

Canisius College and Your Personal Discovery: Engaging the World in a New Way

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ESL Website: www.canisius.edu/english-as-second-language



Presentation Overview

- An American Classroom
 - Course load & Workload
 - Relationship with Professors
 - Syllabus
 - Understanding Grading
- Tips for Academic Success
- Cultural Adaptation
- Canisius Curriculum



An American Classroom: Course load & Workload

- Undergraduates take 4 to 5 courses (12-15 credits)- a typical American course load
- Graduate Students take 3 courses (9 credits)

How many hours of class preparation do I need to be successful?

- A good way to think about it is for every credit-hour you have class, you should study 2 hours more per week.

15 credit-hours in class a week

+ 30 hours of study/homework

45 hours of classwork a week!

- 40 hours a week is a full-time job, school *IS* your full-time job. Often, this means missing out on social activities and losing free time over the weekend.
- In order to do well in a class, you need to work outside of class for a significant amount of time. It is up to you to finish all work. Schedule your time well!
- Class workload will peak at the midway point in the semester and at the end of the semester. Be prepared for this!
- ESL courses have the same workload as all Canisius college courses
- Attendance- in order to be more successful you must attend all classes, not only does it affect your grade- but you can also lose valuable information that is not in the book!



An American Classroom: Relationship with Professors

In American Higher Education it is common for students to have very close relationship with their professors.

How do I address a professor?

- Doctor?
- Professor?
- Teacher?
- Mister?
- Miss?
- Misses?

What are the benefits of getting to know my professor on a personal level?

- Knowledge
- Opportunity
- Ask for more challenging tasks
- Mentorship
- Networking

How can I form a close relationship with my professor?

- After class
- Office hours
- Asking about personal experience or topics that interest you (thesis/dissertation/or other research)



Syllabus

◆ Instructor's Information

- ◆ Instructors want to talk to their students. They list their contact information and office hours so students can ask questions and make appointments.

ENG 1101: College Composition I

Instructor: Dr. Morgan Felix

Phone: (321) 234-5678

E-mail Address: mfelix@yourcollege.edu

Office: Anderson Hall, room 312-B

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday,
1:00-2:30p.m., or by appointment

Syllabus

Course Description:

College Composition I (ENG 1101) is designed to give you training and practice in developing literacy in academic English. In this course, you will read and analyze academic texts, and you will write about those texts with an analytical purpose. Multiple drafts are expected for each writing.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will learn that writing is a process that requires planning, drafting, revising, peer reviewing, and editing.
2. Students will be competent in reading and analyzing college-level texts.
3. Students will be competent in structuring essays appropriate for college courses, using standard English conventions.

Syllabus

□ Required Texts:

- ◆ A syllabus will include any materials that you are expected to purchase

□ Grading System:

- ◆ Professors will show you a break down of what is expected in each class and how much each assignment is worth.

Required Texts:

Kennedy, X. J., Dorothy M. Kennedy, and Jane E. Aaron. The Bedford Reader. 9th ed. Boston: Bedford, 2006.

Hacker, Diana. A Writer's Reference. 6th ed. Boston: Bedford, 2007.

Grading System:

Your final grade will be based on the following:

- Take-home essays, including drafts= 60%
- In-class (timed) essays= 20%
- Attendance and participation= 10%
- Final Exam= 10%

Understanding Grading

- A range- superior performance
- B range- good performance
- C range- adequate performance
- D range- poor, but passing, performance
- F range- failing performance
- FX- Failure due to excessive absences or unauthorized absence from the final examination.

Syllabus

Schedule of Readings and Assignments:

You are required to complete the assigned readings before each class. Major assignments are listed in **bold**.

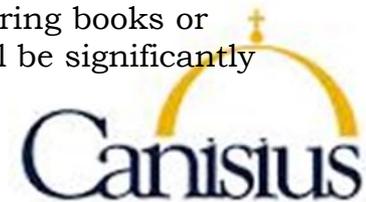
BR= Reading assignments from The Bedford Reader

AWR= Reading assignments from A Writer's Reference

Week	Day	Class Topics	Readings/assignments due
1	Tu	Introduction to the course syllabus	
	Th	In-class diagnostic essay	
2	Tu	Writing description essays	BR: pages 135-58, AWR: C1 and C2
	Th	Essay 1 workshop (focus on global revision)	Essay 1, draft 1 due; AWR: C3a and C3b
3	Tu	Essay 1 workshop (focus on editing)	Essay 1, draft 2 due; AWR: C3c
	Th	Strategies for taking essay tests	Essay 1 final draft due

