

WRIT 101: Composition and Sustainability Abbreviated Syllabus*ⁱ

Instructor Name: Tamara Love
CRN/Section: 73274/11C
Course Days and Times: Monday and Wednesday: 4:10 – 5:30 pm
Class: HB 17
Mailbox: HB02 Office at COT
Office Hours: COT in Griz House 6 (Writing Trailer);
Tuesday: 4-5:30 pm; and by appointment
Email: Tamara.Love@mso.umt.edu

WRIT 101 focuses on sustainability for a couple of reasons: first, we quite simply care about the environment and human rights but recognize that the enormity of such problems as global warming or banishing racism might seem too daunting for individuals and communities to change. Learning to write in college is a means of further educating you to be engaged readers and writers, continuing on your path of becoming active, agile, and reflective learners. Learning to write in college often means considering where you stand in relationship to others' beliefs, learning to work collaboratively and productively with others, and learning to critically engage new ideas and practices. These skills and habits of mind are vital for college researchers and writers as well as citizens in our world.

We'll explore sustainability in our writing assignments and readings as you develop your abilities to think, read, and write rhetorically to better communicate in the world. You'll inquire into different personal, academic, and civic contexts and read, analyze, and compose in different genres. You'll also further develop flexible reading, writing, and research processes to help you develop as an academic and civic participant. Much of your work will involve different kinds of collaboration, including small group workshops and discussions that will take place in class, in conference, and in electronic forums.

Course Texts/Composing Spaces

Ballenger, Bruce. *The Curious Writer*. 4th Custom Edition for the University of Montana. New York: Longman. 2010.

Please bring this text to every class. *Please note you must use this edition, as prior editions have very different content and different pagination.*

Lunsford, Andrea. *The Everyday Writer*. 4th edition. Custom Edition for the University of Montana. Boston, MA: Bedford's/St. Martins. 2010.

Working Folder/ Final Portfolio

You'll be asked to keep a *print working folder* of all your writing throughout the semester. At midterm you'll write a reflection on the working folder, and, at the end of the semester, you'll construct a final portfolio that will include your three inquiry projects, selected invention and drafting, and an introduction to the portfolio. It's essential that you keep all of the work you produce in the course, in electronic form and hard copy. You'll work with *Portfolio Keeping*, included in *The Everyday Writer*, to learn what it means to keep a portfolio in WRIT 101.

Major Assignments

I will give you a detailed assignment sheet as we begin each of these major assignments:

- Inquiry project 1: Personal Academic Argument (2,000-3,000 words); Due Monday, October 3, 2011
- Inquiry project 2: Op-ed (700-1,000 words); Due Monday, October, 24, 2011
- Reflective Essay (500-750 words); Due Monday, November 7, 2011
- Inquiry project 3: Life Place Essay (1,000 – 1,200 words); Due Monday, November 21, 2011
- Reflective Portfolio Introduction (500-750 words); Due with Portfolio Wednesday, December, 7, 2011

These projects will give you the opportunity to compose in a variety of genres for a range of academic and civic situations. You'll have opportunities to use observations and experience as evidence, as well as learn rhetorical strategies for composing effective arguments and conducting academic research.

Other Key Dates:

- *Wednesday, December 7, 2011, Portfolios due at start of class (Last regular day of class)*
- *Thursday, December 15, 2011, 1:10 pm – 3:10 pm (Exam Day) Portfolios Returned*

Common Policies and Procedures

See UMM10-14 in *The Everyday Writer* (4th edition) for WRIT 101 information related to registration, attendance, Academic Conduct, Students with Disabilities, Participation Grade Descriptors, and Portfolio Grade Descriptors.

Late Work. *Late work is unacceptable.* If you miss a draft deadline, you've missed a crucial chance for feedback on your work. If you aren't ready with a response to a group member's draft, you're letting down someone who is counting on you for help. If you aren't prepared for class, you limit your own voice and contributions to the class and community of writers and readers. If you ever have a problem with an assignment, talk to me in advance of the deadline and you may be able to negotiate a special arrangement. *Deadlines are not negotiable after you've missed them.*

Required Technology: Campus E-mail Accounts and Moodle:

Please activate your campus e-mail account right away. Every student is issued a university email account, and there is no cost. Go to any technology help desk on campus for assistance on either campus. You will need to activate your email before you can access Moodle. See the following link for additional information.

http://www.umt.edu/it/email/umconnect_activate.aspx

Attendance

Learning in this course takes place mainly through inquiry and discovery--that means you will be participating in many group-related activities. Rarely, will you find yourself simply sitting in class taking notes. In order for this method to work, you must attend class. Besides making learning more meaningful, attendance will ensure that you don't fail the course. Personal situations and required university events may arise that, on a rare occasion, make it impossible for you to be in class. Remember, however, that's why a few absences are allowed; please reserve those for exceptional circumstances.

If you must miss class, you are responsible for obtaining any handouts or assignments for the class. Make sure you talk with me in advance if you are worried about meeting a deadline or missing a class.

Attendance: Monday/Wednesday classes

- More than two absences from a Mon./Wed. class will compromise your grade. Five or more absences from a Mon./Wed. class will result in a failing grade.
- 3rd absence: final grade drops one letter grade
- 4th absence: final grade drops one letter grade
- 5th absence: final grade is an F

Grades: Final Grade

I encourage you to talk with me at any time to better understand my comments or to discuss your overall progress and success in the class. Your final grade will be based on the following percentages:

1. Participation: 10%
2. Journal & Informal Writing Assignments: 15%
3. Reflective Essay: 25%
4. Final Portfolio: 50%

ⁱ See complete 6-page Syllabus posted on Moodle for greater detail.