

English Composition II || What Should I Do with My Life?

Borough of Manhattan Community College

City University of New York

Department of English

ENG 201.0801

ENG 201.1300

M/W 8am-8:50am (F203) | 9:40am (F206)

M/W 1pm-2:40pm (F1202) | 1:50pm (F204)

Instructor: Patricia Wu

Office Hours: TBA

Email: patricia.wu@qc.cuny.edu

Credits: 3.0

Course Description:

English 201 is a writing course that builds upon the skills introduced in English 101. In the course, literature is the field for development of critical reading, critical thinking, independent research, and writing skills. Like English 101, it is required of all students at BMCC, no matter what their curriculum.

Assignments move from close readings of literary texts in a variety of genres to analyses that incorporate independent research on literary criticism and theory as well as cultural, historical, and/or biographical contexts for literature. Students are introduced to literary criticism and acquire basic knowledge necessary for the analysis of texts (including literary terms and some literary theory); they gain proficiency in library and Internet research and they hone their skills as readers and writers.

By the conclusion of this course, students will be prepared for the analytical and research-based writing required in upper-level courses across the curriculum as well as for advanced courses in literature.

The theme of this English 201 is “What Should I Do with My Life?” As college students at BMCC, you are all in this classroom for a reason. It does not matter what brought you here, but that you are here now. Likewise, the characters in the works that we’ll be discussing have encountered “forks in the road” – and the narratives change due to those decisions. Whether the situation is from an outside source or internal, the choices (or lack of) create a need for a resolution. We will be looking at short stories, songs, websites, films, as well as reading two novels. Authors of these works will be of various ethnicities (to represent the diversity here at BMCC).

Note: Many of the works discussed in this course could include: swearing, sexual situations, war, political/religious discussion, and/or drug use. The goal of the classroom/lecture environment is to have a safe space in which to discuss these elements in a respectful, academic context.

Required Materials:

- Printed copies of the texts posted on the blog
- *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid (novel)
- *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro (novel)
- A notebook, folder, AND a pen (Please no “Hey Miss, do you have an extra pen?” You’re all adults in this room.)
- Microsoft Word (available for free to all BMCC students – emailed assignments and assignments through Google Docs will not be accepted)
- A good PAPER English dictionary such as the American Heritage Dictionary. DON’T use your phone
- dictionaries. Bilingual dictionaries are also available.

Class Website/Blog:

- Students obtain the course schedule, readings, and updates for the course on the class blog, which is located at eng201bmccblog.wordpress.com. It is **YOUR** responsibility to check the class blog for updates or any changes to the schedule. If you have any questions regarding Wordpress, just contact me.

Student Blogs/Portfolio:

Every student is required to make a Wordpress blog that will be linked to the class blog – it will be your “online portfolio” in which you will respond to the readings and do the assigned homework topics. **I WILL BE CHECKING YOUR BLOGS CONSTANTLY**, and you will be getting a final blog grade at the end of the semester (equivalent to the research paper). Take the time to put the effort in and personalize your blogs. It’s not enough to just post. Consider your blogs a virtual representation of you/your work. Also, papers and exams will be based on previous assignments done on the blog. It is your responsibility to be accountable for your work

Required Reading:

- All readings (including novels) for the course are available as PDFs for free on the course blog. **NOTE: All texts may be purchased at local bookstores like Barnes and Noble, Manhattan Books, or online at www.amazon.com or www.barnesandnoble.com**

Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete this course can expect the following learning outcomes:

- Students will be able to write clear, grammatically correct sentences in well-organized paragraphs.
Measurement: writing assignments
- Students will be able to write at least four well-developed, thesis-driven argument and analysis essays, using evidence from literary texts and incorporating research.
Measurement: writing assignments
- Students will be able to frame research questions, plan research strategies, find and evaluate sources using the BMCC library and the BMCC library website, and present the results of research.
Measurement: in-class presentations and discussion, workshops, writing assignments, and final research paper
- Students will gain familiarity with different literary genres.
Measurement: in-class discussion, writing and reading assignments
- Students will be able to define and apply literary terms to analyses of texts within several genres.
Measurement: in-class discussion and writing assignments
- Students will be able to frame research questions, plan research strategies, find and evaluate sources using the BMCC library and other local library resources, and present the results of research.
Measurement: in-class presentations and discussion, workshops, and writing assignments
- Students will be able to complete a research paper with documentation in MLA format, correctly using the conventions of MLA documentation and citation, including a “Works Cited” page.
Measurement: final assigned research paper

General Education Outcomes:

Below are the college’s general education goals that students who successfully complete the course can expect to have achieved:

- Communication skills: students will write, read, listen, and speak critically and effectively.
- Arts and Humanities: students will develop knowledge and understanding of the arts and literature.
- Values: students will make informed choices based on an understanding of personal values, human diversity, multicultural awareness, and social responsibility.

