

# ENGLISH COMPOSITION

Seminar Leader: Abigail Kafka  
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Seminar Times: Thursdays, 10:45-12:15  
Location: online  
Office Hours: Thursdays 15.30-16.30 (by appointment)  
Credits: 4 ECTS, 2 US Credits  
Expected Workload: 120 hours

## Course Description

In this course, students will study and practice the art of English composition by preparing and composing five different types of essays. Students will work with various coursebook materials, authentic materials, and one another to generate ideas and deepen their understanding of various essay structures, writing strategies and purposes.

## Requirements

### Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

### Attendance

Attendance at all classes is expected. More than two absences (that is absences from two sessions of 90 minutes) in a semester will significantly affect the participation grade for the course. If needed, please consult the Student Handbook for regulations governing periods of illness or leaves of absence.

### Policy on Late Submission of Papers

Essays that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Instructors are not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late. Where an instructor agrees to accept a late essay, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

## Grade Breakdown

Preparation and participation: 30%  
Written assignments: 50%  
Writing improvement: 20%

## Resources

Students will be provided with materials in pdf format as well as links to online resources. Supplemental course materials and notes will be compiled in a course Padlet. Students can also seek help with course-related issues during office hours.

## Schedule

Module 1 corresponds to the Bard Berlin Fall term with 14 weeks of teaching. Please follow the Academic Calendar at BCB for the structure of the Fall term: <https://berlin.bard.edu/for-students/academic-calendars/>

Teaching starts: Monday, 31 August  
Fall Break: 19 - 23 October (1 week)  
Completion Week: 14 - 18 December  
Semester ends: Friday, 18 December

## Course Schedule

### Weeks 1-3

Narrative Essays  
Final draft deadline: September 17

### Weeks 4-6

Compare and Contrast Essays  
Final draft deadline: October 8

### Weeks 7-9

Summary Essays  
Final draft deadline: October 29

### Week 10-12

Argument Essays  
Final draft deadline: November 19

### Week 13-14

Reflection Essays  
Final draft deadline: December 10

## Essay Deadlines

There will be 5 writing assignments of between 200 and 500 words for this course. Deadlines for final drafts are the following:

Essay 1: September 17

Essay 2: October 8

Essay 3: October 29

Essay 4: November 19

Essay 5: December 10

Rough drafts of your writing assignments must be brought to class on these days. Final drafts will be due at the end of the class session.