

# AVANT-GARDE POETRY & PAINTING

## BUILDING MULTIMODAL COMMUNICATION & RESEARCH SKILLS

### Course Texts

*1102 Guide to First-Year Writing (via TopHat)*

*I Remember* by Joe Brainard (provided as PDF)

Additional PDFs and readings will be posted on iCollege.

### Course Description

This course will utilize poetry and painting from a range of avant-garde writers and artists to explore the multimodal languages of American art practices. By activating the etymological root between the words experiment and experience—“*experiri*,” meaning “to try or to test”—this course will try and test various creative and critical approaches to the arts to gain an experiential, historical, and rhetorical understanding of aesthetic innovation as a means of improving our own skills as writers. In other words, we’ll be studying art and art practices not to become artists or literary scholars, but to find new ways to imagine and improve our capabilities as writers, communicators, and researchers.



Joan Mitchell, *City Landscape*, 1955. Courtesy of The Art Institute of Chicago.

### Dr. Sturm’s Contact Info & Office Hours Schedule

**Email:** [nsturm@gsu.edu](mailto:nsturm@gsu.edu)

#### Office hours for Fall 2021:

In-person office hours are available by **appointment only** on Thursdays 3pm-5pm at 25 Park Place Room 2335.

Virtual office hours via Zoom are available by appointment based on our shared availability and schedules.

Zoom Link for Office Hours:

[https://uso4web.zoom.us/j/2051056227?](https://uso4web.zoom.us/j/2051056227?pwd=cWZ5QTFRY2pCMWFkTjhZQldMdk96Zz09)

[pwd=cWZ5QTFRY2pCMWFkTjhZQldMdk96Zz09](https://uso4web.zoom.us/j/2051056227?pwd=cWZ5QTFRY2pCMWFkTjhZQldMdk96Zz09)

Passcode: oNPRsN

\*\*\*See Page 7 of this syllabus for policies related to COVID-19 and wearing face masks

This first-year writing course writing will approach these artists and the questions their work provokes in contemporary American culture as it relates to gender, race, sexuality, representation, politics, and other themes and concepts. We will actively participate in and contribute to this aesthetic discourse in an effort to develop effective strategies of multimodal (written, oral, visual, electronic, and nonverbal) communication. By the end of the semester, our course goal is to become familiar with and critically appreciate avant-garde poetry and painting as a means of becoming more adept and confident communicators.

## Artifact 1

**Experimental Index:** In groups of four, students will compile experimental indexes that track themes related to gender, sexuality, art, labor, metaphysics, and family/friendship in Joe Brainard's *I Remember*.

## Artifact 2

**Voicing Visual Art:** Students will individually create an informative website that hosts a podcast-like audio segment describing a work of visual art while also investigating its aesthetic, cultural, political, and/or historical importance.

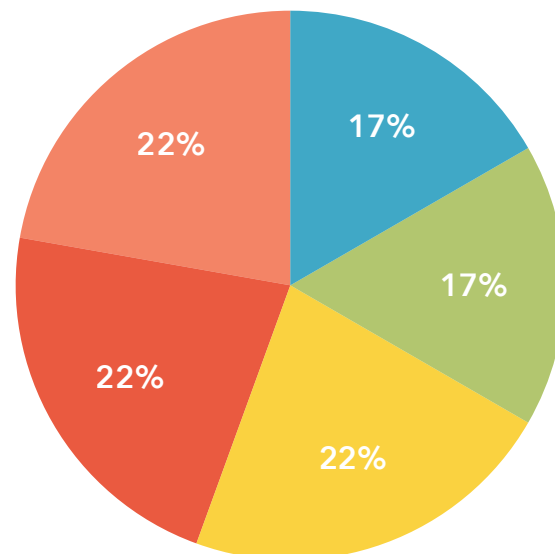
## Artifact 3

**Multimodal Digital Research Project:** This artifact will allow students to pick an individual artist and create an original website-based research project investigating a specific aspect of their work. Ideally, students will develop their project around their own personal interests in consultation with Dr. Sturm. The project will develop through feedback and research assistance from both peers and Dr. Sturm.

# Assignments

Students will complete three primary artifacts and a final reflective portfolio. Assignments will include individual work and group collaboration in a variety of multimodal processes that will challenge and expand students' skills as readers and communicators by exploring the course themes.

