

# ENG 101: Composition I, Fall 2020 (Web-Based)

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## **Instructor Information**

**Name:** Dr. Kaitlin Clinnin

**Office:** RLL 261 (please note that I will be working remotely for Fall 2020 and will not be using my campus office)

**Email:** [Kaitlin.clinnin@unlv.edu](mailto:Kaitlin.clinnin@unlv.edu)

**Office Hours:** Regular hours TBD based on student availability, other times by appointment

## **Required Texts and Materials**

- *UNLV Writes* (Custom Edition for UNLV) available in hard copy format (ISBN 9780393445220) or e-book format at [VitalSource](#) (ISBN 9780393446333)
- Course tools and resources available through WebCampus
- A reliable computer and Internet access

## **Course Description**

ENG 101 is an evidence-based, writing intensive course designed to improve critical thinking, reading, and writing proficiencies through guidance in writing the thesis-driven essay. Students develop strategies for turning their experience, observations, and analyses into evidence suitable for academic writing skills.

## **Course Objectives**

By the end of English 101, students will be able to:

- Define key rhetorical concepts such as purpose, audience, and genre and apply these concepts in their own writing
- Critically read a range of texts for content and rhetorical choices and demonstrate comprehension by summarizing, paraphrasing, and quoting texts
- Analyze, synthesize, interpret, and evaluate evidence from experiences, observations, and texts
- Compose effective texts in a range of genres by responding to, analyzing, and synthesizing texts and ideas
- Identify genre conventions for content, structure, style, citation, document design, and mechanics and apply these conventions in texts
- Practice writing as an inquiry-based, iterative process by using a range of invention, drafting, peer feedback, revision, editing, and proofreading strategies
- Reflect on their development as writers by articulating and evaluating their rhetorical decisions and writing processes

## **Course Requirements and Grades**

Our course will be using a contract system to determine final grades. The contract system is probably different from what you've experienced in previous English classes. You can view the video "Contract Grading in English 101" for more information about why I choose to use the contract system in our class.

Your grade in this class will be determined solely by the work you complete for this course. This means that you have complete control over the grade you receive based on the amount of time, effort, and work that you put in. You will still receive extensive feedback on your writing from the other writers in this class and me, but my assessment of the "quality" of your work will not determine your grade.

However, just because your grade is determined based on completion, this does not mean that you can just submit any quality of work. You are expected to meet all of the minimum assignment requirements and to make a good faith effort to meet the goals and learning outcomes of the assignment. If you submit something that does not meet this standard, you will have the opportunity to revise and resubmit the assignment until it does meet the standard (see "Revise and Resubmit" under Instructor Policies). Note that the final course portfolio cannot be revised and resubmitted because this is the last assignment of the course.

A "C" in this class is considered the average grade. Average to me means that you have engaged with the class content as expected, and you have the minimum knowledge and skills needed to progress to more advanced classes like ENG 102. A grade of an A or B in this class means you have exceeded average expectations. A "D" means that you have not engaged with the class content as expected; please note that some majors will not accept a "D" in ENG 101. An "F" means that you have not submitted a significant percentage of the class work. I encourage everyone to strive for at least a B in this class! I also hope that all 20 writers in this class earn an A.

The grade contract that we will use this semester is presented on the next page.

