

English 101

Winter quarter 2015

Section X (#1111), TuTh, 7:50 PM-10:00 PM; room R201

Instructor: Jim Chin, Ph.D.

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I. Prerequisite

Qualifying grade in English 92/93 or qualifying placement test score. (Some students may find it necessary to perform additional non-graded work in order to acquire an appropriate college-level command of standard English usage, particularly in the areas of grammar and reading comprehension.)

II. Texts and other required materials that you're responsible for

- Binet, *HHhH*, available at the Bookstore on campus by the end of Week 1.
- Additional readings and other assignments on Canvas (some of which you will need to print out).
- Extra copies of some of your writing for group work.
- A three-hole loose-leaf notebook with paper for taking in-class notes and storing class handouts.
- A reliable college-level dictionary.

Please be aware that you must pay for some materials and spend time outside of classroom hours on homework. These are basic investments of money and time toward your educational success. Not everyone will work at the same pace, but for a five-credit class, expect an average of ten hours of homework per week. You must also use your **BC student email account** and **Canvas** regularly—check email at least once a day during the week and at least once on weekends.

III. Course overview

Welcome to English 101. This course helps you develop the critical thinking and writing skills that are necessary for success in higher education and beyond. We will focus on several topics, including American humor, race in America, and the constructed nature of historical narratives. Writing assignments will be derived from sources that include critical works on humor, Ta-Nehisi Coates's essay "The Case for Reparations," and Laurent Binet's novel *HHhH*. Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

Think and read critically: *carefully read, analyze, interpret and evaluate claims, beliefs, texts and/or issues.*

- frame questions, define problems, and position arguments.
- consider multiple points of view and differentiate between assumptions, beliefs, facts, opinions, and biases.
- read and respond to various texts critically for purposes of interpretation, analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and/or judgment.
- demonstrate an understanding of a text's main point/thesis and its relevant supporting details.

Compose and revise in context: *shape written responses for different audiences and purposes.*

- consider flexible strategies for prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing.

- develop and support thesis statements that are appropriately complex and significant.
- construct unified paragraphs with topic sentences and supporting details that advance the thesis.
- apply various methods of development such as illustration, comparison and contrast, and/or analysis.
- balance their individual voices with those from other texts.
- employ style, tone, and mechanical conventions appropriate to the demands of a particular audience or purpose.

Reflect and evaluate: *recognize and incorporate newly acquired skills.*

- develop the ability to critique their own and others' work.
- gain a clearer perspective of habits that may detract from the effectiveness of their own writing.
- respond to comments from their instructor and peers.

IV. General work requirements and tentative grade breakdown*

(Portfolio essays will receive letter grades ranging from A to F. Quizzes will receive numerical scores. Participation and homework assignments will receive either a numerical score or a check (4 points, or "A"), check minus (2 points, or "C"), or no credit (F). **Some assignments will be due on Canvas between class meetings, probably during weekends.** If this will cause a hardship for you, make arrangements with me for alternative assignments.)

1. **Portfolio essays (65%).** The "portfolio" will consist of three major essay sequences that are completed satisfactorily (C-minus or higher), and a final retrospective essay addressing your progress as a critical writer and thinker in this course. Sequences include preliminary work, peer reviews, and rough and final drafts that clearly reflect the development of your ideas. No actual portfolio will be collected at the end of the quarter; instead, due dates for the various components will be set throughout the term, and grades for complete portfolios will be the sum of the major essay grades (60%) and your retrospective essay grade (5%). Unsatisfactory portfolios receive no credit.
2. **Online discussions (10%).** Discussions on Canvas will supplement our classroom work and enrich our homework assignments. You are expected to respond thoughtfully to discussion prompts as well as to each other. Discussions will usually take place over the long weekends between our Thursday and Tuesday meetings.
3. **Quizzes (10%).** To ensure you keep up with and understand the assignments, quizzes will be given in class **and on Canvas**. Students may not show up simply to take a quiz and then leave right after.
4. **Participation/in-class work (10%) and homework assignments (5%).** These include worksheets, essay drafts, and other exercises, which will be due when requested. **Each student will also be responsible for helping lead discussion on at least one day.**

* Students must receive a satisfactory score on all components listed above to pass with a C-minus or higher. Otherwise, the course grade may be taken from the lowest grade of the components. Bellevue College subscribes to plagiarism detection software which will be activated on Canvas; work that is not cleared by the software will receive a failing grade. Formal writing assignments are considered turned in only **when they are submitted in class**, but they must also be uploaded to Canvas for grades to count. **Do not** rely on instructors to keep track of and grade work sent through the email.

