ENGL 101: APPROACHES TO CRITICAL READING AND WRITING

Spring 2018
UTR: 5:00-5:50
Room: Liberal Arts B101

Instructor: Dr. Malek Mohammad
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Office Hours: Sunday 12:00—1:00 and 6:00—7:00
Tuesday 4:00—5:00 and 6:00—7:00
Thursday 12:00—1:00 and 6:00—7:00
or by appointment

AUK MISSION STATEMENT
The American University of Kuwait is a liberal arts institution based on the American model of higher education. It is dedicated to providing students with knowledge, self-awareness, and personal growth experiences that can enhance critical thinking, effective communication, and respect for diversity. AUK seeks to create leaders and lifelong learners who aspire to the highest standards of moral and ethical responsibility in their societies.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT
In keeping with the American University of Kuwait's liberal arts tradition, the English Department provides students with the ability to use the English language effectively, think critically, cultivate a lifelong process of inquiry, and reach their full potential as creative individuals and engaged citizens. Through its emphasis on developing cultural awareness, rhetorical flexibility, information literacy, and appreciation for literary traditions, the department prepares students for the increasingly complex challenges of the 21st century.

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES
This course focuses on writing and reading for various academic and public purposes and audiences. Students will develop analytical, critical, and argumentative thinking, reading, and writing abilities, and will be introduced to research practices.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Use various composing processes (prewriting, drafting, revising, final editing) to develop and refine their ideas for different audiences and purposes.
- Apply critical reading techniques to comprehend a variety of intellectually challenging texts.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of the strategies of critical analysis and argument.
- Synthesize and integrate the ideas of others into their own writing.
- Apply the basic conventions of MLA formatting.
- Collaborate with others in analyzing and revising their own and others’ writing processes and products.
• Use rhetorical, stylistic, and grammatical choices (e.g., tone, connotation, register, cohesion, sentence variety and structure, etc.) effectively for specific purposes and audiences.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**
1. Various readings posted on Moodle or sent via email
2. File for readings, handouts, graded assignments . . . etc.
3. Writing utensil and notebook to every class, along with corresponding readings and assignments

**EVALUATION & GRADING**
The course evaluation will be based on the following assignments:

• In-class writing, activities, participation, peer-reviews, etc.  
  25 Points
  10 Points
• Complaint Essay, 2-3 pages, due via Moodle Sunday, March 4.  
  10 Points
• Visual Analysis Essay, 3-4 pages, due via Moodle Sunday, April 1.  
  20 Points
• Visual Analysis Presentation, 5-10 minutes, week of April 8-12.  
  5 Points
• Argumentative Essay, 5-6 pages, due via Moodle Tuesday, May 22  
  30 Points

Remember: you must earn a C- in this course to fulfill the general education requirement.

**AUK official Grading Scale:**
A  = 94 - 100
A- = 90 - 93
B+ = 87- 89
B  = 84 - 86
B- = 80 - 83
C+ = 77 - 79
C  = 74 - 76
C- = 70 -73
D+ = 67 – 69
D  = 64 - 66
D- = 60 – 63
F  = 0 - 59

**ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION**
Attendance is mandatory. Because this course relies on lectures, workshops, in-class writing and activities, and discussion, you cannot miss class. If you must miss a class, contact me as soon as possible (before the absence) to discuss your absence. In the case of any missed class, you are responsible for material covered and work assigned. Class time cannot be reconstructed or made up and your performance, your work, and your final course grade (especially in the category of in-class writing, activities, participation, peer-reviews, etc.) will inevitably be affected by absences.
Absence policy: The University has a clear policy about absences: if you miss more than 15% of the class, you will fail the course. For this class, if you miss class 7 times, you will fail the course.

Late policy: Lateness to class creates unnecessary distractions for the class. Please be considerate by avoiding late arrivals and early departures. If you are late, please come in quietly as to not disturb our discussion. Two late arrivals equal one absence. If you are more than ten minutes late or leave class early, you will be marked absent.

Disability Accommodations
If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, you are requested to contact Dr. Huda Shaaban (hshaaban@auk.edu.kw), in the Student Counseling Center (Located in front of Gate 2, between the Hangout and Academic Advising) to arrange an appointment to discuss your needs. You are also welcome to contact me to discuss your academic needs. However, since all disability-related accommodations require registration with the Student Counseling Center and are not applied retroactively, you should contact Dr. Huda Shaaban as soon as possible.

