Course Overview
English 1010 is an introduction to college-level composition. By the end of the semester, students will have developed the following skills: academic writing, analytical reading, and critical thinking. Students will read and respond to a variety of texts, and in doing so will focus on drafting and revising their own expository essays. Class time will be split between discussions, in-class writing, and group work.

Course Objectives
Students should progress in the ability to:
- Read texts analytically and respond critically
- Develop and support clear thesis statements and arguments
- Quote, summarize, and synthesize information from a variety of sources
- Edit, revise, and improve expository writing

Required Materials
Americanah - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Online Course Packet
Online Grammar Handbook

Class Requirements and Policies
Attendance & Timeliness
Attendance is mandatory. That said, I understand students may have to miss class for any number of reasons. You are allowed four absences - the equivalent of two weeks of class - without penalty. Each additional absence will result in the lowering of your grade by one-half grade. If you miss more than six classes, you may fail the course. Also, you are expected to be on time. More than twenty-five minutes late - the equivalent of one-third of class - and you will be marked absent.

Effort: Engage in class discussions, group work, and in-class assignments. Both you and I get the most from class when you have done the work and put in the proper effort. I understand some students do not feel comfortable being vocal in class discussions; this will not be the only factor determining your effort grade.

Assignments
You will be responsible for the following:

- **Readings**: You are expected to read the readings **before** the class period in which they are discussed. Because classroom discussion is an integral part of this class, your preparation is essential. **There will be random reading quizzes.** These quizzes are part of your “Assignments” grade.

- **Essays**: You will write three essays: a Personal Narrative, a Compare and Contrast Essay, and an Analytical/Argumentative Essay. The requirements of each essay will be discussed in class, and each essay will be graded according to its own specific rubric. This, too, will be discussed in class. Essays are **required** to be in MLA format unless otherwise specified.

- **Summaries**: You will write two summaries of 250 - 500 words each. The requirements of these summaries will be discussed in class.

**Grading**

- 10% - Participation, Attendance, Effort
- 10% - Assignments
- 10% - Summaries
- 10% - Personal Narrative
- 20% - Compare/Contrast Essay
- 20% - Analytical/Argumentative Essay
- 20% - Final Exam

Grades are based on the following 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

**Late Work**

All assignments are due on the date specified. Any late work will be lowered one letter grade for each class meeting they are late. If you cannot attend class on the day an assignment is due, **you are still responsible for turning in the assignment via e-mail.**

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is not tolerated at Brooklyn College. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will fail the assignment, possibly the course, and you may be subject to disciplinary action by Brooklyn College. Here is the college's plagiarism policy:

"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 implementing that policy can be found at this site: 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”

**Students with Disabilities**
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 think they have a disability should 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 me with the course accommodation form and discuss your specific accommodation with me.

**Non-Attendance Due to Religious Observance/Bereavement**
Please read the information in the Brooklyn College Bulletin (http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/off_registrar/141024_2014-15_Undergraduate_Bulletin.pdf ) regarding nonattendance because of religious beliefs. Please inform me in advance if you plan to be absent due to religious observance.
Below is the information for the Student Bereavement Policy: http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/about/initiatives/policies/bereavement.php

**Office Hours**
I encourage you to make use of my office hours to discuss your work or any questions you may have. If you are unable to attend office hours, I am happy to meet with you another time by appointment.

**Schedule of Assignments** (Assignments subject to change):

8/27  - Introduction: Syllabus, Course Materials, Personal Essay
8/29  - *Americanah*

9/3   - No Class - Labor Day
9/7   - *Americanah*
     - Due: Personal Narrative (Rough Draft)

9/10  - No Class
9/12  - “Real Food” - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

9/17  - “The Declaration of Independence” - Thomas Jefferson
9/19  - No Class

9/24  - “I Have a Dream” - Martin Luther King, Jr.
      - Due: Personal Narrative (Final Draft)
9/26  - “The Tyranny of Choice” - Barry Schwartz
      - Due: Summary 1

10/1  - “The Trouble with Self-Esteem” - Lauren Slater
10/3  - “Why Chinese Mothers are Superior” - Amy Chua
      - Due: Summary 2

10/8  - No Class - Columbus Day
10/10 - “Black Men and Public Space” - Brent Staples

10/15 - “The Case for Reparations” - Ta-Nehisi Coates
10/17 - “The Case for Reparations” - Ta-Nehisi Coates, cont.

10/22 - “Is Google Making Us Stupid” - Nicholas Carr
      - Due: Analytical/Argumentative Essay (Rough Draft)
10/24 - “The Coddling of the American Mind” - Lukianoff & Haidt

10/29 - “Mirror, Mirror on the Web” - Lakshmi Chaudhry
10/31 - “Mirror, Mirror on the Web” - Lakshmi Chaudhry, cont.

11/5  - “Regarding the Pain of Others” - Susan Sontag
      - Due: Analytical/Argumentative Essay (Final Draft)
11/7  - “Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire” - Errol Morris

11/12 - “Politics and the English Language” - George Orwell
11/14 - “Thugs, Students, Rioters, Fans” - Akiba Solomon
      - In-Class Compare/Contrast Essay

11/19 - “Confederate Memorials as Instruments of Racial Terror” - Brent Staples
      - Due: Compare/Contrast Essay (Rough Draft)
11/21 - “The End of History” - Ernest B. Furgurson

11/26 - “The Case for Working with Your Hands” - Matthew Crawford
11/28 - “We Are Not All Created Equal” - Stephen Marche
12/3 - “What Makes Superman So Darned American?” - Gary Engle
- Due: Compare/Contrast Essay (Final Draft)
12/5 - “Larger Than Life” - Jenny Lynn Bader

12/10 - “Designer Genes” - Bill McKibben
12/12 - “Reprogenetics: A Glimpse of Things to Come” - Lee M. Silver

Finals (Date/Time/Place TBA)