- Artifact 1: 150 points
- Artifact 2: 150 points
- Artifact 3: 200 points
- Reflective Portfolio: 200 points
- Participation: 200 points



Artifacts 1, 2, and 3 account for over half of the available points for the semester. Along with the reflective portfolio, which functions as the final exam for this course, students' participation grade accounts for about one quarter of the total grade. Participation means active, inquisitive, professional engagement during discussion, among peers, and as translated into students' work. Completion of a series of questionnaires—generative question-based writing assignments due at the beginning of class discussion on new texts, sources, or other assignments—account for a significant portion of the participation grade. Questionnaires are evaluated on timely completion and the development of specific responses to the provided questions and prompts.

## COURSE SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR UPDATE AT ANY TIME

Week 1	IN-CLASS	WHAT TO DO
Tuesday, August 24	Introduction to course	Fill out Statement of Understanding by 8/31
Thursday, August 26	Discuss readings	Read poetry packet PDF
Week 2		
Tuesday, August 31	Discuss readings and view paintings	<b>DUE:</b> Turn in Statement of Understanding to Dr. Sturm
Thursday, September 2	Discuss readings and poems from packet	<b>DUE:</b> Questionnaire 1
Week 3		
Tuesday, September 7	Discuss <i>I Remember</i> ; Artifact 1 groups assigned	Read <i>I Remember</i> by Brainard up to pg 100; <b>DUE:</b> Questionnaire 2
Thursday, September 9	Discuss <i>I Remember</i>	Read <i>I Remember</i> to end
Week 4		
Tuesday, September 14	In-class group work & planning	Continue collaborative process
Thursday, September 16	In-class group work & planning	Continue collaborative process
Week 5		
Tuesday, September 21	In-class peer review	<b>DUE:</b> Artifact 1 draft
Thursday, September 23	In-class peer review	<b>DUE:</b> Artifact 1 revised draft
Week 6		
Tuesday, September 28	Discuss set of paintings in class (no student prep necessary); introduction to Artifact 2	<b>DUE:</b> Artifact 1 (submit on iCollege by 11:59pm Sunday 9/26)
Thursday, September 30	Discuss "The Lonely Palette" episodes	<b>DUE:</b> Questionnaire 3 on "The Lonely Palette" podcast & Artifact 1 Reflection
Week 7		
Tuesday, October 5	In-class work & planning	
Thursday, October 7	In-class work & planning	<b>DUE:</b> Artifact 2 Proposal due on iCollege by 11:59pm Friday 10/8
Week 8		

Tuesday, October 12	In-class work & planning	
Thursday, October 14	In-class work & planning	Plan to record
<b>Week 9</b>		
Tuesday, October 19	In-class work & planning	Plan to record
Thursday, October 21	Day off to work with group completing Artifact 2–NO CLASS	<b>DUE:</b> Artifact 2 due on Sunday October 2 by 11:59pm
<b>Week 10</b>		
Tuesday, October 26	Introduction to Artifact 3	<b>DUE:</b> Artifact 2 Reflection
Thursday, October 28	In-class work & planning	
<b>Week 11</b>		
Tuesday, November 2	In-class work & planning	<b>DUE:</b> Artifact 3 Proposal with developed source list
Thursday, November 4	In-class work & planning	
<b>Week 12</b>		
Tuesday, November 9	In-class work & planning	
Thursday, November 11	In-class work & planning	
<b>Week 13</b>		
Tuesday, November 16	In-class work & planning	<b>DUE:</b> Artifact 3 Progress Report
Thursday, November 18	In-class work & planning	
<b>Week 14</b>		
Tuesday, November 23	Thanksgiving Holiday	NO CLASS
Thursday, November 25	Thanksgiving Holiday	NO CLASS
<b>Week 15</b>		
Tuesday, November 30	In-class peer review	
Thursday, December 2	Final Instructional Day; In-class work on Reflective Portfolio	<b>DUE:</b> Artifact 3 by 11:59pm Sunday December 5
<b>Finals Week</b>		
Thursday, December 9	Choose to meet with Dr. Sturm virtually for feedback on portfolio	<b>DUE:</b> Reflective Portfolio due on iCollege, Thursday Dec 9 by 5pm

## Course Catalog Description

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ENGL 1102 is a composition course designed to increase the student's ability to construct written prose of various kinds. The course focuses on methods of organization, analysis, research skills, and the production of short argumentative and expository essays; readings consider issues of contemporary social and cultural concern. *Passing grade is C.*

## Learning Objectives

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By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Engage in writing as a process, including various invention heuristics (brainstorming, for example), gathering evidence, considering audience, drafting, revising, editing, and proofreading.
- Engage in the collaborative, social aspects of written composition, and use these as tools for learning.
- Use language to explore and analyze contemporary multicultural, global, and international questions.
- Demonstrate how to use composition aids, such as handbooks, dictionaries, online aids, and tutors.
- Gather, summarize, synthesize and explain information from various sources.
- Use grammatical, stylistic, and mechanical formats and conventions appropriate for a variety of audiences, but in particular the formal academic audience that makes up the discourse community with which you will also become more familiar in this course.
- Critique your and others' work in written, visual, and oral formats.
- Produce coherent, organized, readable compositions for a variety of rhetorical situations.
- Reflect on what contributed to your composition process and evaluate your own work.

