

# ENGL 0999: Support for College Composition

Support for ENGL 1101, Section A 3 credits.

Summer 2026

## Instructor Information

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## General Course Information

### Description

This course provides opportunities for you to become a more effective communicator as you refine your thinking, writing, speaking, designing, collaborating, and reflecting. As part of the WOVEN (written, oral, visual, electronic, and nonverbal communication) curriculum, ENGL 1101 emphasizes developing your strategic processes in written communication, including issues of rhetoric, argumentation, critical thinking, process, and writing genres. Our section of ENGL 0999 will support your ability to do these things. We will workshop projects extensively, complete critical thinking tasks related to our reading, and continue to develop rhetorical awareness. There are also daily graded quizzes, process documents, and a final portfolio. This class follows a labor contract grading system where you are given credit based on the labor that you put into the class. It requires daily reading and oral participation in class sessions. It is also purposefully inclusive in content and grading.

### Primary Learning Goals

This course is intended to provide corequisite support for students requiring remediation in English or reading while they are enrolled in ENGL 1101 – English Composition I

In order to accomplish this goal we will complete grammar work, create additional informal writing assignments, and intensively workshop your projects.

Our learning outcomes that differ from 1101 are the following:

1. Locate information on your course syllabus and daily class schedule
2. Interpret assignments and assessments
3. Organize, reorganize, and transform projects through process oriented communication

4. Identify the elements of multimodal (WOVEN) communication
5. Use rhetorical skills to complete various artifacts

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## Required Course Materials

- [A physical notebook](#)/pen for taking notes in class.
  - The bookstore has some on order for this class or you can choose your own.
- The app [Focus Friend](#).
- [The Bedford Bookshelf](#)
  - This is our only online textbook. We will be using *Writer/Designer* within this package of materials.
- ENGL 0999 Journal (available on Canvas/Google Docs)

## Preparation

In order to keep up on reading and be prepared for discussion there are low-stakes quizzes for each reading assignment. They will be posted on Canvas, and may be completed outside of class. These quizzes are one category on our labor grading policy. If you have a 90% or above at the end of the semester you have successfully fulfilled that category. You may take each quiz twice and your lowest grade will be dropped.

## Grading Policy:

**Summary:** This term your grades will be determined based on the labor you put into the class, and that labor is defined in this contract. Your grade is based exclusively on the satisfactory completion of the assigned work this semester. You are evaluated on the sustained effort you put into the **process** of learning rather than **only** your final deliverables.

If you meet the expectations of the labor-based grading contract, you will be assured an A for the semester. If you fail to meet the base expectations your final grade will be reduced. This doesn't mean the class is an "easy A," but instead an expression of your consistent effort and labor.

**Assignments:** Your final course grade will be determined by seven units of class labor:

- Course material engagement (graded as quizzes on Canvas)
- Course engagement (participation)
- Process documents submitted on Canvas
- Workshop drafts (workshops **cannot be made up** because others rely on your feedback)
- Final artifact submissions

- Artifact revision and explanation for final portfolio

## Description of Graded Components

**Guaranteed A Grade:** To earn the baseline of an A, you must put forth a solid effort in the class and finish assigned coursework on time.

- **Course engagement:** You are expected to attend class regularly. Your engagement is tracked daily in your journal. Your engagement is tracked by Dr. Dean-Ruzicka. In general, I expect students to speak up in full class discussion at least once a week and to avoid using phones or laptop distractions. I keep record of this along with attendance in Canvas.
- **Material engagement:** You are expected to complete assigned readings and watch the episodes. The articles & episodes are an essential part of your success in the class. There are also low-stakes quizzes that offer two attempts so you can show the labor you have done with our materials.
- **Process work:** You must complete all the low-stakes activities assigned as part of a course module. These may include reading responses, brainstorms, and analysis documents. You are expected to complete these on time, but may complete late assignments up to the due date of the final module project.
- **Drafts & workshops:** You submit all assigned drafts in order to receive feedback from your peers and professor. From these drafts you also complete revisions on higher order concerns including structure, argument, evidence, and design. Workshops and drafts cannot be made up.
- **Oral Presentation:** You will complete an oral presentation on a common problem in your writing.

## Grade Reductions:

Missing labor elements will negatively impact your grade.\* A “step” here refers to a reduction of a +/- letter grade. Georgia Tech does not do +/- grading for final grades, so it’s possible to lose a step and still receive an A. But getting multiple grade reductions will move you to B or C territory.

- **Attendance:** You may miss up to 2 classes without any penalty. You may make up one additional absences by doing reading responses (see Canvas assignment for more details). Absence 0-2—no penalty. Absences 3 with no reading response is –1 step. More than 4 absences will each accrue a step of a letter grade penalty each.
- **Engagement:** 2 weeks with extensive distractions marked or no participation will drop your letter grade by one step. 3+ weeks will drop your score by a full letter grade.
- **Materials:** If you fail to complete quizzes, take physical notes, or bring your books to class your grade in this category will be reduced. Failure to bring materials (books and/or notebooks & pens) more than 3x a semester will reduce your grade by one step. Quizzes have a 1 week grace period and you may take 2 tries to complete them. You can drop one missing quiz. A 90%+ (A) in your

quizzes is satisfactory. Grades below this will reduce your grade by half a letter grade per B/C/D etc. (So if you have a 70-79% on your final quiz score, your letter grade goes from an A to a B).

- **Process work:** 2 missing documents per module will result in a 1 step reduction (A to A-). 3+ per module will result in a full grade reduction (A to B). Process documents may be submitted late, up to the point of final project submission.
- **Drafts & workshops:** Each draft that is 'missing' or fails to meet basic requirements laid out by the assignment on Canvas will result in a reduction of one half step of a letter grade. **No late submissions** of drafts or workshop feedback.

## Course Policies

### Attendance and/or Participation

Attendance and participation are essential to success in courses in the Writing and Communication Program. Because of this, you are expected to attend class in person. Not attending a scheduled class session in-person results in an absence. There are no excused absences besides institute approved absences (noted by a letter from the Office of Student Services or Athletics). You can always make up absences beyond the allowed number with reading responses (see labor grading sheet for more info).

There may be times when you cannot or should not attend class, such as if you are not feeling well, have an interview, or have family responsibilities. Attendance is a portion of your course engagement, see more below.

If you are absent for a class session, you are responsible for finding out what you may have missed while absent from class and what policy the instructor has for making up missed work.

### Student Use of Mobile Devices in the Classroom

I expect phones to stay out of sight. We will all start our Focus Friend at the beginning of class to keep distractions to a minimum.

#### Laptops

The course modules will let you know what days you need a laptop. If we aren't actively writing, your laptop should be in your bag.

#### Late policy

If you are more than 15 minutes late it is considered an absence.

#### Participation/Engagement

WCP requires participation be part of your grade. In a discussion-based course, engagement with the course materials and other participants in the class is of primary importance. You must speak up in class at least once a week to receive full participation credit. Evaluation and grading will be tracked by Dr. Dean-Ruzicka on Canvas.

## **Masks**

I cannot require masks, but do suggest you wear them if you are feeling ill for any reason. Why pass around that cold if you don't have to? I'll wear a mask if I'm under the weather.

## **Academic Integrity**

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. [Review Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the [student Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

## **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

## **Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement**

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. [The Student-Faculty Expectations](#) articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class. Recording of this class or your peers is not permitted.

## **Use of Generative AI**

This course is about growing in your ability to write, communicate, and think critically. Generative AI agents such as ChatGPT, DALL-E 2, and others present great opportunities for learning and for communicating. However, AI cannot learn or communicate for you, and so cannot meet the course requirements for you.

In this course, using generative AI tools in the work of the course (including assignments, discussions, ungraded work, etc.) is allowed only in instances specified by your instructor.

As with any technology, generative AI tools need to be used critically and according to academic and professional expectations. Thus, in instances in which your instructor allows generative AI tool use, you are expected to adhere to these principles:

- **Responsibility:** You are responsible for the work you submit. In instances in which your instructor allows generative AI tool use, this means that any work you submit should be your own, with any AI assistance appropriately disclosed (see “Transparency” below) and any AI-generated content appropriately cited (see “Documentation” below). This also means you must ensure that any factual statements produced by a generative AI tool are true and that any references or citations produced by the AI tool are correct.
- **Transparency:** Any generative AI tools you use in the work of the course should be clearly acknowledged as indicated by the instructor. This work includes not only when you use content directly produced by a generative AI tool but also when you use a generative AI tool in the process of composition (for example, for brainstorming, outlining, or translation purposes).
- **Documentation:** You should cite any content generated by an AI tool as you would when quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing ideas, text, images, or other content made by other people.

Using generative AI tools at times not allowed by the instructor will be considered an infraction of the Georgia Tech Honor Code subject to investigation by the Office of Student Integrity. Likewise, using generative AI tools in the course without adhering to these principles will be considered an infraction of the Georgia Tech Honor Code subject to investigation by the Office of Student Integrity.

## Course Completion

Failure to complete any component of the course, including projects, assignments, and stages of projects or assignments, may result in failure of the course, as determined by the instructor of the course in consultation with the Director of the Writing and Communication Program.

## Syllabus Modifications

This syllabus may be modified as the semester progresses to meet course outcomes and address the needs of members of the class.

## Campus Resources for Students

### Student Well-Being:

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A [comprehensive list](#) of wellness related resources has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being ([student-resource-guide \(gatech.edu\)](#))

### **Students with Temporary/Emergency Needs**

Sometimes students have needs that affect their performance in class, but have nothing to do with class itself. If you find you need clothing for job interviews, food between paydays, temporary housing, or interest-free emergency loans, GT will help you through [STAR Services \(Students' Temporary Assistance & Resources\)](#), which is part of Student Life. **There is no shame in availing yourself to these services.** Helping our students meet all of their needs (in and out of the classroom) is part of what being the GT community is all about.

### **Undergraduate Student Academic Success Resources:**

Academic Support: Academic Success and Advising (a unit in the Office of Undergraduate Education & Student Success) provides free support for your courses. Students can attend scheduled supplemental review (PLUS) sessions, stop by Drop-In Tutoring, or schedule a one-on-one appointment through Knack. To explore what options work best for you, please visit us online at [success.gatech.edu/tutoring](#), email us at [tutoring@gatech.edu](mailto:tutoring@gatech.edu), or come see us at Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons, Suite 283.