Course goals

In English 1010, we will learn how to read closely and critically, and how to form a clear argument based on academic texts. We will analyze personal narratives as well as persuasive and/or argumentative texts. We will discuss what makes texts of both genres moving, thoughtful, and successful, and we will use those tools to write our own, original work. By the end of the course, we will be writing compare-contrast essays that are more rigorous, and more carefully crafted, than those written at the high school level.

Required materials

• Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
• Readings that will be handed out in the previous class. They will also be available on https://libguides.brooklyn.cuny.edu/1010/maddie_crum
• A composition notebook for in-class writing assignments, which you will be completing each day

Grades

Essays: 60%
  Personal narrative: 10%
  Summaries: 10%
  Argumentative essay: 15%
  Compare and contrast: 15%
  In-class compare and contrast: 10%

Final exam: 20%
The final exam will be a compare-and-contrast essay. You’ll be given one of the readings in advance, and the other the day of the final. We will have a practice final exam in November.

Other assignments: 10%
At the beginning of each class, you will be asked to do a short free-writing assignment, which I will collect periodically, to make sure that you’ve done the reading, and to help you out with in-class discussion.

Attendance and participation: 10%
This includes attendance, promptness, participation in class discussions and group work, etc.

Grading

Grades for English 1010 are: A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, NC or F. Note that the
minimum passing grade is C-. Students who have completed all the course work but are not yet writing at the college level will receive a grade of NC; students who have not completed the course work will receive a grade of F.

Students who do not pass English 1010 must repeat it the following semester. The course may not be taken more than three times; students who receive three grades of F, NC and/or WU may be dismissed from the college.

**NOTE:** Essays turned in late will be penalized half a letter grade for each class meeting they are late. Late work will not be accepted after one week has passed from the original due date. If students miss a class during which an essay is to be submitted, students are still responsible for submitting (e-mailing) the essay on the same day and bringing a hard copy of it the next time they attend class.

**Grade scale**

A: 93-100  
A-: 90-92  
B+: 88-89  
B: 83-87  
B-: 80-82  
C+: 78-79  
C: 73-77  
C-: 70-72  
D+: 68-69  
D: 63-67  
D-: 60-62  
F: Below 60

**Submission of essays**

All of your essays should be submitted as a hard copy, unless you are absent on the day that the essay is due — in which case, refer to the above note.

**Participation**

This course will be discussion-based, because learning can be a collaborative process. You will be expected to come to class ready to respond to the assigned texts, in writing, through group work, and through in-class discussions. Your contributions will factor into your final grade. In order to build a classroom atmosphere of courtesy and concentration, please avoid behavior that is disrespectful and interferes with others’ learning, including rudeness, talking while others are speaking, and texting.

**Attendance and punctuality**

If you miss more than four classes, you will receive no credit for participation. Two
latenesses count as one absence. Arriving more than 10 minutes late counts as an absence. A pattern of lateness will affect your grade.

**Electronic devices**

If I find that you’re using your phone during class, I’ll issue a warning the first time. After that, I may ask you to leave the class, and count you as absent for that class day. The reason for this is that I value class discussion, and actively listening to your peers is a part of that.

**Plagiarism**

The faculty and administration of Brooklyn College support an environment free from cheating and plagiarism. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. The complete text of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy and the Brooklyn College procedure for policy implementation can be found at [www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies](http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies). If a faculty member suspects a violation of academic integrity and, upon investigation, confirms that violation, or if the student admits the violation, the faculty member must report the violation.

**Disability services**

In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations students must first be registered with the Center for Student Disability Services. Students who have a documented disability or suspect they may have a disability are invited to set up an appointment with the Director of the Center for Student Disability Services, Ms. Valerie Stewart-Lovell at (718) 951-5538. If you have already registered with the Center for Student Disability Services, please provide your professor with the course accommodation form and discuss your specific accommodation with him/her.

**Student bereavement policy**

Visit this site for the university's policy on bereavement: [http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/about/initiatives/policies/bereavement.php](http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/about/initiatives/policies/bereavement.php)

**Religious observance**

Visit this site for the university’s policy on religious observance: [http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/off_registrar/2017-2018_Undergraduate_Bulletin.pdf](http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/off_registrar/2017-2018_Undergraduate_Bulletin.pdf)

**Please note: this syllabus is subject to revision.**

**August 27**
Introductions, short in-class writing assignment

**August 29**
Reading due: Chapter 1 of *Americanah*
**September 3**  
LABOR DAY - NO CLASS

**September 5**  
Reading due: Chapter 2 of *Americanah*

**September 10**  
NO CLASS

**September 12**  
Assignment due: essay #1, draft #1

**September 17**  
Reading due: “Learning to Read and Write” by Frederick Douglass

**September 19**  
NO CLASS

**September 24**  
Assignment due: essay #1, draft #2

**September 26**  
Reading due: “The Ugly Tourist” by Jamaica Kincaid

**October 1**  
Reading due: “The Case Against Perfectionism” by Michael J. Sandel  
Assignment due: summary of Sandel

**October 3**  
Reading due: “The Last Feminist Taboo” by Marisa Meltzer

**October 8**  
NO CLASS

**October 10**  
Reading due: “Consider the Lobster” by David Foster Wallace  
Assignment due: summary of Wallace

**October 15**  
Assignment due: essay #2, draft #1

**October 17**  
Reading due: “Politics and the English Language” by George Orwell

**October 22**
Assignment due: essay #2, draft #2

**October 24**
Reading due: “Is Google Making Us Stupid?” by Nicholas Carr

**October 29**
Reading due: “Stop Googling Let’s Talk.” by Sherry Turkle

**October 31**
Reading due: “Blue-Collar Brilliance” by Mike Rose

**November 5**
Reading due: “Against School” by John Taylor Gatto

**November 7**
Reading due: “Writing Like a White Guy” by Jaswinder Bolina

**November 12**
Assignment due: essay #3, draft #1

**November 14**
Reading due: “How to Tame a Wild Tongue” by Gloria Anzaldua

**November 19**
Assignment due: essay #3, draft #2

**November 21**
Reading due: “Recalculating the Climate Math” by Bill McKibben

**November 26**
Reading due: “Elegy for a Country’s Seasons” by Zadie Smith

**November 28**
In-class compare and contrast

**December 3**
Reading due: “The Braindead Microphone” by George Saunders

**December 5**
Reading due: “A Modest Proposal” by Jonathan Swift

**December 10**
Reading due: rubrics, sample essays

**December 12**
Reading due: long essay for the final exam
**NOTE:** English 1010 is an Academic Foundations course. Brooklyn College’s policy on withdrawing from English 1010 is as follows:

Students are not permitted at any time to delete, drop, or withdraw from an assigned Academic Foundations course without obtaining permission of the academic department involved and consulting the Center for Academic Advisement and Student Success.

The full academic calendar, including many other important dates, and the undergraduate final exam “grid” are available on the Office of the Registrar’s website.