V. General course policies

Below are additional course policies and requirements, some of which are outlined in the Arts and Humanities Division's statement on student procedures and expectations. Please review the complete statement online at < <http://s.bellevuecollege.edu/wp/sites/59/2013/11/Student-Procedures-and-Expectations.pdf> >.

All assigned work is required: The Arts and Humanities Division operates under the premise that higher education and intellectual growth depend upon the free flow of information. If students encounter material that they find contrary to their values, they are not expected to endorse or adopt the ideas that conflict with their personal beliefs, but they are still required to engage intellectually with the material and participate fully in the course. Students who decline to engage material they consider offensive may find themselves unable to fully participate in required work.

Attendance: In a class that **meets twice a week**, missing 20 minutes or more of a class meeting means a student is considered absent; missing up to **20 minutes** means a student is considered tardy. Being tardy twice is considered equivalent to being absent once. An absentee rate of 20% or higher for any reason generally means no credit for the course. If you have obligations that affect your schedule, please make arrangements to minimize their impact on your work for this class.

Religious observances: Students who will miss class to observe a religious holy day must inform me in writing by the end of the second week of the quarter so that we can work around due dates.

Exceptional circumstances and missed work: In case of an exceptional circumstance such as an imminent medical or legal crisis involving you or a family member, please inform me in a timely manner and keep me updated on your situation as necessary; if a student does not contact me about an absence by our next meeting, there will likely be no possibility of making up missed work. When an emergency occurs, submit documentation promptly (e.g., doctor's note, legal summons, etc.) that directly addresses your specific case. Outside such circumstances, you are responsible for understanding course assignments and meeting deadlines, and work missed due to absences or tardiness will not be made up.

Classroom environment: This course takes place in an adult learning environment in which you are expected to take your responsibilities seriously and to treat assignment and discussion topics thoughtfully and critically. Students who disrupt the classroom environment will be asked to leave for the day and may be subject to disciplinary action by the College. Please observe the following:

- **Preparation:** Come to class on time and ready to work; bring your current reading and writing assignments. When class starts your materials (pen, paper, homework, etc.) should be on your desk.
- **Focus:** Be alert and ready to participate. Do only work that is relevant to our course while in class. Avoid being distracted or creating distractions.
- **Electronics:** Use electronic devices only if you have gotten permission for the day in advance. For example, if an urgent matter requires you to be in contact, you may inform me in writing at the beginning of class and set your phone to silent mode. Otherwise, phones, computers, iPods, translators, etc., are to be **powered off** in the classroom; if you need to use your phone, please do so outside of the room. If you take notes using an electronic device, then please email me your notes as an attachment at the end of each

class.

Acceptable work

Unless you are directed otherwise when you get an assignment, assume that homework must be typed using the standard 12-point Times New Roman font and have proper spacing and margins. The work you turn in should be reasonably neat and look like something you care about. Work that looks like it has been kept in your pocket or that has excessive markings all over it will receive no credit or feedback, as will any work that is difficult to read due to illegibility or general sloppiness. Rejected work in some cases may be redone and turned in as late work; in most cases, there will be no make-up opportunity.

Missed and late assignments

In general, missed in-class assignments will receive no credit, although some work may still need to be completed in order for you to do other assignments; homework may be assessed at least a 50% penalty up to the first day late. Assignments turned in much later than that will receive no credit. Some late work may qualify for full credit if there are exceptional circumstances as described in the next paragraph.

Exceptional circumstances and missed work: In case of an exceptional circumstance such as an imminent medical or legal crisis involving you or a family member, please inform me in a timely manner and keep me updated on your situation as necessary; if a student does not contact me about an absence by our next meeting, there will likely be no possibility of making up missed work. When an emergency occurs, submit documentation promptly (e.g., doctor's note, legal summons, etc.) that directly addresses your specific case. Outside such circumstances, you are responsible for understanding course assignments and meeting deadlines, and work missed due to absences or tardiness will not be made up.

