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Welcome to English 201 @ CMU!

Writing is a crucial part of your education at CMU, so all students are required to gain “written competency” to graduate. The two required writing competency courses are ENG 101 and 201. These courses are designed to help you succeed at CMU and to help you graduate as a fluent, confident, and flexible writer.

English 201 builds on what you learned in ENG 101 and focuses on how to write research-based arguments as well as how to write about empirical data, which is sometimes necessary in creating persuasive arguments in some disciplines and professions. All writing in ENG 201 online will be completed using MS Word® and will be submitted to CMU’s course management system, Blackboard, for peer and instructor review.

Prerequisites

Writing competency credit for ENG 101 (i.e., a grade of “C” or better in ENG 101, or 103/099, or an equivalent course transferred from another school; OR a score of 50 or more on the CLEP writing exam or a 4 on the English Composition AP Exam). ENG 201 must be taken by the time the student has completed 56 credit hours.
COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES

English 201: Intermediate Composition is a course in intensive writing, designed to help you

- develop analytical and critical thinking skills essential to mature written expression, and
- develop competence in and master strategies of written expression appropriate for learning across the curriculum and in a variety of general academic and/or professional areas.

To demonstrate competence, you will need to successfully generate, analyze, select, and organize subject matter using academically appropriate language, rhetorical strategies, and formats. You will need to develop and demonstrate these skills in complete extended texts in a series of assignments that require intensive writing throughout the semester. Certain intellectual processes and presentation skills are essential for achieving college-level competence in writing. By successfully completing English 201, you will have demonstrated competence (though not necessarily proficiency) in the following:

Critical Thinking and Rhetorical Skills

- developing effective strategies for generating ideas
- analyzing, evaluating, selecting, and limiting topics, and developing clear, arguable, and/or researchable theses from them
- using modern library research methods to gather information
- selecting, analyzing, and evaluating data from a variety of sources for relevance, completeness, balance, and authority
- supporting a thesis and arguing with and from evidence
- drawing valid conclusions from information, recognizing assumptions and implications of information and arguments, and arguing a position logically and free of fallacies

Presentation Skills

- preparing clear, organized, balanced, and thorough presentation of evidence
- selecting and arranging information in subject- and audience-appropriate ways
- developing and supporting an argument in terms of a specific thesis or conclusion

Revising & Editing Skills

- employing appropriate principles of documentation (e.g., citation style)
- using clear, efficient, and mature language that demonstrates competency in contemporary Standard English.
- demonstrating command of standard grammatical and mechanical usage (including sentence structure, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization) and proofreading skills
KEYS TO SUCCESS IN THIS CLASS

Some of the advice below comes from former students who have done well in this class. Some is my own advice extrapolated from many years of teaching the course to traditional and nontraditional students in a variety of formats.

- Carefully read this syllabus and other materials posted on the course Bb site as well as any materials and email sent to you by your instructor.

- Don’t underestimate the level of difficulty and amount of work required. You will not do well if you place the coursework at the bottom of your list of priorities. Succeeding in school—like anything else—means making sacrifices, sometimes painful ones.

- Don’t procrastinate. If you try to complete the work at the last minute, its quality will suffer, as will your grade. You will not receive a “C” or better this course if you wait until the last minute to complete the assignments or to contact your instructor about what you don’t understand.

- Carefully read and study the assigned chapters and articles in the textbooks and other course materials, including review and instructor revision suggestions, and incorporate into your assignments the writing theories, strategies, and suggestions discussed there.

- Read and follow carefully the assignment and exam instructions in the syllabus, in the “Schedule of Assignment & Activities” (on Bb), and in the exams you receive from your proctor.

- View the assignments, exams, and other class work from the perspective of the intended readers. One of the goals of this course, like ENG 101, is to continue to get you to think more strategically about who might read the documents you write. Never assume that anything you write is private, and don’t assume that your intended readers are only your classmates and instructor. In this course, all writing is public in the sense that it is subject to review by your peers and instructor. Grades, however, are private.

