

Writing 150: Writing, Rhetoric, and Music

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Office hours: 10:00–11:00 a.m. MWF, or by appointment

Box: Composition Office (4110 JFSB) (Open Weekdays 8–5)

Texts, Supplies, and Helpful Resources

The Brief Penguin Handbook, 3rd ed, by Lester Faigley (required)

Writing and Rhetoric, by Brett C. McNelly and Dennis R. Perry (required)

Supplemental Guide to Writing and Rhetoric, by Brett C. McNelly and Dennis R. Perry (required)

Course Reserve and Blackboard Readings

Writing utensils, including one in a bold, bright color

A two-pocket folder

Blackboard: blackboard.byu.edu

Writing Center: 4026 JKB; <http://english.byu.edu/writingcenter>

Library Instruction: <http://net.lib.byu.edu/instruction/>

HBLL's Music Library and LRC

Course Objectives

English 150 Course Description: English 150 is designed to introduce students to college-level writing, reading, and research with an emphasis on argumentation and rhetorical analysis. English 150 pays particular attention to the ways arguments work within discourse communities. Individual sections are structured around a focused topic area and require extensive writing, reading, and research in the topic area. This section will focus on music; other sections focus on religion in America, globalization, mass media, and the environment.

Each of you belongs to the BYU community, and each of you also participates in a variety of other communities—your family, your congregation, your workplace, your nation, etc. I believe these communities need the voices and contributions of truly educated individuals. My objective in this course is to guide you in learning the essentials of thinking well and communicating effectively with the hope that you will become a better participant in the communities of which you are a part. This section will afford you many opportunities to participate in many music-related discourse communities. As you complete assignments and explore this particular avenue of thought and communication you will learn skills that can be utilized in every discourse community of which you are a part. I look forward to working with you toward this goal of strengthening your respective communities.

Please see pages one and two of the *Supplemental Guide* for a complete list of the English 150 course goals—this will give you a preview of all the many and varied skills you should develop by taking this course.

Course Requirements

Major Papers

1. Rhetorical Analysis
2. Issues Paper
3. Persuasive Essay
4. Multimodal Assignment

Each paper will be submitted as a portfolio serving as evidence of your writing process. The portfolio includes the cover sheet and grading rubric either passed out in class or found in the *Supplemental Guide*, prewriting, all marked-up drafts, and a reflective analysis on your writing process for the paper. These are submitted with your final work in a pocket folder. Be sure to save everything from the portfolio until the end of the semester.

Final Exam

The final exam is scheduled by the university. In keeping with strictly enforced university policy, absolutely no early or late exams will be given and you will fail the course if you miss the final. Please plan travel arrangements, weddings, etc., accordingly.

Library Tour, Tests, and Research Sessions

You are required to take a tour of the library, do an online tutorial, and take two quizzes on the information you learned. These resources can be obtained in the LRC on the fourth floor of the library and on Blackboard. We will also meet in the library for two class periods during which library personnel will instruct you on the process of library research and the specific resources of the HBLL. Since the library will become one of your most valuable resources throughout your college career, these sessions are NOT optional.

Punctuation Exercises

Throughout the course, I will be teaching short lessons from the punctuation section of your supplemental guide. You will be required to complete five punctuation exercises distributed in class. These lessons and exercises are more intuitive than most mechanics lessons and should clarify some of the more confusing aspects of punctuation.

Grading Breakdown

Rhetorical Analysis	100
Persuasive Essay	200
Issues Paper	300
Multimodal Assignment	100
Final Exam	100
Paper Portfolios	80
Multimodal Portfolio & Assignments	25
Punctuation Exercises	50
Library Session Tests	45
TOTAL	1000

Grading Scale

Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade
1000–940	A	869–830	B	769–730	C	669–630	D
939–900	A-	829–800	B-	729–700	C-	629–600	D-
899–870	B+	799–770	C+	699–670	D+	Below 600	E

Course Policies

Attendance

According to department policy, students attending a section of English 150 that meets three times a week are permitted to miss **three** classes, no questions asked. **Each additional absence will result in a one-third reduction of their final grade (B to B-)**. If a student misses more than a third of any class period, they will be considered absent for the day. Excused absences for student athletes and students participating in other student groups authorized by the university count toward the permitted number of absences; however, these students are not penalized for additional **excused** absences. If you already have three absences and must miss more class because of an emergency or illness, please let me know immediately. Given this stringent attendance policy, I reserve the right to lower your grade if you are consistently tardy.

Late Assignments

I will not accept late work of any kind. The three major papers are due in my box at 5:00 p.m. on the specified due dates. I will collect all packets turned in during class; however, I have decided to be merciful and give you until 5:00 p.m. on the date the assignment is due. Please note, my box is located in the Composition Office (4110 JFSB), which promptly closes at 5:00 p.m. If you do not get your paper to this office before 5:00 p.m. on the day it is due, it absolutely will not be accepted. I have been merciful enough to extend the normal deadline—this is where mercy ends. Drafts will be required for each paper so that you will have plenty of time for revisions. If a true emergency should prevent you from turning in your paper on time, please contact me as soon as possible to see if we can work something out.

Revision

If you receive a final paper back and feel you could improve the paper for a higher grade, come talk to me within a week of receiving the graded paper. If I believe you need the learning opportunity, and if you have shown effort in the class, I will provide you with an opportunity to revise and try to earn a higher grade.

Failure Policy

English 150 students are required to complete a number of mandatory assignments: rhetorical analysis, personal essay, issues paper, multimodal assignment, and the final exam. If you do not complete any one of these assignments, you will automatically fail the course.

Required Format

All papers submitted for this course must be typed with 1-inch margins (this means you have to change the margins in Word's default page setup) in Times New Roman 12-point font, double spaced. They must also adhere to current MLA (Modern Language Association) style guidelines. Please do not attempt to alter assignment length by changing fonts, margins, etc.—I will notice (and so will my tape measure)!

Communication

The best way to know what to do for class is to consult the syllabus. It is your guide to what reading or homework assignments will be due for each class period. If neither the syllabus nor your classmates can answer your questions, please e-mail me. I will try to respond as quickly as possible. I will also frequently communicate important details about assignments and readings via emails to the entire class, so check your email regularly.