Academic honesty, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct

Honesty is a core value of academic work, because it promotes creativity, originality, and intellectual growth. Academic *dishonesty*, by contrast, damages credibility and leads to intellectual stagnation. Students caught committing acts of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade (F) without opportunity to redo the assignment and should expect to be reported to the College for disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to plagiarism (intentionally or unintentionally representing someone else's ideas and words as your own original thoughts), fraud (presenting falsehoods as truth), copying another student's answers and responses, and doing another student's work.

If you have any questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please do not hesitate to ask. Claiming that you did not understand what academic dishonesty is will not excuse a violation.

Peer reviews

Peer reviews, in which students exchange essay drafts with fellow students—that is, peers—and offer constructive criticism on each other's work, are required and will count toward your participation grade. Students who miss a scheduled peer review due to unpreparedness or absence will not earn credit for peer reviews, but their essay must still undergo our peer review process to earn credit for the essay itself. **The only acceptable alternatives to a scheduled in-class peer review** are to get a peer from this class to review your paper using our review guidelines OR to get feedback from a writing tutor at the Writing Lab. Papers may not be reviewed the same day you are turning your assignment in. **Be sure to ask the classmate or tutor working with you to sign and date your draft.**

Be sure to have a saved copy of all the work you turn in, in case something gets misplaced and you are asked for another copy. Please do not dispose of any graded work before the end of the term.

Conferences: Please feel free to make an appointment with me whenever you have questions, worries, or comments about the course. Students usually find individual meetings to be helpful, and it is always a good idea to take advantage of opportunities to work directly with your instructors.

Contacting the instructor: The best way to contact me outside of class is to send me an email from your BC student account. I will try to respond promptly, but you may not always get an immediate reply. For legal reasons, **any discussion of academic matters must be conducted over BC email**; for practical reasons, I cannot provide extensive replies on matters that are more appropriately addressed face to face.

Additional resources: The **Writing Lab** in **D204** offers individualized help for students working on course and individual projects. The tutors won't write or edit your paper, but they will help you develop ideas. Please take advantage of this resource and drop in or telephone them at **425-564-2949** for appointments. Help is also available from the Academic Success Center, Multicultural Services, and other resources on campus. Bellevue College is **ADA compliant**, and students with accommodation needs must establish eligibility through the **Disability Resource Center** in B132. Drop by their office or contact them by **telephone at 425-564-2498 and TTY at 425-564-4110**. For help with technology, including Canvas, your BC email, and other issues, you may contact the **Help Desk** at **425-564-HELP**.

Respecting differences: The diversity of the student body adds to the richness of the student experience at Shoreline. You are expected to engage thoughtfully with the material and with each other, which means that listening carefully to classmates and giving them the opportunity to articulate their ideas will be as important as speaking yourself. It is absolutely necessary that students feel comfortable expressing their thoughts; while you are both entitled and welcome to disagree with each other and with me, please do so **respectfully**. When there are disagreements, **personal attacks, including those based on an individual's race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, religion, or sexual orientation, as well as generally sexist, racist, homophobic, and transphobic language or acts, will not be tolerated**. If you believe the learning environment has become disrespectful, please see me immediately.

Other exigencies

In case of inclement weather or regional emergencies, check the Bellevue College website or <schoolreport.org> to determine if the campus is open. Please do not endanger yourself or your family and friends trying to get to school under adverse conditions.

In case of possible exposure to the flu or any other communicable illness, please follow campus, King County Health Department, and CDC guidelines to prevent spreading infection, and please take the steps to speed your recovery along—remember, your health is more important than any class.

Final exam period: Consult this quarter's final examination schedule for the specifics.

Final comments: Your effort is appreciated and it will be important to invest time in this class, but ultimately, assignment grades will be awarded based on the quality of your work and on how well you have mastered the material we cover. You may expect that what you earn for this course will be an honest assessment of how your work reflects your preparedness for college-level writing. The reason for this is because it does no one any good when students “pass” a course in which they have not demonstrated that they have learned the skills taught in the course and advance to higher-level courses where they are unprepared to do the work.

Good luck and have a great quarter! ☺