- Proofread and edit your work carefully. Students will be held accountable for several aspects of effective writing: content, style, rhetorical effectiveness, grammatical correctness, etc. Students who enroll in ENG 201 are supposed to know the basics of Standard Written English. This class will help you further develop an appropriate and effective writing style, but if you don’t already grasp the fundamentals of correct grammar, punctuation, and usage, then you’re unlikely to earn a “C” in this course.
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Required Texts

   - New from MBS Direct (see below)


Purchasing Textbooks from MBS Direct (for off-campus students)

When placing an order through MBS Direct, the following information is required: college or university you are attending, site (location of class) or program, and complete course information including EPN and course name.

- By internet: Save 20% on express UPS shipping (next day or 2nd day)! Safely order textbooks and other course materials online from the Virtual Bookstore. Payment must be made by credit card. The URL is [http://direct.mbsbooks.com/cmu.htm](http://direct.mbsbooks.com/cmu.htm)

- By phone: Call 800-325-3252 to place an order or for shipping rates. Hours are Monday-Thursday 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.; Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. CDT/CST. Payment can be made by credit card or personal check (must be mailed via U.S. postal service). Students ordering course materials to be shipped internationally should call: International Phone: 573-441-9179, International Fax: 573-446-5254.
SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF THIS COURSE

1. You must have Adobe® Acrobat Reader installed on your computer so that you can open, download, and print .pdf files. All course materials will be posted on Blackboard in .pdf format, and graded assignments will be returned to you as .pdf files (with tracked changes and comments inserted). Adobe® Reader can be downloaded free from http://www.adobe.com/products/reader.html.

2. You will need the latest version of Adobe® Flash player to use some of the features in the e-handbook or to view other videos to which your instructor might place links on Bb. This free cross-platform player can be downloaded from http://flash.freewarebank.net/.

3. You are expected to be a competent user of Microsoft™ Word®. Students who lack competence should not enroll in this course.

4. If you wish to include visuals in any of your assignments, you may access to and be willing to learn (on your own) how to use Microsoft™ Excel® or some other program used to design charts, graphs, and diagrams, (e.g., SmartDraw®). Knowledge of other software applications, such as desktop publishing and spreadsheets, might be helpful but is not required.

ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS, & OTHER CLASS WORK

The assignments will give you practice at the various tasks involved in writing text- and data-based genres common in academia and in the workplace. They are sequential insofar as later ones build on skills acquired in earlier ones. Assignment sheets are available on Bb for each assignment. The Writing Skills Exams will help you improve fluency and your ability to write competently under stressful conditions by giving you practice at organizing your thoughts, getting them down on paper, revising and editing them, all in a relatively short time.

Assignment #1: Writing to Inform (1,250 – 1,500 words) 100 pts
Assignment #2: Writing to Convince (1,250 – 1,500 words) 125 pts
Assignment #3: Writing to Solve a Problem (2,000 – 2,500 words) 250 pts
Assignment #4: Writing to Evaluate (1,250 – 1,500 words) 150 pts
Four Writing Skills Exams (~250 - 500 words each) 200 pts
Other Class Work (e.g., discussion board, e-handbook exercises, etc..) 175 pts
Total 1,000 pts

Drafting the Writing Assignments

1. Got to the Assignments & Exams page of your class Blackboard site, and download the assignment sheet for the assignment.

2. Follow the instructions on the assignment sheet about how to complete the assignment. If you have any questions about the assignment, contact your instructor.

3. Complete each writing assignment using MS Word®.

* Word ranges do not include visuals; end notes, footnotes, and/or lists of sources (e.g., Works Cited or References); or any front or back matter that might be included (e.g., title pages, table of contents, appendices, etc.).
Submitting Drafts to Blackboard for Peer Review

Your instructor will assign you to Peer Review groups using Bb’s Group page feature. Each group will consist of three or four students. From inside your group’s File Exchange, you will upload your draft, download the drafts of your group members, comment on your group members’ drafts using the insert Comment feature in MS Word®, and upload the commented drafts back to the File Exchange for your group members to retrieve.

Specific instructions for peer review are included on the assignment sheet for each assignment, which are located in the Assignments & Exams page in Bb.

