

**Composition II
English 102
Fall 2021**

University of Massachusetts Boston
Monday/Wednesday [4:00-5:15 PM]
McCormack M01-0620

Instructor: Allen Drinkwater
Office Hours: 7:30-8:30 PM – Monday/Wednesday
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[Course Description]

Composition II is designed to help students to develop a variety of strategies for writing, reading, and critical thinking for the various writing contexts they encounter at the university and beyond. In this course, we will use writing for a variety of purposes: inquiry, learning, critical thinking, communicating, and—most of all—reflecting on your own learning. In particular, this course will encourage you to see writing as a means of *discovering* new ideas, not simply recording them on the page or screen.

[Course Objectives]

Rhetorical Knowledge & Practice

- understand and use key concepts, with additional emphasis on discourse community, context, and genre
- use conventions of written genres that suit particular purposes and discourse communities

Critical Thinking, Reading, and Composing

- locate secondary sources and evaluate them for credibility and relevance
- analyze primary and secondary sources for evidence
- use strategies of analysis and synthesis to develop and articulate an evidence-based position that is complex and purposeful.

Knowledge of Composing Processes

- plan, pursue, and revise a sustained and feasible line of inquiry
- give and act on feedback about in-progress writing

Reflective Awareness

- approach writing as a subject of study as well as a practice
- use an evolving vocabulary for reflecting on composing processes and rhetorical choices in their own writing
- use reflection to develop and demonstrate conscious awareness of their own writing knowledge and practice as it develops over time and across contexts

[Course Technology]

UMB Email

It is essential (for both this class *and* your ability to operate as a student at UMass Boston) that you are able to read emails sent to your **@UMB.edu account** in a timely manner. As such, please commit to routinely checking your @UMB.edu email, or [forward messages sent there to an email address that you check regularly](#). Please be aware that you need to remember the password for your UMB email account even if you set it to forward to your personal email account.

Google Account & Google Classroom

This collection of apps – including Google Docs, Google Drive, and Google Calendar, amongst others – will be especially useful for our course activities. While many students may already have a personal Google account, everyone can access these apps by using your UMB credentials.

The central hub of our course will be Google Classroom. This is where you will access readings, submit assignments, respond to prompts, keep up to date with your grade, complete homework, and engage in most of our activities. If you have never used Google Classroom, please take some time to familiarize yourself. With that said, please let me know if you are having any difficulty navigating your way through it, and I will do my best to help.

Computers/Devices

Given that our readings, resources, and activities will primarily be web-based, you will need a computer to participate in this class. A phone alone will not suffice. Appropriate devices for this course include an iPad or tablet, traditional laptop or Chromebook, or other technology geared towards personal computing and word processing. If you have one of these, you should be able to engage with all the materials for this course.

If you do not have any one of these aforementioned devices, you can request to borrow a Chromebook from the university. If this is the case, make sure to put in your request as soon as possible so that you are able to keep up with the assignments.

[“UMB Student Chromebook Request Form” – Click here!](#)

Moreover, the use of phones during class is strongly discouraged. Although most of us rely on our phones for assistance with daily life, research shows that using phones for academic purposes can be problematic; not only are the relatively small screens limiting, but the non-academic uses can be tremendously distracting. As such, it is imperative that phones are used judiciously – save non-essential usage (anything that does not pertain to the work at hand) for before or after class.

In the rare event that you *need* to entertain a text/call during class time, please let me know before class begins, and do so in the least distracting way possible (e.g., excusing yourself to the hallway).

Zoom

In addition to keeping office hours on campus, I will also be available for meetings via Zoom. If you would like to discuss something over Zoom, please get in touch with me and we can schedule a time to do so.

In the event that the university makes the decision to switch to remote learning during this semester, we will use Zoom.

[Readings & Required Materials]

There are no texts to be purchased for this course. Instead, the readings will be available as PDFs or via hyperlinks – all of which will be made available on our Google Classroom. Please have access to these readings during our class meetings – digital and hardcopy forms are both acceptable.

In addition to the readings, please bring a notebook and a pen/pencil to every single class. Although we will default to using our devices in class, the classic “pen and paper” approach is a necessary fail-safe. After all, we simply cannot be deterred by exclamations of “My battery is dead!” or “I used my laptop as a skateboard and cracked the screen!” or “My political opponents must’ve hacked me!” or the like.

[Assignments & Grading]

Throughout the semester you will be given feedback in the form of instructor comments and graded assessments. Listed below are the major assignments for the course as well as the corresponding point valuation (and course-grade percentage).

Project One: Discourse Communities, Intertextuality, and Authority [100 Points (25%)]

“...essay should provide an evidence-based discussion that clearly articulates what you think (and feel) about the concepts at hand and how they are presented by Gee, Porter, Penrose & Geisler, or Young.”

