

# CET Syllabus of Record

**Program:** CET Florence  
**Course Title:** First Year Writing Seminar  
**Course Code:** FL/ENGL 150  
**Total Hours:** 45  
**Recommended Credits:** 3  
**Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings:** English  
**Language of Instruction:** English  
**Prerequisites/Requirements:** First year students

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## Description

This course covers a variety of important writing topics and aims to give students the skills and techniques to present purposeful arguments in high-level writing. Students will work on improving their writing in different areas, through various topics and themes generated by the instructor, but will also have the liberty of choosing the topics for their graded essays. This allows students to develop writing skills not only for the purpose of the course, but to learn to analyze and critique texts using their own interests and fields of study.

## Objectives

During this course, students:

- Improve and diversify overall writing skills through the study of different kinds of texts
- Improve critical reading and thinking skills
- Learn strategies and techniques for creating high level arguments and structuring complex ideas
- Familiarize themselves with research and citation skills

## Course Requirements

Students must complete all reading/writing assignments for each class. Readings may consist of literary, journalistic, scientific and narrative texts.

The instructor will assign short assignments for each topic, approximately 1-2 pages of writing per topic.

Students will complete three papers:

1. Close reading essay (5-6 pages). This essay involves careful and detailed reading of a work of art or text of the student's choice. The goal is for the student to develop skills in analysis through close observation.
2. Lens essay (6-8 pages). The student will choose one of several critical theories discussed in class and use it to examine and analyze another text of his or her choice. The goal is for the student to interpret the chosen text through a particular theory's point of view and enlighten his/her public about the subject.

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3. Research-based argument (10-12 pages). Students have the freedom to choose their own topic (with approval by instructor) and create a well-grounded thesis and argument, supported by research. This essay invites students to hone their close reading and critical skills acquired from the first two essays, along with using academic research to support their position.

Students prepare for each of the three major essays through short pre-draft assignments as well as through graded and revised drafts approved and discussed individually with instructor.

All essays will be evaluated according to: thesis, evidence and analysis, structure, style, and revision.

### **Methods of Evaluation**

The final grade is determined as follows:

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Attendance/Participation | 10% |
| Close reading essay      | 20% |
| Lens essay               | 25% |
| Research essay           | 35% |
| Topic assignments        | 10% |

### **Texts**

Course packet distributed by instructor

### **Outline of Course Content**

Each topic will be covered in 1-2 weeks.

Topic 1 – Introductions and Conclusions

Topic 2 – Creating a thesis

Topic 3 – Analysis of film/literature/art and socio-economic/political issues

Topic 4 – Peer revision

Topic 5 – Summary writing

Topic 6 – Creating a working outline

Topic 7 - Creating a research proposal

Topic 8 – Recognizing themes

Topic 9 – Sources and Citations