Submitting Drafts to Blackboard for Instructor Review

4. After you have completed the peer review assignment and are ready to upload the revised draft of your assignment for instructor review, go to the “Assignments & Exams” page on Bb and upload your assignment by the due date and time:
   a. Click on the “View/Complete Assignment” link for the assignment you’re completing.
   b. Click the “Browse” button, and locate your completed assignment on your computer or flash drive. Once you click “Open,” your file (including the path) should appear within the “Attach local file” field.
   c. Finally, at the bottom of the Bb page, click the “Submit” button to send the assignment to your instructor’s Grade Center.

6. Verify that your assignment has been submitted correctly by selecting “My Grades” and locate the assignment and grade column.
   a. If a green exclamation mark appears, your assignment was submitted correctly.
   b. If an “in progress” icon appears (it is a little page with a pencil), you have either incorrectly submitted your assignment or clicked “Save,” rather than “Submit.” Return to the assignment link and click the “Submit” button.
   c. If the “in progress” icon still appears, contact the CMU Help Desk for assistance at 989-774-3662.

   Note: Do not email assignments to your instructor without his/her permission.

Completing and Submitting Writing Skills Exams to Blackboard

The four writing skills exams take the form of short essays (250 – 500 words) you will write in response to a prompt that will be accessed by your proctor. You will complete these essays using Word®. No handwritten responses will be accepted.

You will have a week-long window in which to complete each exam. Thus, you may not take an exam before its stipulated “Opening Day” or after the “Closing Day,” as stated in the Schedule of Assignments, Exams, & Activities” on Bb. You will have two hours to complete each exam. You may use any of your textbooks and the e-handbook as reference materials on all exams. You may NOT bring into the testing environment a cell phone, computer, or flash drive.
Obtaining a Proctor

All writing skills exams in this course are proctored. The use of proctors helps ensure the academic integrity of the examination context. Students must obtain a proctor for any course that requires monitored exams. Many CMU students complete the exams at the Online Testing Center in the CMU Park Library on the main campus, at the Online Testing Center at CMU’s North Campus, at one of CMU’s many satellite campuses across state and around the nation, or on military bases. However, if you do not live near one of these testing locations, you will need to obtain a proctor who will administer the exam at an authorized location.

Acceptable proctors include school counselors, school/college administrators or teachers, military or industry education/testing centers, or the librarian at a local library. Unacceptable proctors include, but are not limited to, family members, friends, co-workers and/or subordinates, workplace supervisors, and other CMU students. CMU reserves the right to deny any proctor or assign proctors to students as deemed necessary by the CMU Online staff.

To complete the proctor request form, go to http://global.cmich.edu/proctor/Default.aspx

Your proctor must administer the exams one at a time and in the sequence stipulated in the syllabus and the “Schedule of Assignments, Exams, & Activities.” Your proctor must have a computer with Internet access, Microsoft® Word®, and a printer. The computer can be a desktop or laptop, but it cannot be your own personal computer.

Submitting Completed Exams to Blackboard

When you arrive to take the exam, your proctor will enter a passcode in Bb to access the exam prompt. Only your proctor can access the exam prompt in Bb. Your proctor is not allowed to give you the passcode but must enter it him/herself.

After the exam prompt has been downloaded, your proctor will print a copy for you, and you will complete the exam using MS Word®.

1. Save your exam on the computer’s desktop with the following filename:
   YourfirstnameYourlastnameExam#
   The # symbol is the exam number; e.g., JohnDoeExam1 would be Exam 1 for John Doe.
   Don’t include the # sign in your filename—Bb doesn’t like symbols in filenames.
   Word® will automatically add the .docx file extension to your file.

2. Go to the “Assignments & Exams” page in Bb, and click on the appropriate Exam Upload link:
   a. Click on the “View/Complete Assignment” link in your class Bb site for the exam you are completing.
   b. Click the “Browse” button and locate your completed assignment on your computer or flash drive. Once you click “Open,” your file (including the path) should appear within the “Attach local file” field.
   c. Finally, at the bottom of the page, click the “Submit” button to send the exam to your instructors’ Grade Center.
3. Verify that your exam has been submitted correctly by selecting “My Grades” and locating the exam and grade column.
   a. If a green exclamation mark appears, your exam was submitted correctly.
   b. If an “in progress” icon appears (it’s a little page with a pencil), you have either incorrectly submitted your exam or clicked “Save,” rather than “Submit.” Return to the exam, and click the “Submit” button.
   c. If the in progress icon still appears, ask your proctor to print out a copy of the exam to return to CMU Online with the other exam materials OR ask your proctor to email the exam to your instructor immediately so that you will receive credit for submitting the exam within the exam period. Be sure to contact your instructor right away to inform him/her about the problem you experienced. You should also contact the CMU Help Desk at 989-774-3662 to report the problem.