GENERAL COURSE GUIDELINES
Although all of the sections of this course share common objectives, students should not expect an assembly-line standardization among the sections. Working within the general guidelines established by AUK, instructors adapt their approaches to the specific strengths and weakness of the students in each section. In order to create a productive learning and teaching environment, we will adhere to the following policies:

- Students who miss class for any reason are responsible for all homework and assignments missed AND for making sure they are up-to-date with all materials and ready to participate in class.
- All assignments must be turned in on the specified due date. Extensions are granted only at the instructor’s discretion and points will be taken off for lateness.
- Use of mobiles or other personal electronic devices is not allowed unless it is specifically requested by the instructor for class purposes.
- Disrespectful comments and/or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

Student Work
It is understood that registration for and continued enrollment in this course constitutes permission by the student for the instructor to use any student work composed in this class for other academic purposes (share with other classes, research, etc.). All polished work submitted to me becomes the property of the English Department and may not be returned to students. You are urged to make copies of your work and keep a duplicate file of your own.

Computer Use
All required “word-processed” work must use the formatting required by each particular assignment. If you are unsure of the formatting requirements, ask me before submitting the assignment. I require that you check your AUK email at least once per day, so that you stay on top of changes to readings, assignments, due dates.

ACADEMIC HONESTY
Real learning and teaching can only occur in an environment of integrity and responsibility. The academic community requires ethical behavior from all of its participants. For writers, this means that the work we claim as ours must truly be ours. At the same time, we are not always expected to come up
with new ideas; we often build our thinking on the ideas of others. We are expected, however, to credit others with their contributions and to clearly indicate the boundaries of our own thinking. Failure to do so in the university in general and in this course in particular will result in serious consequences for the offender, including reprimands such as lowered grades, failure, or even dismissal.

**Cheating:** “The term ‘cheating’ includes, but is not limited to, copying homework assignments from another student; working together with another individual on a take-home test or homework when specifically prohibited from doing so by the instructor; looking at and/or copying text, notes or another person’s paper during an examination when not permitted to do so. Cheating also includes the giving of work information to another student to be copied and/or used as his or her own. This includes but is not limited to giving someone answers to exam questions either when the exam is being given or after having taken an exam; informing another student of specific questions that appear or have appeared on an exam in the same academic semester; giving or selling a term paper, report, project or other restricted written materials to another student” ([AUK 2014/2015 Student Handbook](#)).

**Plagiarism:** “The term ‘plagiarism’ includes, but is not limited to, an attempt of an individual to claim the work of another as the product of his or her own thoughts, regardless of whether that work has been published. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, quoting improperly or paraphrasing text or other written materials without proper citation on an exam, term paper, homework, or other written material submitted to an instructor as one’s own work. Plagiarism also includes handing in a paper to an instructor that was purchased from a term paper service or downloaded from the Internet and presenting another person’s academic work as one’s own” ([AUK 2014/2015 Student Handbook](#)).

**English Department Plagiarism Policy:**

**A. Definitions of plagiarism**

- Using sources without acknowledgment: when a student copies material from a print or a Web source or sources, either word for word or partially paraphrased, without including quotation marks where needed and an in-text citation. Reference to the source in a Works Cited list only is not adequate.
- Copying another student’s paper: when an existing paper, whether from AUK or another institution, is presented, either wholly or partially, as the student’s own.
- Copying one’s own previous submission: when a student presents a paper that he/she has previously submitted for another class without substantial alteration and updating to fit the given assignment, and without proper citation of the previous paper.
- Purchasing an assignment: when a student seeks a ghost writer to complete an assignment, from either local sources or the Internet, and presents it as his/her own.
- Collusion: when two or more student papers are found to be similar and the students have thus either worked closely together or one has allowed the other to copy or paraphrase an assignment.
- Obtaining excessive help: when a student has asked for help and the resulting paper is clearly not the student’s own work because of the quality and nature of either the content or the language, or both.
- Academic dishonesty in the use of sources: when a paper includes improper and/or fabricated citations or misrepresented sources.
**B. Penalties**

Students will sign a statement at the start of each course stating that they understand the policy and the penalties for plagiarism.

Penalties as below will apply to any level of course from 100 upwards, as sanctioned by University policy and as warranted on pp.175-77 of the Student Handbook.

- For a first offence in a course, 0 may be given for the assignment. The student is not able to resubmit the assignment, but may continue with the course and pass it if the final grade is adequate.
- For a second offence in the same course, the student is informed that he/she may receive a final grade of F for the course. If so, the Department Chair and Dean will be informed, and the Academic Advising Center notified.

The instructor should determine the severity of the plagiarism based on Department guidelines.