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**ENGLISH 1110:504**  
*Composition I* (Online)  
Fall 2021: 8/23-12/11  
CRN: 66308

Instructor: Kelsey Byrne (she/her)  
Online Office Hours: Monday 4:30-5:30pm,  
or by appointment (Zoom link on Learn)  
Email: kbyrne@unm.edu

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There is no such thing as universally “good writing.” What counts as “good writing” in one situation may be completely inappropriate and ineffective in others. If you want to succeed in college and beyond, you’ll need to become an adaptable writer who can adjust your approach and techniques to a wide assortment of audiences, contexts, and purposes. Accordingly, we’ll focus on learning to analyze diverse situations and respond to them effectively. Instead of learning one right way of writing, you’ll work on becoming flexible communicators who can transfer what you learn to new circumstances.

### **Course Description** (per the catalog):

In this course, students will read, write, and think about a variety of issues and texts. Students will develop reading and writing skills that will help with the writing required in their fields of study and other personal and professional contexts. Students will learn to analyze rhetorical situations in terms of audience, contexts, purpose, mediums, and technologies and apply this knowledge to their reading and writing. Students will also gain an understanding of how writing and other modes of communication work together for rhetorical purposes. Students will learn to analyze the rhetorical context of any writing task and compose with purpose, audience, and genre in mind. Students will reflect on their own writing processes, learn to workshop drafts with other writers, and practice techniques for writing, revising, and editing.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Analyze the rhetorical situation for purpose, main ideas, support, audience, and organizational strategies in a variety of genres.
2. Employ writing processes such as planning, organizing, composing, and revising.
3. Use a variety of research methods to gather appropriate, credible information.
4. Evaluate sources, claims, and evidence for their relevance, credibility, and purpose.
5. Quote, paraphrase, and summarize sources ethically, citing and documenting them appropriately.
6. Integrate information from sources to effectively support claims as well as other purposes (to provide background information, evidence/examples, illustrate an alternative view, etc.).
7. Use an appropriate voice (including syntax and word choice).

### **Library Information Literacy Outcomes**

- Students will access Libros library database software and find a book relevant to the writing project.
- Students will learn how to skim the book and find quotations that are both relevant and appropriate for the paper.
- Students will be able to identify what type of database source they have found, e.g. magazine, journal, newspaper, website.
- Students will write a correctly formatted Works Cited page.

This course includes 16 modules. You will complete one module per week for the duration of the term. Modules will open Monday mornings at 12:00am, and they will close Sunday nights at 11:59pm. It is crucial that you stay up to date on your work and complete all parts of each module before it closes. You are responsible for managing your time in accordance with your individual responsibilities and study needs.

All assignments are due on the scheduled day at the scheduled time. Assignments must be submitted via the appropriate links on Learn; assignments submitted via email **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**. Should your individual circumstances prevent you from completing your work on time, get in touch with your instructor to discuss a possible extension. You may be allowed additional time to complete your work on a case-by-case basis.

Students who do not log in in the first week will be dropped.

Don't hesitate to contact your instructor with any questions or concerns.

### Grading

3 Major Writing Assignments (100 pts. each)	300 pts
Peer Reviews (1 for each Major Writing Assignment, 25 pts. each)	75 pts
Reflective Responses (1 for each Major Writing Assignment, 25 pts. each)	75 pts
Reading Guide Questions	200 pts
General Coursework and Activities	150 pts
Portfolio	200 pts
<b>Total Possible Points</b>	<b>1000 pts</b>

Score	Grade
93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
0-59	F

## Navigating this Online Course

Because this class is administered fully online, it is important to have a high level of skill in operating computers. The following tips will help students navigate the course.

- For UNM Learn Technical Support: call (505) 277-0857 (24/7) or use the “Create a Tech Support Ticket” link in your course
- For UNM-Valencia IT Support: call (505)925-8911 or create a support ticket <http://valencia.unm.edu/campus-resources/technology-support/contact-ts.html>
- For UNM Web Conference Technical Help: call (505) 277-0857
- For issues with Blackboard Learn, tutors in the Learning Center can advise you: email [tutor@unm.edu](mailto:tutor@unm.edu) to make an appointment.

