

# ENGLISH 101 ONLINE SYLLABUS

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## **Course Goal:**

The objective of this course is to help make you a better reader, writer and thinker. You'll develop these skills in a simple way: by practice. You'll do plenty of reading, writing and thinking. You'll learn how to read slowly and carefully, you'll learn how to write clearly and correctly, and you'll learn how to think logically. That's the goal, anyway. Whether you achieve that goal depends on how much you and your instructor put into the class. For your part, it's important that you follow along with the assignments and budget your time carefully.

## **Texts:**

1. *Primis* (special edition for English 101) (available in bookstore only)
2. Hacker, *Rules for Writers* 6th Edition (in bookstore or on Amazon.com)

## **Course Information:**

1. Whenever an assignment or homework is handed out, a due date will be given. Major writing assignments (those worth 100 points or more, including tests) may be turned in late, but they will lose 5 points for each day late. No student will get a grade higher than a D if all five essays and two tests are not completed. Late posts will be evaluated and commented on, but no points will be earned for them. However, I realize that sometimes unforeseen difficulties arise. So at the end of the semester, each student will receive a special Homework/Paper Bonus of 20 points. If you've turned all your work in on time, those points will simply be extra. If you've missed a couple of homework assignments, these points will make up for it.
2. I encourage you to let other people take a look at your writing and offer advice. The best place to do this is at The Write Place, where English professionals will help you with your drafts for free. However, the final writing that you turn in must, of course, be your own. Students who cheat in any way in this course will get an F for the semester. This includes students who copy each other's homework.
3. The word processor you use in this class is up to you. Any IBM or Mac word processor is acceptable as long as any work you submit in either in Word or Rich Text file format. Assignment files should be prepared in MLA form. See "Paper Layout" handout in this syllabus for an example. All assignments should aim for an approximate length of 500-700 words. Longer essays are fine; shorter are not.
4. Submitting work: Your papers will be sent to my D2L dropbox. After the paper has been received and graded, I will send your paper back to you with comments and the completed grading sheet. You will then send corrections for certain major errors to another D2L dropbox. Quizzes and tests will be taken online. Online homework will be posted in the appropriate discussion area or sent to my dropbox, depending on the assignment.
5. In a traditional classroom, any student missing more than three weeks of classes can be withdrawn from the course. In this section, any student who has not submitted work or participated in the discussions for more than 3 weeks of class may be withdrawn or given an F.
6. Every writer makes mistakes, and you undoubtedly will this semester. I'm sure I will too. But the idea is to learn from our mistakes. If I make any mistakes in grammar on any handout or post, please let me know. I'll give extra credit to the first student who points out any mistake I make.

**Requirements for Completing this Course:**

1. Read all of the course-related material online.
2. Read the assigned sections in the texts.
3. Participate in the online discussions, quizzes, homework, and activities in a timely fashion. These activities will be posted online before the start of each unit, with the due dates listed for each activity. Late posts will be commented on, but will not earn points.
4. Log on to D2L at least 3 times a week (and maybe more) to keep up with course.
5. Submit 5 written papers according to the assignment schedule for the semester. After each assignment listed online is the grading sheet I'll use to evaluate the paper. Make sure you follow the guidelines suggested on each grading sheet.
6. Complete a midterm and a final quiz

**No Tolerance Policy on Cheating**

In this class, the usual penalty is that any student caught cheating will be expelled from the class and will get an "F" for the semester. Excuses (for example, "I didn't know!" or "I turned in the wrong paper!") won't be tolerated. Even if the cheating is discovered on the last day of the term (as has happened), that student will still receive an "F" for the entire course. If a cheater feels he or she deserves a second chance, the cheater can take the course again in the future. However, the instructor has the right to impose a less severe penalty, such as a zero on an assignment or a loss of points on the assignment, depending on the severity of the plagiarism.