4. After you have submitted your exam to Bb, deleted the copy you saved to the desktop.

5. Return the printed exam prompt to your proctor.

**Completing the Discussion Board Assignments**

Discussion board (DB) forums are based on your responses to questions provided in one of the textbook exercises or by your instructor. For each DB forum, you will create a “thread” containing your response to the forum question(s) or textbook exercise and will also reply to your classmates’ threads. A general Q&A forum is also available for you to post questions about the readings and/or assignments.

**Instructor Expectations**

When you create threads and reply to your classmates’ posts, ask probing questions that require them to explain their assumptions or to back up their statements with reference to the principles and strategies discussed in the textbook and/or that your instructor has mentioned elsewhere. Ask probing or challenging questions with the intent of extending your classmates’ thinking beyond their personal experiences or gut feelings; instead, get them to focus on the principles and theories discussed in the textbook and/or by your instructor. Your comments and feedback to each other are designed to coach everyone through the analysis process. Some of you might need more guidance than others, but wherever you begin, our intent should be to help everyone move forward.

**Evaluation**

Participation in the discussion board (DB) forums will count for some or all of the 175 points allotted in this course to “Other Class Work). When your instructor evaluates your DB assignments, he/she will focus on assessing growth in your analytical thinking related to the writing principles and strategies addressed in the textbooks. In particular, your instructor will assess how your reasoning improves in terms of rhetorical knowledge, critical thinking, composing processes, knowledge of conventions, and inquiry and research methods. Improved reasoning will be evident when you provide a rationale for your DB threads and replies based on principles and strategies presented in the textbooks and/or that your instructor has mentioned in his/her responses to your previous DB posts, assignment drafts, and exams. Your DB threads and replies should become more specific and detailed as your reasoning skills improve. Your instructor will also expect your DB threads and replies to improve in terms of your use of the writing-related terminology you will be reading about in the textbooks.
Your instructor does not expect DB posts to be perfect; they are not, after all, polished products of a multi-stage drafting, revising, and editing process. However, he/she expects them to contain few errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and usage, certainly none that interfere with the readability of the message and the meaning you are trying to convey. Your instructor also expects posts and replies to be well organized rather than looking like instantaneous text-dumps of whatever pops into your head and happens to find its way onto the screen. Thus, you must think about your posts and replies before composing and submitting them.

Note: Your instructor can see all posts in all threads and can see the posts made by individual students.

Availability: Please do not start work on a new forum until completing the previous forum, i.e., complete them chronologically. Closing dates and times for each forum are listed in the Schedule of Assignments, Exams, & Activities and in the Discussion Board Forum in Bb. Please do NOT wait until the last minute and then throw something together; students who wait until the last minute to complete the discussion board assignments invariably do a poor job and receive few, if any, points. Worse, if everyone waits until the last minute, then there are not any threads for anyone to reply to; the forum becomes like a stampede, and we all know what can happen in a stampede: mayhem. Do not become a victim of a discussion-board stampede; instead, create your thread early and complete your replies to classmates’ threads during the remainder of the forum period.

Late or missed forums: At the closing date and time, Bb automatically makes the forum “unavailable,” so late posts cannot be submitted. If you miss a discussion board forum, you will receive a 0. No “make up” forums or “extra credit” to replace a missing forum will be allowed. Once the discussion is over, it is over.

Quantity: The minimum amount of participation in each DB forum includes creating a thread with an effective response to the question(s) or textbook exercise and replying to at least five (6) posts by students in the other threads in that forum. A student whose participation in a forum fails to meet the minimum level of quantity will receive no more than 70% (i.e., C-) of the points for that forum assignment, regardless of how high the quality of the posts might be; if the quality is lower, then the number of points awarded will be lower than 70%.

