MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

ENGL 1010 – B21: Expository Writing Syllabus
3 credit hours

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Emiliya Mailyan
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Office: Peck Hall 323
Phone: (615) 898-2588
Class Schedule: Tuesdays 1 – 2:25 pm, Peck Hall 327
Chat & Help Hours: Tuesdays 2:30-3:30 pm, PH 323
                    or email me to schedule a time that works for you!

COURSE INFORMATION

English 1010
(Legacy) Written Communication (WC)
- Written Communication (WC) (3 hours)
  - For all catalogs 2024-2025 and beyond, this course (ENGL 1010) satisfies the True Blue Core (TBC) curriculum requirement (3 hours) for Written Communication (WC). To learn more about TBC requirements: https://w1.mtsu.edu/truebluecore/core.php.
  - For all catalogs prior to 2024-2025, this course (ENGL 1010) satisfies one of the general education curriculum requirements for Communication (3 of 9 hours). To learn more about general education requirements for catalogs prior to 2024-2025: https://w1.mtsu.edu/gen_ed/requirements.php.
  - **The TBC outcome for Written Communication:** Students communicate effectively through writing in terms of context and purpose, content development, genre and disciplinary conventions, sources and evidence, and syntax and mechanics.

Welcome to ENGL 1010! English 1010 is the first in a two-semester first-year composition sequence that prepares you with questions and rhetorical awareness to approach the many and varied **kinds of writing situations you will encounter in the future.** In Expository Writing, you will gain grounded, practical experience with the conventions of academic discourse. Together we will investigate how effective writers write in and beyond college, what successful writing looks like, and how specific practices, strategies, and concepts will aid you in becoming a more flexible, adaptive, and skillful communicator at MTSU and beyond.

As we work together this semester, we'll find different ways to write, communicate and express information to others. We all have different experiences with reading and writing, and our differences are what make the learning process much more vibrant. Let's explore writing and have an adventure!

Communications

Please email me on D2L (ekm2z@elearnmail.mtsu.edu) or through my MTmail account (ekm2z@mtmail.mtsu.edu) if you have any questions or concerns about class. Also, you must use your university email for all communications – responding to non-institutional assigned emails is not permitted. I will always try to respond to all emails within 48 hours. If you haven't heard back from me in that time frame, please send me a reminder. I will frequently post class updates, notes, and reminders on D2L News announcements. Also, feel free to visit me during Chat & Help hours in my office (PH 323) – I'm happy to answer questions about class, give you feedback on drafts, talk about everything writing-related, etc.

*Please note: the instructor reserves the right to change the course syllabus/schedule at any point during the semester, if necessary. I will send you all notifications through D2L announcements in case of any changes.

Course Materials

We will read selections from the MTSU ENGL 1010 OER: [The Muse: Misunderstandings and Their Remedies](#), which is always available online (for free) via OER @ MT. I also encourage you to check out student award-winning essays and projects in [The GEM](#).

Please bring a notebook/something to write with for notes in class. You may also bring a laptop/tablet if you have one or use the computers in our classroom. Please also make sure to have access to Microsoft Office apps (MTSU students have the Microsoft Office suite available for free). **Additionally,** you will need some type of binder/folder or journal for Project 4*(more info will be provided in class).

True Blue Core Course Objectives

In ENGL1010, students will:

Compose writing tasks that demonstrate understanding of the rhetorical situation (Rhetorical Knowledge)

Revise writing assignments based on iterative feedback and make appropriate decisions about content, form, and presentation (Composing Processes)

Demonstrate understanding of ethical primary research practices (Genre Conventions)

Practice genre analysis of various types of text—print, digital, and audio (Information Literacy)

Examine multimodal literacies across contexts, cultures, and communities, including academic disciplines and public audiences (Reading Processes)

Reflect on literacy in student lives and across learning experiences (Integrative Thinking)

Course Assignments & Projects

There will be various **Class Invention Opportunities & Activities** (both in-class and online, including free writes, discussion boards, rough drafts) that will help scaffold the preparation for major writing projects. Something that I'd like for you all to think about early in the semester is how your interests connect to your literacy learning experience. These connections will help you realize the genres/communities you may already know, thus forming the basis for what you can explore and write about in the following **4 Major Writing Projects:**

Project 1: Multimodal Literacy Narrative

Using any combination of modes (art, poetry, photography, artifacts) plus writing, students will compose a narrative, telling the story of their literacy learning journey to date.

