

Freshman Comp I

Professor Neil Sebacher

ENC 1101

# **Course Syllabus**

*Spring 2024*

**CRN 25379**

Prerequisite(s): Prerequisites: Score of 103 on writing component of PERT or equivalent score on other state-approved entry test or minimum grade of C in ENC 0025C or EAP 1640C, and a score of 106 on reading component of PERT or equivalent score on other state-approved entry test or minimum grade of C in REA 0017C or EAP 1620C.

# **Important Dates**

**Course Start Date: January 9, 2024**

Course End Date: April 23, 2024

Course Drop Date: January 16, 2024

Course Withdrawal Date: March 15, 2024

# **Faculty/Student Communication**

E-mail: [nsebacher@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:nsebacher@valenciacollege.edu)

**Office hours**:

MW 4:00pm–5:15pm, 5-141

TR 1:00pm-2:15pm, 5-141

**Immediate online contact via email**: MTWRF 9:00-10:00am

During non-contact hours, I can be reached by email. I check my inbox regularly, many times a day, and you should check yours at least once a day. I **welcome** email communication; in the rare event that you don’t hear back from me within a noncontact hour please don’t hesitate to email me again.

Valencia College is committed to providing each student a quality educational experience. Faculty members have set high standards of instruction for themselves and for you. If you have a problem in a class, your first step is to communicate with your instructor. If you are still dissatisfied, you may talk with the academic dean of the division for your class. We will work together to resolve any issues that arise.

# **Course Description**

Development of essay form, including documented essay; instruction and practice in expository writing. Emphasis on clarity of central and support ideas, adequate development, logical organization, coherence, appropriate citing of primary and/or secondary sources, and grammatical and mechanical accuracy. Gordon Rule course in which the student is required to demonstrate college-level writing skills through multiple assignments. Minimum grade of C is required if ENC 1101 is used to satisfy Gordon Rule and General Education Requirements.

# **Course Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will apply a multi-stage composing and revising process to produce essays

2. Students will demonstrate information literacy

3. Students will synthesize information for a specific rhetorical aim

4. Students will document source material in accordance with at least one recognized documentation style

5. Students will apply conventions aligned to varied writing situations

6. Students will apply critical reading skills

# **About the Course**

“Nothing pains some people more than having to think.” —Martin Luther King Jr.

This course is an opportunity for the student to gain literacy (reading and writing skills) and wisdom through the study of various complex texts. In our Comp I we learn from genius writers.

Throughout the course the student is invited to *think* about crucial matters always with a view to personal and professional aspirations. The question all through the class is life’s central question: What should we do, how should we live? You could ask yourself this question this way: Who am I and where in the world do I belong?

I’m committed to student *flourishing*. I *know* commitment to this course gives the student a competitive edge in academic, professional, and personal life. The following quotations capture well what we’re about in our Comp I:

“It is only possible to succeed at second-rate pursuits—like becoming a millionaire or a president, winning a war, seducing beautiful women…landing on the moon. First-rate pursuits—involving, as they must, trying to understand what life is about and trying to convey that understanding—inevitably result in a sense of failure. A Napoleon, a Churchill, a Roosevelt can feel themselves to be successful, but never a Socrates, a Pascal, a Blake. Understanding is forever unattainable. Therein lies the inevitability of failure in embarking upon its quest, which is nonetheless the only one worthy of serious attention.”  —Malcolm Muggeridge

“If I were to tell you where my greatest feeling, my universal feeling, the bliss of my earthly existence has been, I would have to confess: It has always, here and there, been in this kind of in-seeing, in the indescribably swift, deep, timeless moments of this divine seeing into the heart of things.”  —Rainer Maria Rilke

“Be shrewd as serpents and gentle as doves.”  —Matthew 10:16

Let everything happen to you:
beauty and terror.
Just keep going. No feeling is final.
   -Rainer Maria Rilke

Now if some of that sounds heavy and mysterious, remember: **I’ve designed this course so that every conscientious student can succeed**. Some have to ratchet up the effort level to do so, but then EFFORT is generally the most important determinant of success.

**Texts**

I will provide links and documents for all assigned readings.

# **Calendar (subject to change**)

January 9               Introduction: “Success”  
                 Love & Money  
January 16         “Richard Cory”

Self Esteem?

