

College Writing 42-101-274: Fall 2012

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The All-Important Course Website:

<http://faculty.uml.edu/sbacker>

You *must* access the web site for the complete syllabus with course policies and details, assignment schedule, grading rubrics, and other vital information. I rely on the course website as an ongoing teaching tool throughout the semester. Check for updates twice or more each week.

Course Description

College Writing I is an introduction to expository writing designed to improve your ability to write for your future academic and career success. The objective of this class is to empower you to read critically, think analytically, organize information effectively, use rhetorical strategies that consider your purpose and your readers, and convey complicated ideas clearly and succinctly.

Required Texts (both are available at the South Campus book store)

Bullock, Richard, ed. *The Norton Field Guide to Writing with Readings and Handbook, 2nd edition*. ISBN: 978-0-393-93382-6
Dubus III, Andre. *Townie*. ISBN: 978-0-393-34067-9 (This year's Common Text.)

Grading

<u>Requirements:</u>	<u>Proportion of course grade:</u>
Four formal essays that respond to readings and discussion	70%
In-class writing, quizzes, and homework	20%
Final Exam (short essay)	10%

For specific essay due dates and grading weights, see the **Schedule page** on the course web site. For a letter grade rubric with numeric equivalents, see the link on the **Assignments page**. Productive participation in class discussion may raise your overall course grade; conversely, counterproductive behavior in class or lack of participation may lower it. You will find a more detailed definition of what this means on the **Syllabus page**.

Lateness and Attendance

If you are late to class, your lateness will be recorded and 45 accumulated minutes will count as an absence. Each absence negatively affects your grade, and you must have no more than six absences total in order to pass the course. You are responsible for knowing what happened in class whether or not you attend. Absence does not validate ignorance. *Read the details of the attendance policy on the **Syllabus** page of the web site or you are likely to be unpleasantly surprised.*

Four Important Rules

- 1) Practice academic honesty. Don't cheat and don't help other students cheat.
- 2) Meet your deadlines. Late papers will be failed. If you need an extension, you must request one *before* the due date.
- 3) Check your UML e-mail daily. This is a course requirement.
- 4) Behave professionally and respectfully. Refer to the **Syllabus** page of the web site.

I will gladly accommodate students with disabilities confirmed by the Office of Disability Services (Cumnock C6; ph. 934-4574; e-mail: Disability@uml.edu). This documentation is confidential. Please notify me during the first week of classes in order to make arrangements.

Assessment Project

This year, UML's First Year Writing Program (FYWP) is conducting research on our learning objectives for College Writing. The researchers believe the results of this study will provide critical insight into program efficacy, which will allow for enhanced teaching and learning. For that reason, the FYWP will collect an essay that you write this semester. Because we are looking at an essay already required for your class, this study does not mean any extra work for you, but your essay will provide crucial insight into how our courses work and how we can best serve you and future students at UML.

You should also know that our study will not affect your course grade or your academic record in any way. When it is time to collect your essay, if you agree to have your essay included in the research, you will be asked to make a copy of it for research purposes and your instructor will ask you to remove all the identifying information (your name, the section number, and the instructor's name) from the paper. Your instructor will then submit your anonymous essay to the researchers. You may choose to be excluded from the study by not submitting an extra copy of the essay with identifiers removed. Also, we cannot use samples from students who are not at least 18 years old. If, when the samples are collected, you are under 18 or you do not want to participate, please do not place your essay in the collection envelope.

If you have any questions about this study, please feel free to contact the FYWP at 978-934-4186. Thank you for your help!

Again, this sheet is merely an overview. The full syllabus is on the course web site:

<http://faculty.uml.edu/sbacker>