Quality: Evaluation of quality will be based on the degree to which posts adhere to the criteria stipulated in the “Grades” section below. A student whose participation in a forum meets or exceeds the minimum level of quantity but whose quality of posts is deemed poor or unsatisfactory (i.e., “D” or “E” level of quality) will receive no more than 70% (and probably less) of the points for that forum.

Note: If you have questions or concerns about your or your classmates’ posts or simply want to discuss your performance on the discussion board assignments, contact your instructor by email or telephone. Do NOT post those questions or concerns to the Q&A forum.

Discussion Board Etiquette
Students must follow these guidelines, which have been adapted from the Association of Yale Alumni:

1. **Remember: You are interacting with people.**
   Because you only see letters stringing across a screen, it is easy to forget or ignore that a person sits on the other side of the network. This can tempt people to excess verbal boldness or emotional explosions, leaving readers angry and hurt. Over the Internet, you should consider yourself as having a face-to-face conversation with someone in a crowded room. Cursing and raw abuse are not appropriate. Keep debate civil, and keep it a debate, not a slanderous brawl. Always remember behind every email address is another person. [Note: Any student engaging in what the instructor perceives as inappropriate behavior on the class discussion board or blog will be blocked from further posting and will lose points for those class activities.]

2. **Differentiate between public and private messages.**
   The discussion board and blog are public spaces. Personal messages, such as criticism of a person's writing style should be sent to that person only. To broadcast such messages on the discussion board can embarrass and anger others. Messages for everyone on the list go to the Discussion Board. If you instructor feel that you are posting work that’s difficult to read and understand, he/she will contact you privately and suggests way for you to improve.

3. **Make subject lines descriptive.**
   People should be able to understand the threads and replies you post by glancing at the subject line. "Hello," is not as good as “My responses to the Ezzell and Fletcher articles” or “Reply to John Smith RE: Ezzell and Fletcher.”

4. **Condense the original message to which you are replying.**
   When replying to a message, re-send a few summarizing lines of the original message so the reader will know immediately what matter you are addressing. The user who receives dozens of messages a day can easily forget what he wrote a couple days before. However, do not re-send the entire original message, especially if it’s long.

5. **Sign your postings.**
   Include your name at the end of your message.

6. **Be brief.**
   Write succinctly but thoughtfully. Your post will have greater impact and more people will read it.

7. **Write clearly and logically.**
   Simplicity of expression usually is best. Sudden poetic bursts intended to "impress" usually do not impress, and might bother the readers.

8. **Be prudent with speculation.**
   On the Internet, rumor can grow extravagant and spread like fire. Remarks beginning with, "I have a feeling that . . ." or, "I think that . . ." should be used with care.

9. **Be cautious with humor and sarcasm.**
   Typed language is naturally colder than spoken language, because it is stripped of voice inflections and body language. Quite easily, humor can be taken as insult, especially if subtle. Some users prefer to use symbols that hint at tone, such as the smiley face: :-) It is safest to frankly note satirical messages.
10. **Discussion boards and blogs are as good, and only as good, as the participants make them.**
Such venues work best when intelligent people share fresh knowledge and ideas. New ideas can stimulate discussion. Trivial or inane comments often kill discussion.

**GRADES**

You can expect your instructor to grade and return your assignments and exams within one week of the due date (not the date you submitted the work); however, if you submit work late, then your instructor cannot guarantee to return your graded work within one week.

A grade of “C” is the normal grade for this course, and students must receive a “C” (not a “C-“) to receive competency credit for this course. The grades of “A” and “B” are honor grades, indicating a student has produced excellent or very good quality while meeting the minimum quantitative requirements. A grade of “E” means the student has not met the minimum requirements either quantitatively or qualitatively. Each assignment will receive a letter grade (sometimes with a + or -) as follows:

“**A**” papers are generally characterized by the following:
- complete adherence to assignment requirements
- strong evidence that the full range of course objectives is met
- engaging, fresh, and clear language appropriate to the audience and purpose
- effective, clear, and focused topic development
- extensive support and elaboration
- effective organization
- well-developed paragraphs
- variety in sentence structure
- effective audience awareness
- excellent use of conventional grammar, punctuation, and usage
- excellent use of context-appropriate lines of argument (when applicable)
- excellent use of context-appropriate evidence to support claims (when applicable)
- excellent integration and citation of sources (when applicable)
- excellent integration of visuals (when applicable)