Project 2: Literacy Interview **(TBC Assessable Assignment)**

Students will conduct interviews to learn about the literacy development of others. The interviews may be written up like a magazine profile/blog or filmed/recorded as a podcast, as these options promote building rhetorical awareness about different genre conventions.

Project 3: Genre Analysis PowerPoint

Students will produce "fieldnotes" from their campus (or off-campus) genre scavenger hunt and conduct analysis to inform readers about their chosen genre.

Project 4: Semester Scrapbook & Reflection Letter

Students will create a "Semester Scrapbook," highlighting some of their most important moments of growth and revision during the semester. They will compose a reflection letter to include as an introduction to the scrapbook. These scrapbooks will be presented informally in a gallery walk on the last day of class.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Grading Procedure

I encourage you to be creative and take risks by trying out different styles & techniques in writing. I emphasize *content* over issues with grammar and formatting in grading. That being said, I expect you to follow the basic guidelines for assignments, as doing so will tremendously benefit you in your other college classes. We will always go over assignment sheets/rubrics in class, and I'm happy to answer any questions about criteria for grading/grades received. Rubrics for the 4 Major Writing Projects will detail how points will be distributed (note that class workshops/peer reviews factor into project grade totals as well). All other assignments (class invention opportunities & activities) will be completion credit.

Course Points Breakdown

Major Writing Projects
Project 1: 200 points
Project 2: 200 points
Project 3: 200 points
Project 4: 200 points

Other Assignments
Class Invention Opportunities & Activities: 8 at 20 points each = 160 points
Class Participation = 40 points

Course Total: 1000 points

Here is a scale you can use to convert points to letter grades:
A = 900-1000 points
B+ = 870-899 points
B = 830-869 points
B- = 800-829 points
C+ = 770-799 points
C = 730-769 points
C- = 700-729 points
*D = 600-699 points
*F = anything below 600 points

Grading Details

To earn points as noted above, assignments must be complete. Projects are due **as stated on** the weekly course schedule unless you need an extension and request one in advance. Extensions will always be granted, but you must ask **in advance** (up to 24 hours before project deadline). *The only time I cannot really give extensions is for the final project, Project 4, due to final grade deadlines at the end of the semester. Please reach out if there's an emergency situation that prevents you from meeting a project deadline.

Late work: note that Project Dropboxes will not reopen after the due dates have passed. For each day a project is late, 20 points will be deducted from the total points possible. After 5 days, late work will no longer be accepted, resulting in a failing grade for the project.

If you'd like to *revise* any of the first 3 Writing Projects (project must have been turned in), please contact me. Always try to do your best and let me know if there are any issues along the way!

Final Grade Scale

*Important: to pass ENGL1010, you must earn a final grade of C- (70%) or better. Due to a combination of Degree Requirements, Prerequisite Requirements, and Financial Aid concerns, students receiving a final grade lower than C- in ENGL 1010 are required to retake the course before they can graduate to earn General Education Credit. That being said, it is possible to earn a D on individual assignments.

For reference, the following is a description provided by the university of criteria used in assigning *final* letter grades for courses:

A (90-100) —Work of distinctly superior quality and quantity accompanied by unusual evidence of achievement; MTSU does not permit A+ or A- grades
B+, B, B- (89-80)—Work of good quality and quantity accompanied by evidence of achievement beyond the essentials of a course
C+, C, C- (79-70) — Work demonstrating fulfillment of the essentials of a course
D+, D, D- (69-60) —Passing work, but below the standards of graduation quality
F (Below 60) —Failure, necessitating repetition of the course to obtain credit
FA—Failure (and stopped attending)
I—Incomplete (not used in calculating grade point average)
W—Assigned in courses that are dropped during a specified period of time within a term.

Students should consult the academic calendar and registration guide online for specific dates (regarding grades) each term, linked here.

More information about records/transcripts can be found at the MT One Stop.