Project Two: Inquiry-Driven Research Paper [100 Points (25%)]

“...essay (aimed at a specific academic audience) that develops an inquiry, researches a territory, and establishes your voice by making a contribution to this topic.”

Project Three: Genre Remix Proposal [100 Points (25%)]

“Propose how you could remix the inquiry-driven research paper into a new form.”

Participation & Process [100 Points (25%)]

One of the most valuable attributes a writing student can possess is the ability to share insights, perspectives, and opinions with others. As such, the expectation is that every student taking English 102 will fully participate in all activities.

During the semester you will be asked to compose drafts, revise said drafts, and comment on the drafts of your classmates. Your effort and thoughtfulness during the developmental stages of your writing processes will be assessed.

Consequently, the assessing of participation and attendance is encouraged to promote consistent and thoughtful course engagement. (See attendance policy below.)

Assignment and final course grades will be calculated using the scale below:

A = 94 – 100%	B+ = 87 – 89%	C+ = 77 – 79%	D+ = 67 – 69%
A- = 90 – 93%	B = 84 – 86%	C = 74 – 76%	D = 60 – 66%
	B- = 80 – 83%	C- = 70 – 73%	F = less than 60%

[Course Policies]

Please be mindful of the following policies, as they are intended to help our time together be as productive and positive as possible.

Attendance/Timeliness

English 102 is a highly participatory course and is sequenced in such a way that each lesson builds upon the activities, readings, and collaborations of the previous. Consequently, regular (and on-time) attendance is essential. Repeated absences and late-arrivals are bound to negatively impact your work (and, as a corollary, the grade you receive).

The first three (3) absences from class will not be penalized; however, please do not consider these free “skip” days, as you are still responsible for any work due during your absence. Please communicate with me, classmates, and tutors during these absences.

- Save these absences for unplanned emergencies, such as illness, family issues, unforeseen travel delays, et cetera.

Subsequent absences will negatively impact your participation & attendance grade; while **a fourth or fifth absence will lower the grade, missing six (6) or more classes will result in your participation and attendance grade being reduced to 0%.**

While everyone runs late from time to time, habitual tardiness is detrimental to both your personal learning and the classroom dynamic. Being regularly late to class will result in your participation and attendance grade being lowered.

Communication is crucial! If you know you are going to be absent, inform me beforehand; if you find yourself dealing with an unanticipated absence, please contact me as soon as possible. In either case, it is important for us to make arrangements/adjustments.

Exceptions to this policy – such as in the case of disability or chronic illness – **can be arranged.** Students with disabilities should first contact the Ross Center (see below) and then speak with me. We live in unprecedented times, so as long as good faith efforts are made to discuss *legitimate* reasons for being absent, arrangements can be made.

Assignment Deadlines (Late Work)

Unless otherwise noted, **all assignments are due by the start of class.**

If you believe you will need an extension, contact me before the day the assignment is due; otherwise, I may not accept your work.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

All students are held to the Academic Honesty standards outlined and defined in [UMass Boston Code of Student Conduct](#). Please familiarize yourself with this document.

Plagiarism – defined as the use of another’s work as though it is your own (either by disingenuously presenting an entire text or failing to give appropriate credit to source material) – is considered a violation of the aforementioned code of conduct.

Unintentional plagiarism sometimes occurs, and this is usually a result of a citation error. However, when it appears that a student has intentionally plagiarized (such as attempting to pass off entire passages or essays as your own work), the Chair of the English Department will be contacted; consequences may include failure of the assignment or even the whole course.

In my experience, students often plagiarize when they are overwhelmed by the amount, difficulty, or deadlines of their workload. If you are ever considering plagiarizing in order to submit an assignment, please let me know and we can work towards a positive solution. It is *always* better to ask for assistance (such as clarification or an extension) than to submit someone else’s work as your own.

Recording Live Class Meetings

Massachusetts is a “two-party consent” state for recording, meaning that all parties (instructor and all students) must consent to being recorded. Concerns for your privacy and the practical difficulty of securing consent mean that I will not permit any recording to be made of class. University policy forbids anyone to record or even to take photos in the physical classroom. Given the grave legal and ethical issues, students who openly or secretly record class will be referred to the Dean of Students.

[Essential Information]

Please be mindful of the following policies, as they are intended to help our time together be as productive and positive as possible.

Pass/Fail, Course Withdraw, and Incompletes

Course Withdraw: You may withdraw from a course at any time up until the [deadline](#). If you do so you will be given a grade of "W", which will remain on your record but will not affect your cumulative grade point average. You may register for the same course in another semester. See [here](#) for more information. I will be in touch with you prior to the deadline to discuss whether this is a suitable option for you to consider.