Make sure you do all the following at the start of the term and throughout the course:

- Be familiar with your syllabus. It is located on the Blackboard Learn home page for English 1110. Refer to the syllabus throughout the semester when you have questions. Feel free to stop by your instructor’s office hours for personal attention regarding essay requirements or e-mail for an appointment if the hours do not fit into your schedule (office hours will be held online via Zoom).
- Become familiar with Blackboard Learn software. Click on all the Course Tools to discover what is available to you in your online course. You may want to visit The Learning Center at UNM Valencia Campus if you need additional help learning how to navigate.
- Keep copies of all your work. Saving all writing is necessary. Learn how to save Word or RTF files to your desktop or a flash drive.
- Create a routine—here is a suggested routine to help you get started.
  1. Log in! Lessons open on Monday morning and close the following Sunday night. On Monday, log in and review the items in the module for the week. Make sure you have all materials you need to complete the assignments, such as page numbers or links. Jot down due dates and, if you want, print out assignments.
  2. Read the assignments actively, highlighting important ideas. Use any resources (dictionaries, asking questions, etc.) to help you acquire the information the session is trying to relay. Be pro-active and disciplined in your study habits.
  3. Log on periodically throughout the week to check course e-mails and review new threaded discussions or blog responses. Watch for new announcements.
  4. Check Discussions. Read questions I have posted for the week, your classmates’ and my responses, and enter your own answers. Your responses are an important part of your grade, so please take

these exercises seriously. In responses, respect others. Finally, run spell and grammar check on your postings.

5. Importantly, give yourself ample time to submit work well before the deadline. You can submit work right at 11:59 pm, but this practice is very, very risky. For example, computer failures, corrupted discs, and Blackboard Learn outages are no excuse for work not completed (UNM VC policy). Plan for problems like these because meeting deadlines will help you successfully complete the course.

**Instructor Information:** My office hours are Monday afternoons between 4:30 and 5:30, and by appointment. They will be held via Zoom (see the link in our online course). Email me anytime, but keep in mind that I am generally not online after 6:00 pm and before 9:00 am. Please give me 24 hours to respond, Monday through Thursday. I will respond to weekend emails on Monday.

**Tutoring:** Free online tutoring is available through the Writing Center.

### Required Texts and Materials

- There is no required textbook for this course; all reading assignments will be provided via Learn
- UNM email address and access to UNM Blackboard Learn
- Access to Internet and Microsoft Office (free via your UNM account)
- Access to Adobe Reader for PDF documents (downloadable for free)
- Pens and highlighters for annotation

**Attendance Policy and Overall Participation:** It is your responsibility to keep up with reading and assignments, and/or to contact me if you have questions about the material. **Students who fail to log in in the first week will be dropped.**

**Citizenship and/or Immigration Status:** All students are welcome in this class regardless of citizenship, residency, or immigration status. Your instructor will respect your privacy if you choose to disclose your status. As for all students in the class, family emergency-related absences are normally excused with reasonable notice to the instructor, as noted in the attendance guidelines above. UNM as an institution has made a core commitment to the success of all our students, including members of our undocumented community. The Administration's welcome is found on our website: <http://undocumented.unm.edu/>.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism means using language and/or ideas without acknowledging their source. Plagiarism includes such activities as copying another student's papers or ideas, downloading and turning in papers from the Internet, or copying passages from sources without proper documentation, or rephrasing an author's ideas and presenting them as the student's new, original thoughts. Plagiarism in this course may result in one or more of the following consequences: failure of the assignment, failure of the course, or disciplinary action by the University. To learn how to avoid plagiarism, students can speak to their instructor, consult a tutor, or refer to <http://library.acadiu.ca/tutorials/plagiarism/>

### Online Behavior

- Our class is an inclusive environment where everyone is welcome. Treat each other with **respect**. Derogatory remarks, name-calling, trolling, bullying, and bigotry are prohibited.

- Students may discuss with the instructor complaints about the course; however, the students must do so in the proper environment, such as via email or during office hours.
- Discussion boards are a professional learning environment. Treat them as such.
- Sexual harassment will not be tolerated.
- Students violating any of these rules may be dropped.

**Email Netiquette Policy:** Keep the following in mind when you write emails and discussion posts:

- Please avoid text-speak. Learning to write professional emails is a skill you need as you progress to higher academic levels and career pursuits.
- Emails that you write to your instructor during the semester should include professional language, addressed with a subject heading including the type of question you are asking. For example, “Essay 1” would be an appropriate subject heading for a question regarding the first essay.
- Emails should include a salutation. For example, “Dear Ms. XXX” or “Hello Professor XXX” are appropriate salutations. Part of “composition” is learning when and how to use proper diction and registers of language, and in a formal setting like a college course, professional titles are appreciated.
- Please close with an appropriate phrase and sign your email with your name. Some examples of appropriate phrases are “Sincerely,” or “Thank you for your help,”.
- Use short paragraphs (in general, 3-4 lines maximum) to make the email easy to read. In addition, be sure to skip lines between paragraphs.
- Be sure to proofread your email for grammatical errors.

