

Cassie Cross
Office: R230P
Office Hours: M-TH 11-1

English Composition I

ENGL 101, Section OCS (#1099)
Winter 2013

“We tell ourselves
stories in order to
live.”
-Joan Didion

Materials Required:

**Extremely Loud
and Incredibly
Close** by Jonathan
Safran Foer
(ISBN: 978-0-547-73502-3)

**The Little Seagull
Handbook** by
Richard Bullock and
Francine Weinberg
(ISBN: 978-0-39391151-0)

Any additional
readings will be
provided.

Grades:

Grades will be weighted
as follows:

Paper 1	15%
Paper 2	25%
Paper 3	25%
Responses	15%
Participation	10%
Workshop	10%

Participation includes
contributing to online
discussions, turning in
work on time, and showing
that you have read and
understood the material.
Workshop includes making
thoughtful, substantive
comments on your
classmates' papers and
completing drafts on time
for workshop (do not turn
in drafts that only amount
to one page, do not turn
in the same draft for both
workshops, etc.)

Welcome to English Composition 101! Over the 12 weeks of this quarter you will be reading and discussing the works of others as well as writing and sharing your own work. This course will focus on developing clear, effective writing skills. We will look at the different methods and mediums that writers have used to tell their stories. We will examine the ways in which writers use the craft of writing to communicate their message.

We are here to become better writers by communicating our thoughts clearly and concisely to an audience. No one said this would be easy. In fact, I can tell you without a doubt, after spending all of my life working on it, **writing is hard**. Even published authors struggle with it. Don't be afraid to give yourself a break, and don't underestimate the amount of time it can take to find the right words.

Writing is a process and in this course you will learn how to do clear and thoughtful revision of your work. This course will rely on a workshop format, where your classmates will respond to your writing and you will give thoughtful comments on your peers' papers as well. Responding to writing—published writers as well as your classmates' work—will help you to think more critically and objectively about your own writing. Working with fellow writers who put time and thought into their work, and who you trust to be respectful of your work, is an invaluable experience. Ideas, given time and reflection, can develop and grow; in this course you will have the opportunity to make use of the process format and succeed in writing well-informed, highly developed essays. Also, a little creativity never hurts!

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate various invention practices: brainstorming, free-writing, outlining, and journaling
- Demonstrate ability to write in various modes: personal narrative, expository, analytical, descriptive, argument
- Demonstrate the phases of writing: draft, revision, final copy
- Explore sources of writing: reading, thinking, analyzing, discussion
- Create a thesis statement that suggests the focus of the paper; does not point out the obvious, and is written as a sentence
- Develop and include enough details and examples to support the identified thesis and reinforce the focus
- Demonstrate various patterns of organization and use the organization pattern that suits your identified purpose & audience
- Illustrate the concept of Audience in your writing
- Artfully combine Audience, Purpose, and Tone in compositions written in and outside of class
- Write in a vocabulary appropriate to your subject and identified audience
- Begin and conclude a paper effectively
- Show effective control of mechanics: paragraphing, punctuation, spelling
- Differentiate between key ideas and supporting details in reading
- Locate the thesis statement in reading assignments
- Practice good group skills: how to give useful feedback, and how to make use of feedback you receive
- Develop self assessment skills

Essay Format:

- ✓ typed
- ✓ double-spaced
- ✓ Times New Roman (or similar) font
- ✓ 12 pt.
- ✓ 1 inch margins

Late papers lose 5 points every day they are late.

I do not comment on late drafts.

In rare circumstances exceptions will be made, but you must clear it with me first.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is grounds for probation or suspension from Bellevue College as well as for failure in this course.

I will not tolerate it, and will report any instance of plagiarism I find to the Vice President of Student Services.

Plagiarism is a counterproductive, non-writing behavior that is unacceptable in a course intended to aid your growth as an academic writer.

Any instances of plagiarism I find in your essays will result in an immediate failing grade on that assignment, and possible failing grade for the course.

Writing Lab:

The Writing Lab offers one-on-one help with writing, including class assignments, college applications, resumes, and more. Make an appointment by calling ahead (564-2200) or stopping by (D204).

A Note From The Instructor :

I believe that being a better writer means being a better reader. Throughout this course we will be reading essays and articles as a way of understanding the different methods available for communicating meaning. In this course you won't just be reading *to read*, you'll also be reading *as a writer*.

This concept might be unfamiliar at first, but I'd like you to try and pay attention to the parts of the essay, and also notice what techniques the writer was using to communicate his/her message. How did the writer open the essay? How was it organized? What details were used? Once you start seeing how an essay breaks down, it is easy to incorporate the same techniques into your own work.

When was the last time you read something that you couldn't look away from? What about something that made you cry? Or inspired you to make a change in your life? Writing is a powerful tool; it's also a necessary one. Writing skills are required in almost every professional career, whether it is writing a feasibility study, an email to a colleague, or even just a sign to put on the front door. The skills you will learn in this class will help you throughout your educational and professional career.

As such, I expect professionalism from my students. If you have any problems or concerns with your performance in the course, please contact me. Failure to meet deadlines on a consistent basis without communicating with me the reason will result in a significant impact to your grade.

I expect your emails to be addressed and composed in a professional manner. I expect timely completion of assignments in accordance with our class calendar. Please plan time for troubleshooting computer issues should they arise. With the amount of resources Bellevue College offers its students, there should be very few reasons for late work due to computer malfunction.

That being said, the Canvas server has been known to crash. If this happens, I will be aware of it and will make adjustments to deadlines accordingly.

Otherwise, communication is key. Contact me by email if you have any concerns. Worried about an assignment? Let me know. I'd rather help you with your draft than give a poor grade to a problematic final paper.

This quarter will go by fast. Stay vigilant. I suggest taking a look at the course schedule and copying the calendar into your personal calendar. I also recommend setting designated times to work on this class, at least 3-4 times a week, more often when a paper is due.

On the following page you'll find additional information about campus resources and student policies.

Sincerely,
Cassie Cross



*Bellevue College
Email and Computer
Lab Access:*

All students registered for classes at Bellevue College are entitled to a network and email account. Your student network account can be used to access your student email, log in to computers in labs and classrooms, connect to the BC wireless network and log in to MyBC. To create your account go to: bellevuecollege.edu/sam

BC offers a wide variety of computer and learning labs to enhance learning and student success. You can find current campus locations for all student labs here: dept.bellevuecollege.edu/helpdesk/students/classrooms

Affirmation of Inclusion:

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination.

We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect. <http://bellevuecollege.edu/about/goals/inclusion.asp>

Disability Resource Center:

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible. If you are a student with a documented autism spectrum disorder, there is a program of support available to you.

If you are a person who requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc, please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.

The DRC office is located in B 132 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. . . . Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc

If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment, please register with The Disability Resource Center. If you are eligible, you will be provided with an accommodation letter, which you must review with me **the first week of class**. More information can be found at: www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc

Public Safety:

The Bellevue College (BC) Public Safety Department's well trained and courteous non-commissioned staff provides personal safety, security, crime prevention, preliminary investigations, and other services to the campus community, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Their phone number is 425.564.2400. The Public Safety website is your one-stop resource for campus emergency preparedness information, campus closure announcements and critical information in the event of an emergency. Public Safety is located in K100 and on the web at: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/publicsafety/>