English 101 is a writing course based on the assumption that writing is a skill and that any skill can be improved through guided practice. The class is designed to give you that guidance and practice so that, no matter what level of skill you start with, you can improve the writing skills you have already acquired and, over the course of the semester, become a better, more confident writer. In addition, the course will help you prepare for the kinds of writing you will be asked to do in your college career. You will explore the question of what constitutes a "fact" for specific purposes, work on analyzing your audience and on tailoring your work for that audience, and learn what it means to identify or construct an issue to write about, to consider and reconsider that issue as you investigate it further, and to craft the best available means of support and expression for your audience and purpose.

The course syllabus will take you through a series of assignments, each of which will focus on a different rhetorical and linguistic skill. While the syllabus specifies what kind of assignment you will do at each stage, it does not tell you what to write about. You can choose your own subjects and follow your own interests while you try out new forms and strategies of writing. You will also have the freedom to specify the audiences you want to address, though we will keep in mind the special situation of academic writing.

In addition to the general goals mentioned above, English 101 has the following specific goals:

1. to help you meet the usage standards of the audience you are addressing;
2. to teach you techniques for helping readers perceive your writing as coherent;
3. to make you aware of word and sentence level stylistic options;
4. to teach you the academic conventions of incorporating and citing the words and ideas of others;
5. to teach you the fundamentals of persuasion and suggest how these are adapted to a variety of special situations in academic writing;
6. to teach you systematic patterns of topic development and organization;
7. to increase your awareness of and ability to use research sources;
8. to make you aware of the importance of critical feedback and revision;
9. to teach you patterns of topic developement and organization.

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Sections of 101

**English 101: Introduction to Writing:** This course is a rigorous introduction to college level writing. It teaches students how to construct and develop issues, analyze and create arguments, use and represent sources, and revise and improve their prose.

**English 101A: Intensive Introduction to Writing:** This version of English 101 has smaller classes and gives greater attention to problems in grammar and sentence structure.

**English 101H: Honors Introduction to Writing:** Students with SAT-verbal scores of 600 or above, or with an AP of 4 or 5 in either Language and Composition or Literature and Composition, and students in the University Honors Program. This course is strongly recommended for students who have tested out of 101 but want to increase their writing ability.

**English 101X: Intensive Introduction to Writing--ESL:** This version of English 101 is for students whose first language is not English. Classes are smaller and greater attention is paid to grammar and to other aspects of written English that are of concern to non-native speakers/writers.

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Please direct inquiries to the Freshman Writing Office at 301-405-3771 or freshman-writing@umd.edu.