January 19         **Essay #1 Due: A Failure**

January 23 Flattery

Mooncalf  
January 30 A Test

February 3 **Essay #2 Due: A Memory**

February 6 & 13 TBA

Feb. 20-March 12       The Love Relation

March 15                **Essay #3 Due: The Love Relation**

March 19 Spring Break!

March 26-April 9 Eight Hours

April 12           **Essay #4 Due: Eight Hours**

April 16 Retrospective

April 23            **Essay #5 Due**

**Requirements**

You are expected to do *all* readings and activities, both in class and for homework, and seek to manifest in your work Valencia’s core competencies of [Think, Value, Communicate, and Act](https://valenciacollege.edu/academics/competencies/). You will be asked to write five essays, two of which will be developed from in-class writings (“journal entries”). Students should expect to do some reading and writing in every class meeting. Further, you will be required to keep all assessed work in a folder for future reference and resubmission.

# **Attendance and Participation**

Attendance and promptitude (getting to class on time) are vital to success in this course. More than two absences for any reason will make a good course grade (an A or B) very difficult to obtain, and more than three absences will result in your withdrawal from the course.

**Classroom Rules of Student Behavior**

You will find the Student Code of Conduct in the current [Valencia Student Handbook](https://catalog.valenciacollege.edu/academicpoliciesprocedures/studentcodeofconduct/).

Chronic tardiness to class disrupts the educational process, and I reserve the right to lower your course grade if I feel that you are late too often and I warn you in advance. Stepping out for a moment or leaving class early is also disruptive and cannot be tolerated. Along with your bodily attendance, I will expect and commend your participation in class discussions. Quality contributions to class discussions and activities can enhance your final grade.

During the class period all electronic devices must be off and out of sight. Eating during class is prohibited. Violations of any classroom or Valencia rules may lead to disciplinary actions up to and including expulsion from Valencia.

# **In Case of Illness or Emergency**

If you are unable to participate in the course due to illness, family emergency, etc., please communicate with me as soon as possible in order to create a plan to complete any missed assignments so that your learning can progress in this course. In the case of a prolonged absence, please communicate with me as soon as possible in order to create a plan for the best course of action.

# **Technology Requirements and Skills**

Requirements

Since all assignments are submitted through Canvas (unless otherwise noted), access to a computer is required for this course.  Students have free access to computers at all Valencia campuses.

Students should verify computer software and hardware requirements to ensure course work can be submitted successfully.  Canvas lists [minimum computer requirements](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Canvas-Basics-Guide/What-are-the-browser-and-computer-requirements-for-Canvas/ta-p/66) and supported browsers to ensure compatibility.  The [Chrome browser](https://www.google.com/chrome/) is recommended.

Students are also encouraged to install the Canvas app on their [Android phone](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Canvas-Student-Android-Guide/How-do-I-use-the-Student-app-on-my-Android-device/ta-p/1858) and

[iPhone](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/canvas-student/id480883488) in order to receive mobile notifications and to access your courses via your mobile device.

Valencia College also provides student support and resources for [general technical issues or frequently asked questions](https://valenciacollege.edu/faculty/canvas-resources/index.php).

### Technical Skills

Students should consider [basic computer skills](https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/subjects/technology/) needed to be successful in this course, which include:

* Reading and responding to emails
* Software application skills (PowerPoint, Word, Office365, etc.)
* Internet and library database browsing
* Copying and pasting
* Saving files in different formats
* Working with attachments
* [Canvas 101](https://online.valenciacollege.edu/enroll/BHPJKF) is a free self-paced course available for students to learn more about using the Canvas learning management system we are using for this course.

# **Technology Privacy Policies**

Valencia College has a firm commitment to protecting the privacy rights of its students.  Any use of student records and information in this course will comply with the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](https://valenciacollege.edu/about/ferpa/), including third-party tools and services used in this course.  Privacy policies for the tools used in this course are listed below and at the point of use.

[Valencia College Privacy Policy](https://valenciacollege.edu/about/privacy/)

[Canvas Privacy Policy](https://www.instructure.com/policies/privacy?newhome=canvas)

# **Assignment Breakdown**

Readings

Assigned readings require time, focus, and rereading. They typically involve an informal writing activity and participation in Canvas Discussion Boards. One purpose of the reading activity is to strengthen reading and writing skills to ready you for summative writing assessments.

Journal Entries

Journals entries are “low-stakes” formative assessments. Journal entries require proper grammar, mechanics, and paragraph development/structure.