“**B**” papers are generally characterized by the following:
- complete adherence to assignment requirements
- strong evidence that the full range of course objectives are met
- clear language appropriate to the audience and purpose
- generally clear and focused topic development
- good support and elaboration
- good organization
- generally well-developed paragraphs
- variety in sentence structure
- generally effective audience awareness
- good use of conventional grammar, punctuation, and usage
- good use of context-appropriate lines of argument (when applicable)
- good use of context-appropriate evidence to support claims (when applicable)
- good integration and citation of sources (when applicable)
- good integration of visuals (when applicable)

“**C**” papers are generally characterized by the following:
- basic adherence to assignment requirements
- evidence that most of the course objectives are met
- generally clear language appropriate to the audience and purpose
- adequately clear and focused topic development
- adequate support and elaboration
- adequate organization
- adequately developed paragraphs
• some variety in sentence structure
• adequate but variable audience awareness
• adequate use of conventional grammar, punctuation, and usage
• adequate use of context-appropriate lines of argument (when applicable)
• adequate use of context-appropriate evidence to support claims (when applicable)
• adequate integration and citation of sources (when applicable)
• adequate integration of visuals (when applicable)

“D” papers are generally characterized by the following:
• little or no adherence to assignment requirements
• little or no evidence that course objectives are met
• unclear language and/or language that is inappropriate for the audience and purpose.
• weak and unclear focus and topic development
• little or no support and elaboration
• inadequate organization
• inadequate paragraph development
• little variety in sentence structure
• lack of audience awareness
• inadequate use of conventional grammar, punctuation, and usage
• inadequate use of context-appropriate lines of argument (when applicable)
• inadequate use of context-appropriate evidence to support claims (when applicable)
• inadequate integration and citation of sources (when applicable)
• inadequate integration of visuals (when applicable)

“E” papers are generally characterized by the following:
• severe deficiencies in clarity; language use; support; sentence and paragraph development; organization; audience awareness; grammar, punctuation, usage; and adherence to assignment requirements and objectives
• plagiarism

Grades on assignments will be based on the number of points acquired out of the number possible.
Grades will be posted on Blackboard. The grading scale for the individual assignments is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 – 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84 – 86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74 – 76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 – 73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 – 69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64 – 66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60 – 63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Blackboard keeps a running total of the points you have accumulated on the assignments. Here’s the grading scale for the course based on the total points accumulated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>940 – 1,000 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>900 – 939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>870 – 899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>840 – 869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>800 – 839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>770 – 799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>740 – 769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>700 – 739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>670 – 699</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>640 – 669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>600 – 639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>0 – 599</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CLASS POLICIES

This section addresses revisions, penalties for lack of participation in peer review and for late
assignments, incompletes, academic honesty, and miscellaneous class policies.

Revisions

Revision means “re-seeing,” and that is exactly what writers try to do: to take another look at their drafts and make sure the content, organization, writing style, reasoning etc. are set before editing, proofreading, and printing or otherwise submitting a final version. Obviously, writers must become adept at “re-seeing” their own drafts, but to do that, they often benefit from getting feedback from others. In this class, you will receive that feedback on your work-in-progress from your peers and your instructor. Conversely, by reading and commenting on your classmates’ work, you should also become a stronger, more critical reader of your own writing.

Each of the four major essay assignments will go through the process of invention, drafting, revising, and editing. Your instructor will place you into groups on Bb and you will upload your Peer Review drafts to your Group page. (See the peer review instructions on each assignment sheet as well as the peer review sections of this syllabus.) You will revise your first draft based on the comments you received from your group members and will submit that second draft to your instructor for review. Your instructor will then provide you with revision suggestions and a tentative grade. You are allowed, but not required, to revise a second time and submit third draft for your instructor to review.

With respect to the third and final draft of the assignment, the following conditions for revision apply:

• You must do more than merely correct all the editing errors or errors in format that your instructor commented on in the previous draft: Revision is not a substitute for editing in the first place. A revision must improve the substance of the assignment (e.g., reasoning, organization, writing style, etc.), as well as correct most of editing errors, without introducing many new ones.

