

Course Syllabus

[Jump to Today](#)

Edit

English 271/272: Expository Writing, Fall 2021

Instructor: **Martha Silano**

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Best way to reach me: **Canvas Email Inbox**

Office hour: **Wednesdays, 11:00-12:00 NOON** and/or schedule a convenient time for an appointment on Zoom (Canvas email the instructor)

Office location: **Canvas email or Zoom**

Required Textbook are available at the [BC Bookstore \(Links to an external site.\)](#) or [Amazon.com](#).

All other reading materials for this course will be provided online. Students should have a writing notebook designated particularly for writing exercises by hand for this class.

Course Description:

The word *expository* come from the word *expose* which means *to exhibit openly, to unmask*. We *unmask* by engaging the world on matters that intrigue, delight, and humor us, as well as those that dismay, annoy, and infuriate us. We write about those nagging obsessions that keep us up at night, from the petty to the political, to the existential. This quarter, you will have the opportunity to delve into the issues that grab your attention and to dwell in them, to think deeply-- to unmask--and to discover. We will read and write with an eclectic range of forms including lists, letters, profiles, collages, and braided essays. We will explore the range of tones available to non-fiction writers from the humorous to the profound as we hone our writing skills through a serious study of observation, language, audience, and genre.

Outcomes:

After completing this class, students should be able to:

- Identify implicitly and/or explicitly one's intentions as a writer.
- Define implicitly and/or explicitly the audience for a particular piece of writing.
- Apply appropriate style, tone and format to the writer's purpose and audience.
- Use rhetorical formats conventional to expository writing.
- Demonstrate objectivity toward one's own writing.

- Demonstrate practical uses/applications for expository writing beyond the college classroom.

Writing Projects, Discussions, Peer Reviews (900 points):

- Four (4) Essays: 350 points
- Miscellaneous writing assignments: 130 points
- Discussions: 105 points
- Peer Review participation: 60 points
- Midterm Self-Reflection & Daily Writing: 50 points
- Group Lyric Essay, A Pandemic Year: 50 points
- Revision Assignment: 50 points
- Final Portfolio: 100 points

Late Work Policy:

- Discussions are an integral part of the collaborative class community, so your initial post must come in on time. In addition, discussions only work if you return to them throughout the week and weigh in as your ideas evolve. Late initial discussion posts will not receive credit, and unengaged/uninspired posts will be marked down.
- Revised Assignments can be turned in up to two days late with the understanding that a late penalty will be subtracted (10 points per day for a 100-point assignment, 5 points per day for a 50-point assignment, and 2 points per day for a 20-point assignment).
- Rough drafts of assignments that will go through one or two revisions and peer review **cannot** be made up.

Writing is an act of creation. It is not only putting the words on a page, but uncovering an idea that the author and the reader haven't found before. ~ former Eng 271 student

Grading Policy:

Final course grades at Bellevue College are posted as letter grades. For ease of calculation, grades are based on a percentage system throughout the quarter.

A	93-100%	A-	90-92		
B+	88-89	B	83-87	B-	80-82
C+	78-79	C	73-77	C-	70-72
D+	68-69	D	60-67		
F	59-				

*PLEASE let me know if life has thrown you a curveball, that is, if you are in the midst of illness, a family emergency, or unusual circumstances getting in the way of your

schoolwork. Please **don't just disappear. Let me know what's going on, so I can help you get back on track.**

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is grounds for failure--but what is it?

Plagiarism includes:

- using another's words or ideas and representing them as your own
- having someone write a paper or part of a paper for you
- copying and pasting from Wikipedia or other online sources, etc.
- it is also not acceptable to turn in a paper for this class that you wrote before.

If you have any questions on what counts as plagiarism, it is your responsibility to ask before you turn in any assignments. **If you turn in work with any plagiarized component, you will receive a zero for that assignment, and you will not be able to make it up.** In addition, you may be referred to a college administrator for disciplinary action, and you may be removed from the class.