To earn an A, you will:	To earn a B, you will:	To earn a C, you will:	To earn a D, you will:	To earn a F, you will:
<p>Submit or revise and resubmit all 3 major writing projects including drafts</p> <p>Submit the final course portfolio</p> <p>Participate in all writing group workshops and complete associated work, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All assigned peer reviews</li> <li>• All feedback revision reflections</li> </ul> <p>Complete at least 90% of assigned Writing Journals</p> <p>Submit at least 90% of the low-stakes writing activities</p>	<p>Submit or revise and resubmit all 3 major writing projects including drafts</p> <p>Submit the final course portfolio</p> <p>Participate in all writing group workshops and complete associated work, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All assigned peer reviews</li> <li>• All feedback revision reflections</li> </ul> <p>Complete at least 80% of assigned Writing Journals</p> <p>Submit at least 75% of the low-stakes activities</p>	<p>Submit or revise and resubmit all 3 major writing projects including drafts</p> <p>Submit the final course portfolio</p> <p>Participate in all writing group workshops and complete associated work, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All assigned peer reviews</li> <li>• Most feedback revision reflection</li> </ul> <p>Complete at least 70% of assigned Writing Journals</p> <p>Submit at least 50% of the low-stakes activities</p>	<p>Submit or revise and resubmit all 3 major writing projects</p> <p>Submit the final course portfolio</p> <p>Participate in all but 1 writing group workshops and complete associated work, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All assigned peer reviews</li> <li>• Most feedback revision reflection</li> </ul> <p>Complete less than 50% of assigned Writing Journals</p> <p>Submit less than 50% of the low-stakes activities</p>	<p>Not submit or fail to revise and resubmit any of 3 major writing projects</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Not submit the course portfolio</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Miss more than 1 writing group workshops and not complete associated work during other workshops, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assigned peer reviews</li> <li>• Feedback revision reflection</li> </ul> <p>Complete less than 50% of assigned Writing Journals</p> <p>Submit less than 50% of the low-stakes activities</p>
<p><b>To earn a + in any of these grades, you will:</b> Participate in a supplemental class activity, which may include attending an optional “live” class meeting, attending an individual conference with the instructor, attend a Writing Center workshop and write a short reflection, or propose another supplemental class activity and receive instructor approval</p> <p><b>To earn a – in any of these grades, you will:</b> Submit partial work or work that is lower than expectations for the writing group workshops, writing journal, or low-stakes writing activities</p> <p><b>Borderline grades are subject to professor discretion and will be communicated to the student</b></p>				

## **Overview of Major Assignments**

### **Unit 1: Understanding Writing and Rhetoric**

The first unit of this class introduces key concepts such as rhetoric, the rhetorical situation, and writing as a process. Using personal experience as evidence, students will create multiple texts that are situated in specific rhetorical contexts in order to develop and apply their rhetorical knowledge. Common assignments for this unit may include personal profiles, literacy narratives, and response papers.

### **Unit 2: Writing for Public Audiences**

In the second unit for this class, you will apply the rhetorical theories from Unit 1 to analyze texts written for public audiences. You will analyze public genres and then develop, draft, and revise your own public text. Common assignments for this unit may include op-ed style essays, reviews, subject blogs, YouTube videos, and how-to articles.

### **Unit 3: Writing for Academic Audiences**

In the third unit for this class, you will apply the rhetorical theories from Unit 1 to analyze texts written for academic audiences. You will analyze academic genres and then draft and revise your own academic text. Common assignments for this unit may include rhetorical analyses, annotated bibliographies, reports, arguments, poster presentations.

### **Unit 4: Writing for Reflection**

In the final unit for this class, you will compile your semester work in a portfolio. As part of this unit, you will write a reflective cover letter that explains your strengths and areas for improvement as a writer using evidence from your semester work. Your portfolio will also include all major writing project submissions accompanied by revision reflections.

### **Writing Groups**

This semester, you will be placed in a group with 2-3 other writers in the class, and you will read and provide feedback on one another's writing. Your group will remain the same throughout the semester so that you can form more stable working relationships that will ultimately benefit your writing.

### **Writing Journals**

Throughout the semester, you will write frequently about your reading and writing process. You will practice some of the critical thinking, reading, and writing skills needed to complete the major writing projects. Writing journal topics will vary from week to week, and instructions will be provided for each journal entry. You should expect to complete 8-12 writing journal entries.

### **Low-Stakes Writing and Activities**

Each week you will be responsible for completing low-stakes writing and activities. These activities are designed to check your comprehension of course content and to provide practice and feedback as you develop your critical thinking, reading, and writing skills. The low-stakes writing and activities may be individual or collaborative. Common

low-stakes activities include discussions, quizzes, collaborative exercises, and informal writing.

## **Instructor Policies**

### **Class Participation**

Regular class participation is essential to your own and other writers' success in this class. As an online learner, you are responsible for keeping track of all weekly assignments and staying on top of course activities. Make sure to log into the course on WebCampus at least a few times a week and check your email daily for updates and reminders. This is not a self-paced class, and all the assignments have specific due dates.

Every week, you will need to complete a number of reading and writing assignments; some of them will require your interaction with other writers in the class, so timely responses are required.