Feedback

I will provide written feedback on all major Writing Projects (usually) within one-two weeks of their submission.

- Assignments must be submitted to the D2L Dropbox folder and will not be accepted via email unless there were any tech issues with D2L.
- Assignment due dates are available in the Dropbox info and are listed in the course schedule.

PARTICIPATION

Class Participation & Attendance

This is a small, workshop-based class, so please come to class (on time) and be ready to share your great ideas & insights with your peers. However, please don't feel like you must come to class if you're not feeling well—it's important to take care of yourself first (and be aware of the health and well-being of others). **If you can, please let me know ASAP when you'll be missing class.** *As this is a blended course,* we only meet in-person once a week; the other half of class time is devoted to completing various asynchronous online readings and assignments. Note that students will need to sign-in to class (on an attendance sheet) each day we're in-person. If you're absent and need to make up any in-class work (such as peer workshop/review—which factors into overall grades for each major writing project), it is your responsibility to reach out to me ASAP. Both active engagement during in-person class days and completion of asynchronous online work factors into class participation as well.

Attendance Reporting

MTSU Administration requires that instructors complete an attendance report for each course each semester. There are financial aid implications for non-attendance.

Classroom & Community Etiquette

I encourage you to share your ideas and contribute to our class discussions and activities. I'm committed to establishing an environment where all students feel comfortable sharing ideas, taking intellectual risks, and workshopping ideas in progress. In turn, I expect and ask that you contribute to a positive class environment by treating one another with respect and kindness (both in person and online).

Occasionally, you may find that you do not agree with certain opinions in course readings, or sensitive topics may arise in course content. Please know that you are always welcome to talk to me about alternative readings or assignments if needed.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STUDENT RESOURCES

Technical Support

For general tech support regarding issues with login, password, email, D2L, etc., visit the ITD website.

Counseling Services

MTSU offers an array of services and resources to support students dealing with issues related to mental health (including depression, anxiety, grief, loss, suicidal thoughts, etc.), substance abuse, or physical or sexual violence. If you need help, please contact counseling services by phone (615) 898-2670, online at https://mtsu.edu/counseling/, or in person at KUC room 326-S, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. If it is after hours or you have an emergency, call Mobile Crisis at 1-800-704-2651 or go to the nearest emergency room.

Outreach and Support Programs

The MTSU community is committed to the academic achievement of each student, and we

know that struggling to address basic needs can affect a student's ability to perform academically. If you are having trouble finding a safe and stable place to live or enough food to eat, please visit or utilize the [Outreach and Support Programs](#) at the MT One Stop.

Students with Disabilities

Middle Tennessee State University is committed to campus access in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any student interested in reasonable accommodations can consult the [Disability & Access Center (DAC)](#) website and/or contact the DAC for assistance at 615-898-2783.

MTSU Student Veterans

If you are a veteran or military family member, the Veteran & Military Family Center on campus has a myriad of opportunities and beneficial services for those who have served or are actively serving and their family members. You can find out more information about the center by visiting their [website](#).

Tutoring

The Margaret H. Ordoubadian University Writing Center (UWC) is located in LIB 362. The writing center offers free one-on-one help with any writing project, no matter what stage of the writing process you're at. You can call (615)-904-8237 or visit www.mtsu.edu/writing-center to make an appointment; walk-ins are also welcome. Visit early and often!

Plagiarism & Academic Integrity

Academic integrity reflects your ability to generate original work created by you and completed by you. When incorporating other authors' words, images, or ideas, you must give proper credit to the source. Otherwise, your work is considered plagiarized. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

- Submitting someone else's work (papers, themes, reports, drawings, laboratory notes, computer programs, etc.) as if it's your own.
- Knowingly assisting another student in obtaining or using materials they attempt to pass off as their work.
- Submitting assignments previously used in other courses where you received credit for the work (in other words, you can plagiarize yourself); and
- Improperly crediting or not crediting another author's **or source's** work.

A note on the use of Generative AI:

In this course, students are permitted to use generative AI (GenAI) as long as their use of these tools follows the guidance outlined in this policy. Examples of generative AI models include ChatGPT, Grammarly AI, Google Gemini, and Microsoft Copilot.