• If your “final” draft is better than the previous version your instructor reviewed, your grade will be raised accordingly; however, if the revision is not substantive or actually turns out worse than your second draft, your grade won’t be raised, but it won’t be lowered either. Your instructor may offer you a chance to revise once more—but don’t count on it. He/she is likely teaching three or four other classes and is unlikely to have time to review another draft.

• Your instructor’s comments on the initial draft he/she reviews will reflect the problems that, at the time, seem most serious and happen to catch his/her eye: rarely will an instructor comment on everything that is effective or ineffective about an assignment.

REMEMBER: If you need additional help revising, you may submit your draft to the Writing Center for online consultant review at http://webs.cmich.edu/writingcenter. But do plan ahead.

• Your instructor will compare the new draft of your paper with the previously reviewed draft to see whether your revision is substantial (as opposed to superficial). When your instructor reads a revision, he/she will probably comment on problems that were not commented on the first time. These problems will affect the grade of the revision. Moral: don’t just “fix” the problems that got pointed out; reread the assignment critically and do all you can to improve it!

• Any penalties for lateness and/or for failing to submit a draft for Peer Review that might have applied to the previously reviewed draft also apply to the revision.
Peer Review

If you do not submit a draft to your Group page on Bb for peer review by the deadline, you will lose 25 points from your assignment grade. If you do not comment on any your group members’ drafts by the deadline, you will also lose 25 points. If you comment on some but not all of your group members’ drafts, you will lose a portion of that 25 points. Exceptions are possible, e.g., if you were unable to comment because a group member did not submit a draft until the day the comments were due. Such exceptions are rare, though, if your instructor is closely monitoring the peer review groups and moving students to other groups to make sure drafts have been submitted in each group well before the comments are due.

Late Assignments

An assignment will lose 5% of the grade for each day it is late. Alas, Murphy's Law exacts a toll on all of us, so each student is permitted to turn in up to one week late without a grade penalty one instructor draft or Writing Skills Exam, EXCEPT the final draft of Assignment 4 and Exam 4, which are due on the last day of class. Note: This one-free-late-assignment-or-exam policy does NOT apply to any discussion board assignments.

Any other major assignments or exams that are more than one week late will not be accepted; if it is an exam, it will receive a zero (0), and if it is a writing assignment, it will receive a zero (0) or whatever was the last grade on the assignment.

Incompletes

Some students register for online courses without seriously considering the required time commitment. Many students have work and family responsibilities that limit their ability to successfully complete an online course—especially if they are taking more than one course—while others simply procrastinate, trying to complete (usually unsuccessfully) all the coursework at the last minute and then wondering why their instructor won’t give them an Incomplete.

An Incomplete is not an automatic consequence of failing to complete all the course requirements. CMU has specific policies and procedures that students must follow in requesting an Incomplete, and it is outlined in CMU's Undergraduate Bulletin.

A decision about whether to grant an Incomplete is entirely up to the discretion of the instructor. An instructor may consider giving an Incomplete only if the student meets both of the following criteria:

1. The student must have successfully completed 51% of the coursework, and "successfully completed" means that the student has earned a "C" or better on that coursework.

2. The student has a reason for requesting an Incomplete that the instructor finds both legitimate and compelling. The burden of proof is on the student to provide legitimate, compelling evidence that he/she is unable to complete the remainder of the course requirements due to some unforeseen emergency (e.g., suffering a serious illness or injury, being deployed for military service, etc.). Claiming to have a serious problem is insufficient: students must provide compelling evidence to support their claims. Not having enough time to complete the course work due to work and/or family constraints is neither a legitimate nor a compelling reason. Everyone is busy.
Academic Honesty

As stated in the CMU Undergraduate Bulletin, “In the academic community, the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. Written or other work which [sic] students submit must be the product of their own efforts and must be consistent with appropriate standards of academic and professional ethics. Academic dishonesty, which includes cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of dishonest or unethical behavior, is prohibited.” In cases that involve the above instances of academic dishonesty, the student’s grade and status in the course are left to the discretion of the instructor. These are serious offenses that involve serious consequences.