### **Class Absence**

If you know that you will not be able to complete some activities by their due date, you can work ahead and submit your work early. If you do not complete readings and activities by the deadline, you are still responsible for covering the materials you missed. You can always review reading and videos that you may have missed from previous weeks, but it is not possible to make-up some weekly activities because your peers' contributions to the course cannot be replicated after the deadline.

### **Work Submissions**

All the work you do in our class will be submitted on WebCampus. During this semester, you will complete written assignments, discussion board posts, and quizzes. There are directions for how to submit these different kinds of work on WebCampus.

### **Feedback Philosophy and Timeline**

You will be producing a lot of writing in this class, and you will also receive a lot of feedback from other writers in the class as well as me, your professor.

Not all assignments will receive individual feedback from me; often for low-stakes activities I will read all submissions and then provide general feedback to the entire class based on patterns or common themes that I notice.

You will often receive individual feedback from other writers in the class. You may be wondering why another writer in this class is giving you feedback when you're both enrolled in the same class, and you may doubt your peer's ability to give effective feedback. Regardless of who the feedback is from (a peer or an instructor), all feedback is valuable feedback. We are all audiences for your writing and will offer our perspectives based on reading your writing. Together, we will work on understanding the feedback and deciding if and how to respond to the audience's feedback when

revising. We will also practice providing useful, effective feedback throughout the semester.

You will also receive feedback from me, your professor. I will provide feedback on in-progress writing (writing journal entries, drafts) as well as your final submissions of major writing projects. Because you are not receiving a grade on your major writing projects, this feedback will be focused on my reaction as engaged, interested reader of your writing, and I will provide suggestions for revising your project and how you may approach writing for future situations. My feedback is intended to be supportive, constructive, and useful. To be as useful as possible, I will strive to give you feedback within 1-2 weeks of the due date. I will let you know if my feedback will be delayed.

### **Revise and Resubmit**

As part of the contract grading policy, you are expected to submit work that meets all of the minimum assignment requirements and makes a good effort attempt at fulfilling the assignment prompt and learning outcomes.

If you submit a major writing project that does not meet the minimum assignment requirement (ex: does not meet word count, is incorrect genre) or is not a good effort attempt (ex: does not address the prompt, submission demonstrates lack of effort or engagement, etc.) you will be asked to revise and resubmit. To revise and resubmit, you will submit a new writing project that does meet the standard for project completion. You will also have to provide a revise and resubmit reflection (250-500 words) that explains what you have changed from the previous version. You will have 2 weeks to revise and resubmit after I notify you that your initial writing project submission does not meet this standard. I will also explain why your project does not meet the project completion standard. The 2-week deadline is intended to give you enough time to effectively revise the project and also allow you to keep up with the rest of the course material. If a project is not revised and resubmitted by the 2-week deadline, it will be considered a failure to revise and resubmit, and you will earn an F on the grade chart. If after revising and resubmitting the project submission still does not meet the completion standard, it will be considered a failure to revise and resubmit, and you will earn an F on the grade chart.

You can revise and resubmit all major writing projects except for the final course portfolio. The final course portfolio is due at the end of the semester, and there will not be time to revise and resubmit. If there is a problem with the quality of the course portfolio, I will contact you about final course grade options.

### **Late Work**

Writing Projects 1-3 will be accepted within 72 hours of the posted due date. If you do not submit Writing Projects 1-3 within 72 hours of the due date, you will receive a Revise and Resubmit notification. You will then have an additional 2 weeks to submit the writing project before the writing project is considered no submitted. If the eventual writing project does not meet the completion standard, there will not be another Revise

and Resubmit opportunity. The assignment will be considered a failure to revise, and you will earn an F on the grade chart.

Late writing group workshop materials will not be accepted. The other writers in your group need timely feedback to revise their own work, and late feedback will prevent them from revising.

Writing Journals and low-stakes writing activities (quizzes, discussion posts, other class activities) will be accepted within 24 hours of the due date. These activities are designed to practice the week's content or to help you progress on a major writing project; it is important to complete these activities on-time for your own learning and course progress. These activities will not be as helpful if submitted days or weeks late. The activity or journal will be counted as incomplete if not submitted within 24 hours of the due date.

### **Communication**

All course communication will take place via your UNLV email account. Make sure you have easy access to your email and check it at least once a day in order not to miss any important announcements or updates. Make sure you set up your [notifications](#) on WebCampus so that you get notified right away about important course activities.