Course Requirements:

One of the features unique to this section of English 201 is the class blog and student blogs. The blogs are **NOT A SUBSTITUTE for in-class attendance.** They are meant to be an additional reinforcement to the classroom discussion and also a means of developing a community environment.

Homework and other assignments (aside from essays, which will be typed and printed) will be due by midnight before our class meetup for an optimal grade. (Homework is due no later than midnight the night before.)

Homework posts will be graded on a ✓+, ✓, and ✓- criteria.

- ✓+ will be awarded for excellent work handed in in time
- ✓ will be awarded for satisfactory work handed in in time
- ✓- will be awarded for an attempt in both work and handing in it before class (between midnight and 8am class time)
- Anything submitted after class time will not be graded and thus count as a zero,

QOTDs, replying to peers, and replying back to me are counted as participation as well as homework. While this will not make participating in class optional, it will benefit quieter students and balance out if other class aspects are weaker.

Steady, punctual attendance and class participation (both in person and on the blog) are requirements of the course. **SINCE THIS IS AN INTENSE COURSE YOU NEED TO ATTEND ALL CLASSES AND KEEP UP WITH THE CLASSWORK.** If you must miss class or are running late, please give me the courtesy of letting me know beforehand.

We will be doing a lot of reading and writing during this course. I will inform you in advance of all assignments and due dates. Assignments will be based on readings, class discussion, and class handouts. **There will be (at least) two formal essays in the course –the midterm essay and the final research essay.**

Unannounced quizzes or writing assignments may be randomly given in class on that day's reading. There may be several quizzes over the course of the semester. Please refer to the supplemental course handouts for essay and homework guidelines.

Grading:

Essays/Group Project 20%

Class Participation, In-Class Work, Attendance: 20%

Research Paper: 30% (required to pass English 201)

Blog/Portfolio: 30%

College Attendance Policy

At BMCC, the maximum number of absences is limited to one more hour than the number of hours a class meets in one week. For example, you may be enrolled in a three-hour class. In that class, you would be allowed 4 hours of absence (not 4 days). In the case of excessive absences, the instructor has the option to lower the grade or assign an F or WU grade.

- To repeat, **you are allowed four hours (not classes) of absence without penalty.**
- **If you exceed the allowed absences, your grade will be lowered and, if absences exceed 5, you will fail the course.**

Attendance includes being present for class, arriving to class on time, and remaining for full class sessions. I will take attendance at the beginning of class. If you are late, you are responsible for making sure that I marked you on the attendance sheet before leaving that day.

Three latenesses (more than 15 minutes) will equal one absence.

Classroom Decorum Policy

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to college. This entails listening and speaking to me and your fellow classmates with respect; entering and leaving the classroom without disruption; **do not use the class blog as an excuse to stay on your phone the whole class.** Refraining from repeatedly leaving the room once class has begun; and taking responsibility for your own learning and grades (i.e. knowing and meeting assignments and due dates; seeking help when needed; taking advantage of revision opportunities to improve one's grade, etc.). Disregard for these policies will result in a lowered class participation grade and, if extreme, being required to meet with a college counselor and/or asked to leave the class.

BMCC Policy Statement on Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone's ideas, words, or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the ideas or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, requires citations of the original source.

Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student from responsibility for plagiarism.

The determination of whether the alleged act of plagiarism involves the presentation of another person's words or work as well as one's own is a factual determination. In such instances, the Dean of Students may refer the allegation to the Faculty-Student Disciplinary Committee (see Article 15.4 of the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees). The determination of whether the alleged act of plagiarism involves the presentation of another person's ideas as one's own is an academic judgment. In such instances, the Dean of Students will refer the matter to the appropriate academic department for review. If the department determines that plagiarism has occurred, the department's regular procedures in terms of grading and grade appeals should be followed.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students appropriately identify a cited work.

PLAGIARISM MAY LEAD TO A FAILING GRADE FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OR THE ENTIRE COURSE.

BMCC Disability Statement:

In keeping with the college's policy of equal access for students with disabilities, any student with a disability who needs academic accommodations is welcome to meet with me privately. All conversations will be kept confidential. Students requesting accommodations will also need to go to the offices of Services for Students with Disabilities, N768. The office will supply you, if appropriate, with an academic accommodation letter for you to show to professors.