

Course Expectations Letter

Subject: English 201

E-Mail Contact Information:

arhodes@riohondo.edu

Catalog Course Description:

This advanced composition course is open to all students who have successfully completed ENGL 101 and is designed for those who expect to transfer to four-year colleges or universities. Students will read and write extensively, while applying critical thinking skills and research techniques. Students will demonstrate these abilities in advanced composition as they research and write a series of argumentative essays, which demonstrate the ability to analyze issues, evaluate positions, and argue persuasively through clear, concise prose. The lab component of this course is designed to assist students in advancing and refining their writing and language skills and will augment their ability to exercise critical thought. Students will complete lab activities that further enhance their ability to compose logical, well-supported arguments that exhibit grammatical fluency and correct documentation form. Students will meet with composition instructors through individual conferences that address students' specific writing concerns.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will write a clear, declarative thesis statement.
2. The student will be able to integrate credible outside sources into their papers.
3. The student will be able to organize ideas logically.
4. The student will be able to write persuasively.
5. The student correctly documented outside sources using the designated citation format.

By logging into Canvas you affirm that you are the student who enrolled in the course(s) and are the person who will complete the assigned work. Furthermore, you agree to follow the regulations regarding academic integrity, personal identification and the use of student information as described in [BP 5500 \(Standards of Conduct\)](#) and [AP 5520 \(Student Conduct Procedures\)](#) which are the Rio Hondo College student conduct codes that govern student rights and responsibilities. You acknowledge that failure to abide by the regulations set forth in BP 5500 and AP 5520 may result in disciplinary action, including expulsion from the college.

This is **NOT** a self-paced course. There are firm deadlines in this class. There are assignments due on a regular basis. Please plan your time carefully!

Textbook: Please consult the Bookstore for information at (562) 463-7345 or go to [Rio Hondo College Online Bookstore](#)

This course will include regular instructor student contact. Methods of regular instructor student contact include:

1. Conferences
2. Emails
3. Announcements
4. Discussions
5. Reviews

I WILL DROP YOU FOR NON-PARTICIPATION. Be sure to keep up with the course and complete your work on time. Please email me for support or if I can answer any questions.

The following is a very brief description of some of the assignments you will be responsible for:

Research: All students will research 4 controversial issues. Basic background information on each topic will be provided. After reading the background information, students will then conduct their own research to find books, journals, articles, essays, pictures, videos, etc. that present both sides of the issue. Students will use their own researched material as sources to choose a side and write their own argumentative essay supporting one side of the issue for each topic.

Essays: 4 research-based argumentative essays will be assigned throughout the semester. Essay topics for this semester will be decided soon. For each of these topics, students will write a research-based argumentative essay based on which side of the argument they support. To be clear, students must choose a side and argue for it. Also, students will refute their opposition by writing at least one refutation paragraph. All essays must be grammatically correct to receive full credit. For each grammar error, points will be deducted. All essays must include a peer review and be properly formatted according to MLA guidelines to be eligible for full credit. A properly formatted Works Cited page must be provided. Each essay assignment has a specific page length requirement. If the length requirement is 5 pages, I expect 5 complete, top-to-bottom, pages. If there is space for one more sentence at the bottom of the page, the length requirement has not been met and points will be deducted. All essays must be submitted through SafeAssign, which will check for plagiarism, to be graded. Be sure to use quotations around the words and ideas that you use from sources. All due dates and specific requirements are on the Assignments tab.

Peer Reviews: It is often very helpful for students to receive advice from other students. After all, everyone in the class has the same assignment and knows what is expected.

Articles: Four reading assignments are assigned for each essay topic. Students are to read the assigned articles and post their responses on the Discussion Board under the correct heading. Student responses must be at least 2 paragraphs to be considered complete. The first paragraph is to be a summary of the article. The second and subsequent paragraphs are to be a personal response (Do you agree? Disagree? How does it make you feel? Would you do something different?) to the article. In addition to providing their own response, students will also respond to two other students' postings. Responses to classmate postings must be at least 1 paragraph long to earn full credit.

Current Event Reports (Extra Credit)

I feel it is very important to know what is going on in the world in order to be a fully informed, responsible citizen. In order to further guide your knowledge about what is happening on our planet (country, state, city) you may choose to complete additional research on current events. Here are the requirements:

1. You will have the opportunity to submit one extra credit assignment for extra credit each week.
2. You must complete your research on cnn.com. It is one of the most reliable news sources on current world events.
3. You must find one article on cnn.com and read it. Then you must write one paragraph on each of the topics below:
 - a. An objective summary of the article
 - b. Your opinion on the issue
 - c. A feasible solution to the problem
1. When you have completed your assignment you will have 3 paragraphs on the article you chose to review. The Current Event Report must be at least 1 page to be considered complete.

4. The article you choose must be on a current event of national or global importance. The recent film festivals and celebrity gossip DO NOT qualify. I expect serious issues.
5. Also, you must provide the link, so I can read the article for myself.

If you have any questions about the course, please feel free to email me at arhodes@riohondo.edu

The instructor may drop you for non-participation.

There will be a one to three business day delay after an add code is used before a student may be able to log on to Canvas.

For students new to online classes, it is highly recommended that you take the Online Orientation through our Online Education website. This will help explain what online classes are like and familiarize you with how the class is laid out. The orientations can be found at: <http://www.riohondo.edu/canvas-orientation/>

Email Responses: Instructors will make every attempt to respond to students in a timely fashion. Responses can take up to 48 hours before a response is received, excluding weekends and holidays.

Disability: A Student with a verified disability may be entitled to appropriate academic accommodations. Please contact your instructor and/or the [Disabled Students & Programs](#) office at 562-908-3420 for more information.

Modifications and Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to modify the content of the course or any course procedure. It is the responsibility of the student to keep apprised of all changes. If the student wishes to drop the class he/she is responsible for initiating the drop. Do not take it for granted that you will be dropped. If you stop working and do not drop the course, you may get an undesirable grade.