsser (HarperCollins)

E. Evaluation and Requirements of Students

Students will be required to write at least six essays over the course of the semester. A longer, more involved essay will be required at the end of the semester as a final project. Students will be graded on their entire work in the course, including any quizzes and examinations, as well as class participation. The chief emphasis will be placed on the quality of their essays.

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: Clarity and Simplicity in Writing

- A. Writing and Rewriting
- B. Avoiding Redundancies and Jargon
- C. Clear Thinking and Clear Writing

Weeks 3&4: Tone and Style

- A. Audience
- B. Levels of Formality
- C. Irony

Weeks 5&6: Usage and Correctness

- A. Diction and Usage
- B. "Journalese"
- C. Sentence Structure and Sentence Effectiveness

Weeks 7&8: Larger Elements

- A. Unity and Coherence
- B. Transition
- C. Development of Argument
- D. Presentation of Facts, Opinions, and Details

Week 9: Beginnings and Endings

- A. Effective Introductions: Capturing the Reader's Interest
- B. Effective Conclusions

Weeks 10-12: Critical Thinking

- A. Organizing Material Logically
- B. Avoiding Logical Fallacies
- C. Observing, Inferring, Generalizing, and Evaluating

Weeks 13-14: Types of Prose Writing

- A. Reviews: Film, Literature, Sports
- B. Science and Technology
- C. Humanities
- D. Social Sciences