Affirmation of Inclusion:

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

Values Conflicts: (from the BC Arts & Humanities):

Essential to a liberal arts education is an open-minded tolerance for ideas and modes of expression that might conflict with one's personal values. By being exposed to such ideas or expressions, students are not expected to endorse or adopt them but rather to understand that they are part of the free flow of information upon which higher education depends. To this end, you may find that class requirements may include engaging certain materials, such as books, films, and art work, which may, in whole or in part, offend you. These materials are equivalent to required texts and are essential to the course content. If you decline to engage the required material by not reading, viewing, or performing material you consider offensive, you will still be required to meet class requirements in order to earn credit. This may require responding to the content of the material, and you may not be able to fully participate in required class discussions, exams, or assignments.

Religious Holidays:

Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or any other assignments as a consequence of their religious observance should be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which they will be absent, preferably at the beginning of the term. Students who are absent on days of examinations or class assignments should be offered an opportunity to make up the work without penalty (if they have previously arranged to be absent), unless it can be demonstrated that a makeup opportunity would constitute an unreasonable burden on a member of the faculty. Should disagreement arise over what constitutes an unreasonable burden or any element of this policy, parties involved should consult the **Department Chair, or Dean.**

Reasonable Accommodations for Reasons of Faith and Conscience:

Students who will be absent from course activities due to reasons of faith or conscience may seek reasonable accommodations so that grades are not impacted. Such requests must be made within the first two weeks of the course to the office of the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs (see Bellevue College [Policy 2950 \(Links to an external site.\)](#)). In the event you feel you are being discriminated against based on faith or conscience, you may refer to the procedures outlined in the college's Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation Policy ([1440P \(Links to an external site.\)](#)).

College Anti-Discrimination Statement:

Bellevue College does not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity; color; creed; national origin; sex; marital status; sexual orientation; age; religion; genetic information; the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability; gender identity or veteran status in educational programs and activities which it operates.

Anti-bias in the Classroom Statement:

Bellevue College affirms the diversity of human identities and experiences and is committed to creating spaces free from harassment and discrimination (4000 Institutional Commitment to Inclusion). Furthermore, Bellevue College rejects all forms of racism, homophobia, sexism, xenophobia, religious intolerance, classism, ableism, ageism, language bias, and hate speech or actions that attempt to silence, threaten, or degrade others.

In classroom settings, we might disagree with views shared in the classroom; however, courteous, and respectful behavior and responses are always expected. When providing criticism, it is important to focus on the ideas and not the person.

Faculty are encouraged to disrupt and address hate speech and behaviors. Students are also encouraged to speak up and advocate when they experience, or witness hate speech and behaviors. Faculty, staff, and students also are encouraged to submit a report to the CARE Team regarding any concerns of discrimination, harassment, or inappropriate and disrespectful conduct.

Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity

Any act of academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source), and fabrication and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Success for investigation. Specific student rights, responsibilities, and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct at [Student Conduct](#).

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The Disability Resource Center serves students with disabilities. A disability includes any physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Common disabilities include physical, neurological (e.g. Autism, ADD), and mental health (e.g. depression, anxiety). If you are a student who has a disability or if you think you may need accommodations in order to have equal access to programs, activities, and services, please contact the DRC.

If you require assistance in an emergency, please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan for while in class and contact the DRC to develop a safety plan for while you are elsewhere on campus.

If you are a student with a documented autism spectrum disorder, there is an additional access program available to you. [Contact Autism Spectrum Navigators](#) (ASN). Email and phone number is on the web page. ASN is located in the Library Media Center in D125.

The [DRC](#) office is located in building B Room 132. You can contact the DRC by stopping by B132, calling our desk at 425-564-2498, emailing drc@bellevuecollege.edu, and Deaf students can reach us by Skype (account name **DRCatBC**). For more information about the services we offer, including our Initial Access Application, visit our website: www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc