Welcome!

Hello and welcome to English 101 online. I am Mary Petersen, and I will be your instructor for this summer course. This orientation letter will help you determine whether taking this online course is right for you.

Blackboard:

- We will use Blackboard as our course website. The course website will not be available until 6am on the first day of class, June 9th.
- To access the site, go to bb.canyons.edu. Select our class section # and log in with your 7 digit COC ID and the password student.
- NOTE: You must log in on June 9th, complete the introductory discussion board and the online orientation by midnight, or you will be dropped from the class. Instructions will be provided on the home page.

Is online right for you?

An online course provides students with the flexibility of completing work when it is convenient for them. However, that does not mean that the course has no deadlines. This is a rigorous 5 week course, and there will be daily and weekly deadlines for assignments. Students should expect to log into the course website 4 days a week and spend 2-3 hours a day completing reading and writing assignments.

Students who do well in online courses tend to have the following qualities:

- They are independent, self-motivated, and disciplined to complete work by deadlines.
- They have effective time management skills.
- They enjoy cooperative learning experiences and communicating with others in writing.
- They have consistent and reliable access to the Internet.
- They have basic computer skills, including the ability to create, save and submit documents online.

If you are unsure whether an online class is right, for you, take the distance learning readiness assessment at the following link.
http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/DistanceLearning/Pages/Assessments.aspx
Course Description:
English 101 emphasizes the principles and methods of expository writing, with reading and analysis of expository prose. The course meets CSU/UC transfer requirements.

Prerequisites:
Satisfactory score on the SAT, ACT, or placement test; or successful completion of English 091, 094, or 096.

Student Learning Outcomes:
At the end of the course, students will be able to:
- Compose persuasive, well-organized, grammatically correct full-length essays, synthesizing properly documented and relevant research and other evidence to develop and support a unified thesis.
- Analyze and critically evaluate college-level texts for argument, structure, and rhetorical strategies.

Texts and Materials:
The text we will use this summer is entitled *Boundless Writing*. This is an Open Education Resource text, and it can be located online at [https://www.boundless.com/writing/](https://www.boundless.com/writing/)

You will also be linking to several online articles for each unit that we cover. Article links will be provided at our blackboard site for these readings. Detailed weekly instructions will direct you to complete each

Requirements:
- A my.canyons email address. Education Code concerning student privacy requires that I contact you at your own personal email address, so I will not be using any other email address to communicate with you. Please check this email account frequently.
- **Dependable, consistent access to the internet.** Since your textbook and assigned articles are accessible only through the internet, your computer must have reliable online access. All assignments and discussion board postings will be submitted online, so be sure that your internet access is dependable.
- **Microsoft Word Processing capability.** All course documents are written using Microsoft Word. Therefore, you must be able to open documents composed in MS Word. If you do not have Word, it is your responsibility to save documents in .rtf, .doc, or .docx. Make sure I will not have problems opening your documents and that the format remains intact so that I can read and provide comments on your essays electronically.
- **Turnitin.com.** All essays will be submitted to turnitin.com before they are read or graded. Instructions for registering with turnitin.com will be provided.
**Assignments:**

- **Discussion board postings and response entries.** Each week, a minimum of 4 discussion board postings will be assigned. These must be completed by the stated deadline to receive credit. You will also respond to classmates in these discussion forums. Detailed instructions for completing each discussion board posting will be provided.

- **Three formal, critical essays.** Articulation requirements with UCs and CSUs require that students in English 101 complete a minimum of 5-6,000 words or about 20 pages of polished writing. For this 5 week course, students will complete one 6 page essay and two 7 page essays. Each essay will require 3 drafts, and essays that do not meet minimum requirements for each draft will lose credit. Using research effectively to support and develop the essay is essential in meeting minimum length requirements.

- **Peer responses.** For each first draft, you will read and respond to the essay of a peer. These peer responses will be graded on their depth of insight, knowledge of effective essay organization, and helpful comments and suggestions. You will engage in small groups and respond to your group members’ second draft essays.

- **Midterm and final exams:** These exams will involve both self-reflection on the writing process and analysis of texts and articles.

**Grading Scale:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Participation</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st draft Essays</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd draft Essays</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd draft Essays</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Responses</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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- **A = 900-1000 points**
- **B = 800-899 points**
- **C = 700-799 points**
- **D = 600-699 points**
- **F = 599--below**

**Final Words:**

Summer courses, due to their compressed time frame, are rigorous and time-consuming. If you feel that your schedule can accommodate the intense reading and writing, I look forward to having you in class. I hope to provide you with a rich and rewarding experience in which you grow as a writer and critical thinker. I hope that the topics we study will inspire you and make you curious to learn more. I am committed to creating an optimal learning environment for you.

Please feel free to contact me at mary.petersen@canyons.edu if you have any further questions about the course.

Thank you,
Mary Petersen