**Equal Access:** Student Services provides academic support to students who have disabilities. If students think they need alternative formats for completing coursework, they should contact this service right away to ensure their needs are met in a timely manner. Students are responsible for getting all documented forms to me as soon as possible. I cannot accommodate any special needs without the proper authorization from UNM Valencia Campus Accessibility Services. They are located at Advisement & Counseling Services, Student Services Building, 280 La Entrada Rd., Los Lunas, NM 87031, 505-925-8560. <http://www.unm.edu/~vcadvise/equalaccess.htm> . Pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), I accommodate documented special needs and encourage students to discuss their concerns with me.

**Required Work and Grading:** All formal writing assignments must follow MLA format, be in Microsoft Word, and be double-spaced in a 12pt, Times New Roman font.

Grades will be determined on a traditional percentage system, with the appropriate plus or minus sign: 100-90% = A (1000-900 points); 89-80% = B (899-800 points); 79-73%= C (799-700 points); 69-60% = D (699-600); and below = F. **You need a “C” (73% or 730 points)** to pass this course.

**Blackboard Learn:** Students are responsible for posting responses to discussion questions and prompts that I have posted on our UNM Blackboard Learn site. These questions are designed to generate discussion, promote further inquiry into our topics, and scaffold the essays.

**Essays** You are required to submit 3 formal 4-5 page assignments (not including the Works Cited page). Each assignment requires at least one credible source to be incorporated in text and in the

Works Cited page. **Wikipedia does not count.** Students may be dropped from the class for failure to turn in one of the major assignments. I will provide instructions and rubrics for each assignment at the beginning of each new unit.

**Late Policy:** You will complete one module per week for the duration of the term. Modules will open Monday mornings at 12:00am, and they will close Sunday nights at 11:59pm. It is crucial that you stay up to date on your work and complete all parts of each module before it closes. You are responsible for managing your time in accordance with your individual responsibilities and study needs. Contact your instructor to discuss the possibility of an extension if you have a legitimate reason for not turning an assignment in on time.

**Participation:** Participation is mandatory in this course. Participation means actively participating in your education; if you do not log-in to Learn and complete assignments on a regular basis you will, most likely, be dropped.

### Final Portfolio

The Final Portfolio packet contains a collection of your writing that indicates whether you have mastered the learning objectives of the course. The Final Portfolio must contain the following items:

1. **Cover Letter:** This letter is addressed to your instructor with an MLA header.
2. **Graded drafts of two Major Writing Assignments with professor comments.**
3. **Revisions of the two Major Writing Assignments.** A thorough revision of each assignment based on your instructor's comments is required.

\*\*All final drafts must be typed and in MLA format.\*\*

**Please Note: You need a "C," at least 73% to pass the course:** A "C -" means that the student has failed the course and must retake the course.

**Student Privacy** Student privacy is strongly protected by professors at UNM-VC. The federal FERPA strictly prohibits the instructor or administrators from talking to anyone but the student about his/her progress. If a student has questions about a grade on an assignment or about the final grade for the course, FERPA dictates that the student is the only one who may speak to the instructor regarding their grades. All other outside requests for information release must be sent to and approved by the UNMVC registrar: (505) 925-8580  
<http://www.unm.edu/~unmvc/Admissions/admiss.htm>

### Technical Support:

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## Title IX Statement

In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty, Teaching Assistants, and Graduate Assistants are considered “responsible employees” by the Department of Education (see page 15 - <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf>). This designation requires that any report of gender discrimination which includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity ([oeo.unm.edu](http://oeo.unm.edu)). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>

**Tutorials:** If you do not know how to use Blackboard Learn, try one of the tutorials available on the information page at <http://online.unm.edu/help/learn/students/>

**Writing Center Tutors Online:** Tutors are available through the Writing Center live in videoconference or phone, or through email (you email a paper and the tutor responds) to support you as you navigate Blackboard Learn and other platforms, make sense of writing assignments, brainstorm approaches and topics, structure appropriate to your genre, revise, edit, and figure out MLA. Tutors will support your choices and will not make them for you.

To make an appointment, email [tutor@unm.edu](mailto:tutor@unm.edu). You can also email the Writing Center Director, Patricia Gillikin, with questions or help getting connected to a tutor. This link has full information on UNM-Valencia tutoring, including math and other subjects: <https://valencia.unm.edu/campus-resources/the-learning-center/learning-center.html>

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