Be a responsible member of the Learning Community

- The point of a “Learning Community” is to create a safe environment where ideas can be shared and diverse perspectives can be encouraged.
- Although you do not have to agree with others’ opinions, in order to create a safe environment, it is important to listen intently and respect each other’s individual opinions and viewpoints.
- Respect your classmates and professor. We all come from different backgrounds and our experiences shape our personal philosophies.
- Just as a students’ grades are a reflection of their skills it also reflects their participation and social decorum.
- Participation and engagement are part of your obligation in a learning community. Every time that someone contributes their own perspective to the classroom, the knowledge gained in the course becomes richer. When everyone contributes, everyone benefits!
- Any behavior- including use of technology --which is a distraction for you as a student also distracts other members of the learning community.
- Use of a cell phone or tablet to access the web for non-class related materials, failure to bring books or other materials to class, prevent you from being engaged and your participation grade will be significantly lowered.
- Please see the colleges community standards for more.



Tips for Academic Success

There are different types of classes such as lecture, seminar, or lab classes

The American course style is very interactive:

- Participation inside the classroom...
 - Dialogue
 - Group work
 - Oral Presentations
 - Taking notes
- Engagement with coursework outside of the classroom...
 - Homework
 - Papers
 - Journals
 - Written Tests



Tips for Academic Success

Participation

- American classrooms require a great deal of participation.
- Participation counts towards your final grade in the course.
- Professors keep track of how often you speak (think of a tally system)
- Questions, comments, and clarifications are all considered in participation.
- Can't think of anything to contribute to class? Write down questions that you have while you are doing your reading assignments and ask those questions in class.
- Worried about your pronunciation or language skills? Check out these resources, they may help:
<http://www.canisius.edu/english-as-second-language/student/speaking/index.dot>

Group work

- Another common practice in the American classroom is group work.
- The purpose of group work varies depending on the assignment or the classroom.
- Small groups are asked to cooperate and share what each member learned in order to produce a well-informed perspective.
- To properly prepare, make sure you know your information and that all members contribute equally.
- Often group work is considered in the participation grade as well.

Oral Presentations

- Oral presentations are often included either as participation or as a separate “project” or “presentation” grade in the class syllabus.
- Oral presentations are used to demonstrate a student’s knowledge about a specific topic and share the newly learned information with others.
- Oral presentations are almost like teaching a “mini” class for your peers.
- Although oral presentations are often individual, students may be asked to present with a partner or in a small group.



Tips for Academic Success

Strengthening Language Skills

- Many students struggle with language issues especially in the beginning
- Ask your professor to clarify something if you do not understand
- Find a classmate “buddy” that you get along with to clarify when you do not understand something.
- If you do not understand something because it relates to American humor American politics ask about it. Most professors and students would be not only happy to help but would be interested in your perspective.
- Feel free to ask your ESL professors, classroom professors, or the tutoring center if you need help.
- All international students may find our resources on <http://www.canisius.edu/english-as-second-language/student/> helpful as well.

Note-taking

- Detailed note-taking while reading and during class will help you to retain information more easily.
- Not sure how to be a good note-taker? Consider ESL116 and ESL117, although they are “Art of Conversation Classes” classes incorporate practice with good note-taking skills. <http://www.canisius.edu/english-as-second-language/courses/>



Tips for Academic Success

Homework

- Compared to some educational systems- expect a lot of reading
- Learn to skim or scan reading assignments
- Prioritize between assignments (reading vs. papers)
- Time management

Papers

- The American system also tends to value a great deal of written work
- Some papers may be reflective, research, persuasive, etc.
- Exams may even include full-length and short answer essays
- Make sure to properly cite information and do not plagiarize
- For more information you can go to <http://www.canisius.edu/english-as-second-language/student/writing/index.dot>

Journals

- Many classes also include journals which are meant to help students to be reflective on what they are learning.
- Be honest and include things that you understand or do not understand.
- It helps the professors know what to clarify in lessons.



Tips for Academic Success

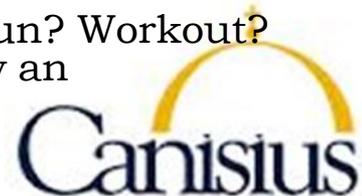
Test taking

- *Plan*: Recognize the amount of time given for the exam and use time wisely so that you can successfully finish all sections of the test.
- *Focus*: Stay focused on your work and your work alone.
- *Evaluate*: Academic and related student support services are available if you find yourself struggling with time constraints. Talk with your academic advisors or the staff in International Student Programs to learn more about support reso

Tips for Academic Success

Use your resources!