Formal Writing Assignments

Essays are “high-stakes” summative assessments. They require a document upload  
and always require MLA format and style. This is a formal approach to writing, so students can recognize formal versus informal writing (journal entries, discussion posts). These assignments follow an assignment-grading rubric. This rubric puts an emphasis on cognitive ability while also assessing the student's mechanical ability.

# **Requirements**

You are expected to do *all* assignments and seek to manifest in your work Valencia’s core competencies of Think, Value, Communicate, and Act and General Education Outcomes (see the catalog for a more complete reference). You will be asked to write four literary essays, a research paper, journal entries, and discussion posts. All essays must be typed, double-spaced, and emailed. You will receive a grade of zero for anything missing. You are required to keep all assessed work in a folder for future reference and resubmission.

# **Deadlines**

Assignments for ENC 110 are to be submitted by the deadline. Late papers will receive a one-letter deduction if received within a week of the assignment deadline. After one week, late papers will not be accepted and you will receive a zero for that assignment.

# **Grading Procedures**

Your grade will be based on your essays, journal, and participation. The breakdown of these elements is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Assignment Type** | **Total Percentage** |
| Essays | 60% |
| Journal | 10% |
| Class Participation | 10% |
| Research Essay | 20% |

**A note on individualized instruction**: Your instructor will be very pleased to provide individualized writing instruction in connection with the first three essays. After that, he will expect you to practice *on your own* what you’ve learned.

# **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

All forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited at Valencia College. Academic  
dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, acts or attempted acts of plagiarism, cheating, furnishing false information, forgery, alteration or misuse of documents, misconduct during a testing situation, facilitating academic dishonesty, and misuse of identification with intent to defraud or deceive.

All work submitted by students is expected to be the result of the students' individual thoughts, research, and self-expression. Whenever a student uses ideas, wording, or organization from another source, the source shall be appropriately acknowledged. If a student is caught submitting plagiarized work a first offense will result in a zero score on the assignment, a second offense will result a class grade of F.

This course uses plagiarism detection software to support the above policy. The definition of plagiarism is the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own.

Academic dishonesty in a learning environment could involve:

•  Having a tutor or friend complete a portion of your assignments

•  Having a reviewer make extensive revisions to an assignment

•  Copying work submitted by another student

•  Using information from online information services without proper citation (Proper documentation consists of quotation marks around three or more of someone else’s words followed by a proper citation. No quotation marks are necessary if you put someone else’s ideas in your own words; however, you must follow the paraphrase with a proper citation.)

•  Using a paper you have/had written for another class to fulfill an assignment in this class unless you have permission of both instructors

•  Sharing or receiving answers on tests before the test has been completed

# **Online Classroom Netiquette**

In order to assure that we can have free and open discussions and help each other, I expect each person to respect the confidentiality of what your classmates are willing to share while at the same time I ask that each of you exercise good judgment in what you choose to share, avoiding non-public or sensitive information.

When engaged in online interaction, it is important that we all follow netiquette. This means our feedback must be clear, concise, not in all capital letters (which indicates yelling), and focus on both the positive and negatives of the work we are reading, giving the author specific examples to support our criticism and specific suggestions on how to fix what we are criticizing. We should start and end each critique with a positive but specific comment about what we are studying.

Students follow basic rules of civil communications:

•  no inappropriate language, threats, or negative personal comments tolerated. All such correspondence forwarded to the Student Conduct Officer for appropriate action.

•  Additionally, students are urged to report to the instructor immediately any harassment by a classmate, whether by email or on the Discussion Board and to forward the offending messages.

Any post/comment deemed inappropriate by the professor will be deleted/discussed. At any time, the comments or posts will be brought to the attention of the dean, and disciplinary action (deemed appropriate by the professor and the dean) will be taken.

# **Baycare Behavioral Health’s Student Assistance Program**

Valencia is committed to making sure all our students have a rewarding and successful college experience. To that purpose, Valencia students can get immediate help that may assist them with psychological issues dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, adjustment difficulties, substance abuse, time management as well as relationship problems dealing with school, home or work. Students have 24-hour unlimited access to the Baycare Behavioral Health’s confidential student assistance program phone counseling services by calling (800) 878-5470. Three free confidential face-to-face counseling sessions are also available to students.