Generative AI can be used in the following circumstances: brainstorming potential ideas for a project or generating images for multimodal aspects. Students are required to always acknowledge their generative AI use by [citing](#) the technology used (and how it was used) according to MLA standards. Students should refrain from using generative AI to produce entire

assignments, replace critical thinking, or eliminate personal effort. Students who use AI in these unauthorized ways will be in violation of MTSU's academic integrity policy.

Students will never be required to use generative AI, and before choosing to use any of these models, students should be aware of the privacy, ethical, and environmental impacts of GenAI.

Please consult with me immediately if you have any reservations about plagiarism in your work. Self-reporting violations and unintentional plagiarism will result in leniency. I am always available to meet with you if you are unsure how to cite sources correctly. Turnitin will be enabled on each Writing Project Dropbox in D2L. If your work contains unintentional plagiarism, you will have the opportunity to meet with me to discuss options for revising and resubmitting the assignment.

If you repeatedly and intentionally plagiarize assignments in this course, possible disciplinary sanctions may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures for addressing academic misconduct. In addition, students guilty of plagiarism may be reported to the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.

Please see MTSU's Academic Integrity page for more information.

Grade Appeals
University Policy 313, Student Grade Appeals, provides an avenue for MTSU students to appeal a final course grade in cases in which the student alleges that unethical or unprofessional actions by the instructor and/or grading inequities improperly impacted the final grade.

Incomplete Grades
Incomplete ("I") grades are given rarely and only in extenuating circumstances. Please see the details outlined in the Undergraduate Catalog under "Grades (Marking System)" for more information.

Respect for Diversity
MTSU will promote equal opportunity for all persons without regard to race, color, religion, creed, ethnic or national origin, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, age (as applicable), status as a protected veteran, genetic information, and any other legally protected class. In doing so, MTSU affirms that it will not tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant for employment and will not subject any student to discrimination or harassment under any educational program and no student shall be discriminatorily excluded from participation nor denied the benefits of any educational program on the basis of any of the protected categories listed above. Please visit the MTSU Policies website for more information.

Title IX
Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against or been the victim of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking should contact a Title IX/Deputy Coordinator at 615-898- 2185 or 615-898-2750 for assistance or review MTSU's Title IX website for resources. MTSU faculty are concerned about the well-being and development of our

students and are legally obligated to share reports of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking with the University's Title IX coordinator to help ensure student's safety and welfare. Please refer to MTSU's Title IX website for contact information and details.

Emergencies in the Classroom & Inclement Weather

Faculty and students who do not follow University policies and instructions during emergencies and emergency drills are individually liable. A list of safest places for each building during a tornado can be found at the MTSU Alert4U Tornado information page. University instructions during emergencies are sent via email, phone calls, and text messages. University websites will also be updated with the latest information. You are encouraged to plan ahead for emergencies.

MTSU does not usually close because of inclement weather, but students will be allowed to use their own discretion when snow and icy conditions exist; they will be given the opportunity to make up the missed classes should they decide not to attend. For more information on inclement weather and notification mechanisms for university closings, visit mtsunews.

Lottery Scholarship

Do you have a lottery scholarship? To retain the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship eligibility, you must earn a cumulative TELS GPA of 2.75 after 24 and 48 attempted hours and a cumulative TELS GPA of 3.0 thereafter. A grade of C, D, F, FA, or I in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility. If you drop this class, withdraw, or if you stop attending this class, you may lose eligibility for your lottery scholarship and will not be able to regain eligibility later. For additional Lottery rules, please refer to your Lottery Statement of Understanding form (http://www.mtsu.edu/financial-aid/forms/LOTFOD.pdf) or contact your MT One Stop Enrollment Counselor (http://mtsu.edu/one-stop/counselor.php).

The End.

Or is it?

SPACE FOR NOTES & QUESTIONS:

Below, please jot down any questions or notes you have after reviewing the syllabus. Are there any parts of the syllabus that aren't clear? Is there anything you'd like to learn more about? Also, I recommend highlighting/underlining any important points for future reference. **Your first Discussion Board post (due Friday 8/30 by 11:59 pm) will ask you to interact with the syllabus and course schedule.**