

English Composition I

CASSIE CROSS

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ENGL& 101, Winter 2015

Office (R230K) Hours: by appointment

Appointment Hours: F 2-3pm

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Welcome... to English Composition 101! Over the 11 weeks of this quarter you will be reading and discussing the works of others as well as writing and sharing your own work.

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.

“The work never matches the dream of perfection the artist has to start with.”

-William Faulkner

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 and respectful 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. 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.

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Required Materials:

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

If you'd like a grammar handbook, I recommend:

The Little Seagull Handbook, 2nd Edition by Richard Bullock, Michael Brody, and Francine Weinberg (ISBN: 978-0393935806)

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Requirements for the course:

(Grades will be weighted as follows)

Paper 1	15%
Paper 2	25%
Paper 3	25%
Peer Review	10%
Responses	15%
Participation	10%

Participation includes contributing to discussion, attending class regularly, engaging with your peers during group work, and showing that you have read and understood the material.

Peer Review (occasionally I call this "Workshop") includes making thoughtful, substantive comments on your classmates' papers and completing drafts on time. Make sure that you put a significant amount of time and thought into your draft, as you will get better feedback if your classmate is responding to a more fully developed essay; in other words, do not turn in a draft that only amounts to one paragraph.

Please note that while many of the assignments are turned in online, this is *not* an online class. Your attendance in class is required. Missing more than two weeks of class is grounds for failure, regardless of your performance online or when you do attend. Missing more than two classes will

affect your grade. Missing class on a day where peer review is scheduled (see calendar) will affect your grade.

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Essay Format:

All essays must be typed, double spaced, in size 12 font, with 1 inch margins. Late papers lose 5 points every day they are late. I do not comment on late drafts. (You do, however, have the option of making an appointment with me outside of class.)

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Expectations:

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.

Communication is key. Come to class, participate in discussion, turn in assignments on time, and contact me by email if you have any concerns. Worried about an assignment? Let me know. I'm happy to meet one-on-one to help you brainstorm ideas or go over your draft-in-progress.

Contacting Me: I'll be on campus at least 3 days a week. If you'd like to meet in person, email me for an appointment to secure your spot. (See appointment times on the top of this document.) I'll be checking in on email and Canvas everyday. On weekends I'll check in less often but I guarantee a response by Monday morning.

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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.

(A longer version of this document is available on the Canvas course site.)