# **Students with Disabilities Information**

Valencia is sensitive to and concerned about meeting the needs of all students. Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a Notification to Instructor (NTI) form from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the professor, preferably during the first two weeks of class; accommodations will not be applied retroactively. The Office for Students with Disabilities (West Campus SSB, Rm. 102 Phone: 407-582-1523 Fax: 407-582-1326) determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities.

# **Withdrawal**

The withdrawal deadline for this semester’s courses is **March 15, 2024**.If a student withdraws or is withdrawn by the professor on or before the withdrawal deadline, he/she will receive a “W.” After this date, only the professor may withdraw the student. If you remain in the class after the withdrawal deadline, you can only receive a grade of A, B, C, D, F, or I. An I grade will only be assigned under extraordinary circumstances that occur near the end of the semester. If you receive an I, the work missed must be made up during the following semester, at which time you will get an A, B, C, D, or F. Failure to make up the work during the following semester will result in you getting a grade of F in the course. Any student who withdraws from this class during a third or subsequent attempt in this course will be assigned a grade of “F.”Be aware that some scholarships will require the student to return the funds if he/she withdraws or is withdrawn from a course.

# **Financial Aid Information**

In order to academically maintain financial aid, students must meet all of the following requirements:

* Complete 67% of all classes attempted, and
* Maintain a Valencia GPA of 2.0 or higher, and
* Maintain an overall GPA of 2.0 or higher, and
* Complete degree within the 150% timeframe

Here’s detailed information about maintaining satisfactory academic progress: [Satisfactory Academic Progress](https://valenciacollege.edu/finaid/satisfactory-progress.php). For a complete policy and procedure overview on Valencia Policy 4-07 please go to: [Academic Progress, Course Attendance and Grades, and Withdrawals](https://valenciacollege.edu/about/general-counsel/policy/documents/volume4/4-07-academic-progress-course-attendance-and-grades-and-withdrawals.pdf).

# **Learning Support Centers**

Library:

The mission of the Valencia College libraries is to provide a variety of learning-centered resources, services and facilities to support a diverse community; to encourage academic achievement, student success and lifelong learning; and to enhance teaching excellence. Services and resources available at our libraries include:

•  Research assistance

•  Scanning and printing

•  Computer stations and study areas

•  Laptops and iPads available for check out

•  Databases, journals, eBooks, among other collections

Learning Center

Each Valencia campus has a Learning Center that provides resources such as tutoring, writing consultations, and skill shops to students. View the Library website for more information, as well as the tutorials below:

How to Connect to the Library Online: [Valencia Library](https://libguides.valenciacollege.edu/connecting).

How to Request Books from University Libraries: [books!](https://libguides.valenciacollege.edu/requestingbooks)

How to Access eBooks At Valencia Library: [electronic books!](https://libguides.valenciacollege.edu/eBooks)

How to Access Databases and Articles: [databases and articles!](https://libguides.valenciacollege.edu/databasesandarticles)

Valencia West Campus Writing Center

We will help students at any stage of the writing/learning process. We go over English language assignments with students from all disciplines and all courses, college wide, providing:

Help with grammar assignments

Help with pronunciation

Help understanding Main Ideas and other reading skills

Help organizing and developing a speech

Help constructing paragraphs, essays, or research papers

Help with scholarship essays

For more information, open the West Writing Center website: [Writing Center](https://valenciacollege.edu/students/learning-support/west/communications/writing-center/).

# **Online Tutoring**

As a Valencia student, you have free access to an online academic support program that is available 24/7 through your Atlas account. You can get live online tutoring, as well as receive feedback on your essays and research papers, among other support services. For more information, view the [Learning Support](https://valenciacollege.edu/students/learning-support/) website.

# **Got a Problem?**

Valencia College is committed to providing each student a quality educational experience. Faculty members have set high standards of instruction for themselves and for you. If you have a problem in a class, your first step is to communicate with your instructor. If you are still dissatisfied, you may talk with the academic dean of the division for your class. We will work together to resolve any issues that arise.

# **End Note**

We will all leave this course better readers and writers--better human beings, that is, for we will improve as "readers" of universal human experience (of those experiences we all go through, one way or another) and as writers for academic, working-world, and personal purposes. You’ll do significantly better in your academic pursuits because of your commitment to this course, and in the fullness of time you’ll compose more effective memos, say, and more moving love letters.