- <http://www.canisius.edu/english-as-second-language>
- Student Academic Support Services (SASS)
 - Tutoring Center
 - SASS Presentations to help with study skills
- Practice Time Management
- Use study partners, ask friends in class
- Meet with professors during office hours
- Take detailed notes in class
- Stay healthy
- Find an “outlet” to diffuse stress so you can focus on your classwork- Run? Workout? Play intramural sports? Write in a personal journal? Paint or draw? Play an instrument?



Stages of Cultural Adaptation

1. Honeymoon Stage

- Success in a new culture
- Curiosity
- Interest in the novelty of surroundings
- Appreciation and anticipation of opportunities to come

Stages of Cultural Adaptation

2. Culture Shock- You may feel:

fearful
lonely
homesick
uncomfortable
helpless
incompetent
overwhelmed
Unsure
angry
confused
Anxious

Stages of Cultural Adaptation

3. The Recovery Stage

- After time individuals begin to resolve conflicts
- Regain appreciation felt during first stage
- Know more about internal and external resources
- Feelings are generally a mixture of the first two stages

4. The Adaptation Stage

- Developing a realistic understanding of similarities and differences between their home cultures and the new culture
- Move in the direction of becoming “bicultural”
- Confidence, maturity, flexibility, and tolerance

5. Reverse Cultural Shock



Canisius Curriculum

- ESL
- Undergraduate
- Graduate
- Exchange



First Semester: What courses should you expect to take?

- Course selection depends on whether you are in an exchange program or seeking to complete a degree:
 - *All students:* will be assessed to determine the level of their skills in English.
 - *Freshmen and transfer students:* will take courses depending upon their English language skills and requirements for their degree program at Canisius.
 - *Graduate Students:* will be taking classes to complete their degree requirements. Students placed in English as a Second Language classes will work with their advisor to help plan accordingly.
 - *Exchange students:* will take courses depending upon, their English language skills and the requirements for their degree program at home.



English as a Second Language

Writing

- ESL111: Writing in Context I
- ESL112: Writing in Context II
- FYS101 International: Claiming My Space

Reading

- ESL 114: Reading Across the Disciplines I
- ESL 115: Reading Across the Disciplines II

Speaking & Listening

- ESL 116: The Art of Conversation I
- ESL 117: The Art of Conversation II
- ESL118: Presentations- Skills for Listeners and Speakers

Your ESL Instructors and Associate Dean will determine when you have completed an appropriate number of ESL Courses and can take ENG101

<http://www.canisius.edu/english-as-second-language/courses/>



Undergraduate Core Curriculum

Required:

Fields of Knowledge:

- Field 1: Religious Studies
- Field 2: Philosophy
- Field 3: Arts
- Field 4: History
- Field 5: Social Sciences
- Field 6: Natural Sciences
- Field 7: Mathematical Sciences

Foundations:

- FYS101: Explorations of Academic Writing
- ENG101: Writing About Literature
- RST101: Introduction to Religious Studies
- PHI101: Introduction to Philosophy

Students Generally Complete:

- 15 credits per semester
- 30 credits per year
- 120 credits over four years

Most Degrees Require:

- 40 courses (at 3 credits for each course)
- 120 credits



Graduate Curriculum

- Graduate student requirements:
<http://www.canisius.edu/mba/>
- Full-time status is 9 credit hours a semester (not including summer)
- International Students can participate in an internship for academic credit (students will need to apply for Curricular Practical Training through the International Student Programs office)
- Shuttle service available for international students to Amherst Campus please sign up in the Graduate Business office



Exchange Student Curriculum

Courses you will take:

- ESL courses
- Courses relating to your interests
- Courses relating to the degree you are seeking at your home institution
- Your Academic Advisor will help you to understand courses available to you



Sources

- <http://www.faqs.org/photo-dict/phrase/457/building-blocks.html>
- <http://www.luc.edu/core/overview5.shtml>
- <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/clipart/clip/student2.html>
- http://www.esl-lesson-plan.com/archives/2005/12/esl_textbook_re_1.php
- http://www.clipartpal.com/clipart_pd/education/student_11913.html
- http://www.clipartof.com/gallery/clipart/love_18.html
- http://www.counselingcenter.illinois.edu/?page_id=133
- http://www.school-clipart.com/_pages/0511-0703-2015-4323.html
- <http://www.csbsju.edu/academic-advising/study-skills-guide/lecture-note-taking.htm>
- <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/learning/tentt.html>