In this class, plagiarism—whether intentional or not—on any of the assignments and/or exams may result in an E on the assignment. While the Internet has made it easier for lazy, unintelligent, and/or unethical persons to commit plagiarism—either by copying and pasting material into their papers without citing the sources or by ordering completed essays from online paper mills—new technologies have also been developed that make it easy for instructors to determine whether the students’ writing is actually their own and whether all source material has been adequately cited. In this class, all assignments may be checked for plagiarism using SafeAssign. If your instructor suspects that a student has plagiarized an assignment, he/she might submit the assignment to the SafeAssign database. He/she might also randomly select assignments for routine check.

There are other types of student behavior that, while not as obviously dishonest as those mentioned above, equally compromise the integrity of education. Some examples of this kind of behavior include bringing an unprofessional attitude to the course and/or not doing the assigned work according to the schedule, not meeting deadlines, not following instructions, nor communicating respectfully with your instructor and classmates, and so forth.

Students also lack integrity when they expect that very little real work should be required of them. Higher education is designed to be challenging, which means it requires students to use complex thought processes to operate at a high level of intellect.

If do your part to maintain these standards of integrity and contribute to your own exemplary education, your degree will actually be worth more than the paper it’s printed on.

Miscellaneous Class Policies

1. Unless otherwise instructed by your instructor, complete all the essay assignments and exams using MS Word® and upload them to Bb. Do not email any coursework to your instructor without his/her permission. Do not send any coursework to your instructor by U.S. Postal Service, UPS, FedEx, etc. without your instructor’s permission.

2. Feel free to email your instructor any questions you have about the course work or your performance in the course. If your instructor is also teaching classes on campus, he/she will schedule regular office hours, during which you may call to ask questions. Just because this is an online class, that does not mean your instructor is available 24/7 or will be able to immediately reply to your emails and/or phone calls. You can expect a reply to email and voicemail within 24 hours, if not sooner.

In composing emails to your instructor, use Standard Written English, not internet messaging (IM) or text messaging (TM) abbreviations or slang. If your instructor cannot read or understand your
email, he/she is unlikely to respond. (That’s true in most workplaces, too, so practice writing professional-quality emails that reflect positively on you as writer and professional-in-training.)

3. Keep backup copies of all your writing assignments during the semester (but not the exams).

4. Don’t plagiarize. Plagiarism (intentional or not) can result in an “E” on an assignment or even in the course.

**Due Dates for Major Assignments & Exams**

All assignments and activities are due by 11:59 p.m. EST on the dates stipulated below. Online courses do not have holidays or breaks.

- Draft 1, A1 uploaded to your Group Page on Bb for Peer Review: September 28
- Peer Review comments due on Draft 1, A1: October 2
- Draft 2, A1 uploaded to Bb for Instructor Review: October 5
- Instructor Feedback on A1 available: October 12
- Draft 1, A2, uploaded to your Group Page on Bb for Peer Review: October 12
- Peer Review comments due on Draft 1, A2: October 16
- Draft 2, A2 uploaded to Bb for Instructor Review: October 19
- Draft 3, A1 Final draft uploaded to Bb for instructor re-evaluation: October 21
- Deadline for completing Writing Skills Exam 1: October 21
- Instructor Feedback on A2 available: October 26
- Draft 3, A2 Final draft uploaded to Bb for instructor re-evaluation: November 2
- Deadline for completing Writing Skills Exam 2: November 2
- Draft 1, A3 uploaded to your Group Page on Bb for Peer Review: November 9
- Peer Review comments due on Draft 1, A3: November 13
- Draft 2, A3 uploaded to Bb for Instructor Review: November 16
- Deadline for completing Writing Skills Exam 3: November 23
- Draft 1, A4 uploaded to your Group Page on Bb for Peer Review: November 23
- Instructor Feedback on A3 available: November 23
- Peer Review comments due on Draft 1, A4: November 27
- Draft 2, A4 uploaded to Bb for Instructor Review: November 30
- Draft 3, A3 Final draft uploaded to Bb for instructor re-evaluation: December 4
- Instructor Feedback on A4 available: December 7
- Deadline for completing Writing Skills Exam 4: December 11
- Draft 3, A4 Final draft uploaded to Bb for instructor re-evaluation: December 11

The complete, detailed “Schedule of Assignments and Class Activities” is in the Course Materials section of your class Blackboard site.