Pass/Fail: You can file for the pass/fail option through WISER at any time after your initial registration until the [deadline](#). The requirements of your college, major, or program may not permit you to take certain courses pass/fail. Be sure to check with your college or program BEFORE you select the pass/fail option. See [here](#) for more information.

Incompletes are rarely offered, as they are reserved for students who are unable to complete a small portion of the course at the end of the term due to an extreme circumstance such as illness. See [here](#) for more information.

Assessment

Some of your written work in this course may be shared with university faculty and administrators for the purposes of program assessment and improvement. This assessment will not affect your grade in this course, and it will not be conducted until after grades have been submitted. The assessment will be confidential. Your work will never be shared publicly without your written permission. If you have questions, please contact the Director of the Composition Program, Lauren Bowen, at lauren.bowen@umb.edu or at 617-287-6296.

Civility

An educational institution is a unique cultural space: here, the open sharing of ideas is not only possible, but valued above all else. Intellectual exchange depends on showing respect for your instructor and peers, taking responsibility for your own course contributions, and demonstrating a mature understanding that learning can involve disagreement over ideas and assessment. *If you engage in uncivil behavior, such as making inappropriate comments to your professor or fellow students in the classroom, out of the classroom, via email or social networking sites, you will be referred to either the Chair of the English Department or the Dean of Students.*

Health, Wellbeing, and Success

Due to the emerging COVID-19 variants, **all members of the UMass Boston community** — students, faculty, and staff — as well as contractors and visitors **are required to wear face coverings** in public indoor spaces on the UMass Boston campus. As an instructor, for classes on campus, I will remind all students about the indoor masking policy. I will ask students to leave class if they do not comply and I may also refer students to the Dean of Students. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should not come to campus. Flexibility and support will be provided for students in such situations.

Writing Proficiency Requirement

According to the Writing Proficiency landing page, “To graduate from UMass Boston, students must demonstrate the ability to evaluate different points of view, read critically, and write analytically by meeting the Writing Proficiency Requirement. It is one of our general education requirements for undergraduates.” There are three manners for meeting this requirement:

EWRAP: Upon completion of the Intermediate Seminar, students will have the option of fulfilling the Writing Proficiency Requirement via **EWRAP** (Electronic WRiting Portfolio Assessment). This option does not include the production of a new essay; instead, students select a paper from their Intermediate Seminar class and two additional papers (EN 102 is strongly recommended). Students also complete a set of reflection questions in response to their portfolio pieces.

WPE Portfolio: Students are given a reading set and accompanying question and are asked to compose an essay in response to that question. Students also select papers from courses taken at UMB to supplement this new essay.

The Writing Nook

The English Department offers free online tutoring for all composition students, starting in the third week of the semester. These tutors are graduate and advanced undergraduate students at UMass Boston. Through these video chat consultation sessions, tutors are available to help writers of any ability, with any aspect of their writing projects (including everyone's biggest writing challenge: procrastination!). [Click here](#) to learn more or to sign up for a session!

University Policies & Resources

Students can face a variety of situations for which I am likely not the best resource. Fortunately, UMB provides such resources for various student needs. Should such needs arise, I encourage you to contact the appropriate resources:

Technology Services

[Printing on Campus](#)

[IT Help](#)

[Software Discounts \(including Microsoft Office\)](#)

Academic Resources

[University Advising Center](#)

[Dean of Students](#)

[Ross Center for Disability Services](#) - If you have a disability that may affect your performance in this class, UMass Boston has resources that can help you succeed. Please contact the Ross Center for Disabilities to receive official university services and accommodations; your instructor is not required to adhere to any modifications that have not been required by the Ross Center, so obtaining that documentation to share with your instructors is critical.

Health and Safety

Public Safety: 617 287 1212 (from cell phone) or 911 (from campus phone)

[University Health Services](#)

[University Counseling Center](#)

[Koru Mindfulness](#)

[Recovery Support](#)

Resource Centers

[General Questions: Here4U](#)

[Student Veterans' Center](#)

[Women's Center](#)

[CASA Latinx](#)

[Black Student Center](#)

[Asian Student Center](#)

[Queer Student Center](#)

[International Student and Scholar Offices](#)

[U-ACCESS](#) - For housing insecurity, food insecurity, unemployment, and financial hardship

[Immigrant Student Success](#)

[Student Right to Excused Absence Because of Religious Belief](#)

[Important Dates]

Tuesday, September 14: Add/Drop Ends!

Monday, October 11: No Classes!

Thursday, November 11: No Classes!

Friday, November 19: Pass/Fail & Course Withdraw Deadline!

November 25-28: Thanksgiving Break. No Classes!

Monday, December 13: Our last class meeting!