**Jennie Snow**

jennie.snow@rutgers.edu

Office Hours: Tues, 1:30-2:30

 Murray O36A

1:355:100 & 1:355:99 – IA

**Mon/Tues/Thurs, 2:50-4:10**

SC-201 (M), SC-205 (Tu/Th)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this course you will read and write about a variety of texts concerning a range of contemporary issues. The course will have a particular emphasis on the skills of reading comprehension and critical thinking. The goal of the course is to prepare you for success in Expository Writing (355:101) where you will need to read deeply, think critically, and write interpretively and effectively, creating your own independent arguments that synthesize multiple sources.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Basic Composition is a reading and writing class meant to prepare students for the demands of Expos, and other college courses. To that end, the objectives for the class are the same as in Expos:

* Communicate complex ideas effectively, in standard written English, to a general audience, and respond effectively to feedback through successive drafts and revision;
* Evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly;
* Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.

In addition to these goals, students will develop their close reading skills as a form of critical thinking, and foundation for original, incisive writing. The course also acknowledges that this is an ongoing endeavor and not something to be perfected in a single semester – rather, this class is a workshop space to cultivate individual reading/writing practices.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

* Online articles as assigned by your instructor (must be printed from Canvas)
* Selected student papers to demonstrate and correct errors, or as models of strong writing
* All instructor and peer comments on drafts

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

* Write a first day writing sample
* Read eight selections from the online textbook, as selected by your instructor
* Write **four** out-of-class essays
* Take **twelve** in-class reading quizzes
* Write a typed rough and final draft for each assignment (and demonstrate significant revision between drafts)
* Complete a one-day in-class midterm (short-answer format, graded pass or fail)
* Complete a one-day in-class final writing sample (essay format, graded pass or fail)
* Keep all rough and final drafts in a folder, for mid-semester and end of semester review.
* Regularly check your Canvas Course Site at <https://canvas.rutgers.edu/> and your Rutgers email for class announcements, resources, and assignments. (Requires Rutgers Net ID.)

**GRADING POLICIES**

* 40% of the final course grade will be determined by your highest level of sustained achievement on essays until the end of the term.
* 60% of the final course grade will be determined by your performance on the twelve in-class reading quizzes.
* You must complete the midterm exam to pass the course.
* You must pass the final exam to pass the course.
* Half a letter grade will be deducted from the final draft for each day its rough draft is late, one full letter grade will be deducted from a final draft for each day it is late.
* The lowest passing grade for a paper and for the course is C.
* **All grades are subject to departmental review.**

**OTHER POLICIES**

* ATTENDANCE

Attendance at all classes – with the texts we are discussing in-hand – is expected. **After four absences, you RISK FAILING THE CLASS**. If you transfer into the class after the semester has begun, you have one excused absence only. If you expect to miss a class, please use the RU absence reporting website, which automatically sends an email to me. The site can be found here: <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>

Punctuality is also important. Lateness of twenty minutes or more will count as half an absence. Lateness of forty minutes or more will count as a full absence.

* CLASSROOM ETHOS

As we work together and alongside each other this semester I hope that we will form a community of inquiry. This asks that every member of the class bring in an attitude of respect, curiosity, and open-mindedness toward each other and the perspectives presented. I expect our class will be a place of lively discussion and that people will necessarily disagree at times, but this will strengthen our discussion so long as we maintain an attitude of collaboration. Don’t be afraid to ask questions! The only presupposition of this class is that we are here to learn.

* OFFICE HOURS / EMAIL

I encourage you to make use of office hours, in this course and others. If you are confused or unsure about something (e.g. what we’re working on, what is expected of you, what something means), please arrange to come talk with me in office hours! I will have regularly scheduled hours each week, and am also available by appointment. I am not able to respond to all questions by email and will usually suggest we meet if you raise a significant question in email. I will also not respond to emails after 8:00pm but will give you a response within 24 hours of when you write, or by Monday if it’s the weekend.

* WRITING CENTER TUTORING

The Writing Program offers **FREE** tutoring for students enrolled in Basic Composition, and I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity. Writing Centers are located on College Avenue, Douglass, and Livingston Campuses, and most tutoring sessions require that a student commit to seeing a tutor for one eighty-minute session per week for at least five weeks, and up to ten weeks. More information about tutoring can be found here: <https://www.sas.rutgers.edu/cms/writingctr/>

* DROPPING BASIC COMP

You **CANNOT** drop Basic Composition without a Dean’s permission. This is true both during the semester’s initial Add/Drop period and later when students may withdraw from other courses with a ‘W’ (the deadline for which is Monday, 10/28). There are no exceptions to this policy.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Students and instructors have a duty to each other and to our community to abide by norms of academic honesty and responsibility. To present something as your own original writing when it is not is plagiarism. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating are serious violations of trust, and all written assignments for this course will be submitted via Turnitin software. Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will have severe consequences, in accordance with the University Policy on Academic Integrity and the Code of Student Conduct. For details about the University’s academic integrity policies, please see <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>.

**STUDENT ACCOMMODATIONS**

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments (ADAA) of 2008, and Sections 504 and 508. As such, all reasonable accommodation will be given to students with disabilities. Students who may require accommodation should speak with me at the start of the semester. You may also contact the [Office of Disability Services](https://ods.rutgers.edu/) at 848-445-6800 or dsoffice@echo.rutgers.edu.

**BASIC NEEDS SECURITY**

Any student who has difficulty accessing sufficient food to eat or who lacks a safe and stable place to live is urged to contact the [Dean of Students](http://deanofstudents.rutgers.edu/) at 848-932-2300 or deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu. You are also encouraged to notify me, if you feel comfortable doing so, and I can help direct you to additional University resources that may prove helpful.

**INCLUSIVITY IN CLASSROOM**

Students are expected to abide by the University’s code of student conduct while attending classes, which you may review at the following link: <http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/>. Additionally, a portion of the [University’s Policy](https://policies.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/60-1-12-current.pdf) Prohibiting Discrimination and Harassment is copied below:

*Rutgers University is committed to a working and learning environment for all faculty, staff and students that is free from discrimination and harassment…Discrimination and harassment compromise the integrity of the University and unfairly interfere with the opportunity for all persons to fully participate in the academic, work, and living environment at Rutgers. The University recognizes the human dignity of each member of the Rutgers community and believes that each member has a responsibility to promote respect and dignity for others so that all employees and students are free to pursue their educational and work goals in an open environment, participate in the free exchange of ideas, and to share equally in the University’s employment and educational opportunities. To achieve this end, the University strives to foster an academic, work, and living environment that is free from discrimination and harassment on the basis of membership in the protected classes referenced above.*

*At the same time, the University is committed to the principles of academic freedom and believes that vigorous discussion and debate, as well as free inquiry and free expression, are an integral part of the University community.*

**RESOURCES AT RUTGERS**

WRITING CENTERS: <http://wp.rutgers.edu/writingcenters/writingcenters>

OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION & VICTIM ASSISTANCE: <http://vpva.rutgers.edu>

CENTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE & LGBTQ COMMUNITIES: <http://socialjustice.rutgers.edu/>

OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES: <https://ods.rutgers.edu>

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES:

<https://global.rutgers.edu/international-scholars-students>