### **Classroom Technology**

Due to the nature of online courses, you must have regular and secure access to a computer and the Internet. I strongly recommend completing your work on a laptop or desktop computer because using mobile devices (phone, tablet, etc.) can limit your options when working with the course materials on WebCampus and completing the assignments.

Make sure you use an Internet browser that is supported by Canvas (for a full list of supported browsers, follow this link <https://bit.ly/2Drzxt7>). Your computer should also have [Adobe Reader](#) and [Flash Player](#) installed.

## **Campus Policies and Resources**

### **Public Health Directives**

Face coverings are mandatory for all faculty and students in the classroom. Students must follow all active UNLV public health directives while enrolled in this class. [UNLV public health directives](#) are found at <https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/health-requirements>. Students who do not comply with these directives may be asked to leave the classroom. Refusal to follow the guidelines may result in further disciplinary action according to the [UNLV Code of Student Conduct](#), [https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page\\_files/27/StudentConduct-Code.pdf](https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/27/StudentConduct-Code.pdf), including being administratively withdrawn from the course.

## **UNLV Calendar**

Monday, November 2, is the final date to drop or withdraw from the course. Click [here](#) for other important dates related to the semester.

## **Diversity Statement**

As an institution of higher learning, UNLV represents a rich diversity of human beings among its faculty, staff, and students, and is committed to aspiring to maintain a Campus environment that values that diversity. Accordingly, the University supports understanding and appreciation of all members of its community, regardless of race, sex, age, color, national origin, ethnicity, creed, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, or political affiliation. Please see [University Statements and Compliance](https://www.unlv.edu/about/statements-compliance), <https://www.unlv.edu/about/statements-compliance>.

A successful learning experience requires mutual respect and trust between the students and the instructor. Accordingly, the instructor asks that students be willing to listen to one another's points of view, acknowledging that there may be disagreements, keep discussion and comments on topic, and use first person, positive language when expressing their perspectives.

## **Disability Resource Center (DRC)**

The [UNLV Disability Resource Center](https://www.unlv.edu/drc) (SSC-A, Room 143, <https://www.unlv.edu/drc>, telephone 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. Students who believe that they may need academic accommodations due to injury, disability, or due to pregnancy should contact the DRC as early as possible in the academic term. A Disabilities Specialist will discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours, so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

## **Library Resources**

Librarians are available to consult with students on research needs, including developing research topics, finding information, and evaluating sources. To make an appointment with a subject expert for this class, please visit the [Libraries' Research Consultation](https://guides.library.unlv.edu/appointments/librarian) website, <https://guides.library.unlv.edu/appointments/librarian>. You can also [ask the library staff](https://ask.library.unlv.edu/) questions via chat and text message at <https://ask.library.unlv.edu/>.

## **UNLV Writing Center**

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the [Writing Center](https://writingcenter.unlv.edu/), <https://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>, located in the Central Desert Complex, Building 3, Room 301 (CDC 3-301). Walk-in consultations are sometimes available, but students with appointments receive priority assistance.



Students may make appointments in person or by calling the Center, telephone 702-895-3908. Students are requested to bring to their appointments their Rebel ID Card, a copy of the instructions for their assignment, and two copies of any writing they have completed on their assignment.

### **Additional Campus Policies and Resources**

There are also resources to help with your general wellbeing as students including the [Student Health Center](#), [Student Counseling and Psychological Services](#), [Rebel Wellness Zone](#), [Jean Nidetch Women's Center](#), [The Intersection](#) (UNLV's Academic Multicultural Resource Center, and [UNLV Food Pantry](#).

[Academic Policies](https://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=29&navoid=7326): <https://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=29&navoid=7326>

[Student Services & Activities](#):

<https://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=29&navoid=7331>

[University Policies](#): <https://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=29&navoid=7332>

[University Community & Libraries](#):

<https://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=29&navoid=7322>

### **Composition Program Contact Information**

If you have questions or concerns about your experience in your class, please feel free to contact an administrator in the Composition Program. You can call 702-895-3153, go in person to RLL 261, or send an email to [Englishcomposition@unlv.edu](mailto:Englishcomposition@unlv.edu).