In addition to these common objectives, students will:

- Develop individual processes of multimodal communication.
- Develop and hone both critical thinking skills and an aesthetic awareness of critical issues.
- Learn to approach all texts (visual, written, digital, etc.) through a critical lens.

## Approach to the Course

As a hybrid workshop-seminar that pairs daily reading and media interaction with weekly reflection and analysis, your attentive presence and active participation in class discussions is necessary to your success and, when it comes to collaborative work, your peers' success as well.

## Policies

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### Expectations of a University-Level Student

English 1101 and 1102 are often the first university-level classroom experience for most students and may be one of your first classes at GSU. The expectations in this space and community may be very different from those of your previous classrooms and teachers. The following suggestions will help you succeed in this class and others at the college level

- Read and know the policies stated on the course syllabus
- Adhere to all submission guidelines and procedures set out by your instructor
- Attend class
- Attend class prepared to participate, having completed any assigned work for the day, and to complete any work assigned in class

- Follow the posted schedule for the course for attendance and work
- Keep track of all deadlines and tasks whether given on a printed calendar, in an electronic form (e.g., email or iCollege), on the board, or verbally in class
- Correspond with your instructor in a respectful and polite way
- Talk to your instructor and ask questions when they arise (this may be in class, via email, or during office hours)
- Schedule an appointment or stop by during office hours to discuss details of your coursework, grades, or any other private matters (the classroom is public and not the best place for these conversations)

### **Community**

We are part of a learning community dedicated to supporting a positive environment for all participants. We must treat one another with **respect** at all times. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important relating to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, and nationalities. Disruptive behavior such as disrespecting a member of the class, eating, sleeping, text messaging, web browsing, holding personal conversations, or doing work for other classes does not support this community. If you are disturbing the class, I may ask you to leave for the day, forfeiting any in-class assignments we may complete after your departure. If disruptive behavior continues or a pattern of disruption occurs, additional steps may be taken, including permanent removal from the course. Keep in mind that our community does not end at the classroom door, but extends to our iCollege space, course emails, and all other out-of-class environments used for our course interactions.

Please see [http://codeofconduct.gsu.edu/files/2016/09/Disruptive\\_Student\\_September9\\_2016.pdf](http://codeofconduct.gsu.edu/files/2016/09/Disruptive_Student_September9_2016.pdf) for information regarding GSU's Disruptive Student Behavior Policy.

### **Mature Themes**

Quite often, course materials and class discussions will deal with issues of sexuality, race, and violence, and other potentially sensitive and/or triggering topics and themes. In such cases, I expect students to be respectful, and to approach both the material, your classmates, and me with the utmost maturity. If students are at any point unsafe or anticipate being uncomfortable, I encourage you to come speak with me as soon as possible. If you ever need to leave the classroom due to course content, you have my complete consent to do so.

### **Community of Care and Mental Health Resources**

Being a student can be stressful; you often have a lot to manage between classes, personal life, family, and work. In addition, writing and composing are vulnerable acts. As part of our effort to form a supportive community in this class, we should strive to look out for one another. A kind word, an enthusiastic comment about a peer's writing, or simply offering to listen can go a long way toward this goal. If stresses emerge regarding your course work, please speak with me. I will strive to support each of you in your academic life.

As a student, you may experience a range of challenges that can interfere with learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, substance use, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may impact your ability to attend class, concentrate, complete work, take an exam, or participate in daily activities. Problems with relationships, family worries, loss, housing or food insecurity, or a personal struggle or crisis can also contribute to decreased academic performance. In these cases, please consider taking advantage of the resources the university provides through the Dean of Students' Office or the Counseling and

Testing Center. You can reach Counseling at <https://counselingcenter.gsu.edu/> and 404-413-1640 and the Dean of Students Student Advocacy team at 404-413-1515.

### **Attendance/Punctuality/Participation**

Attendance is expected and integral to success in the course. You should come to class each day, on time and prepared to work, and be sure to stay for the duration of the class. While in class, focus on the work of the day in our course and refrain from conducting personal business or work for other classes. A 15% portion of your final course grade is connected to daily writing and activities structured to help you be successful in the course. This 15% can raise or lower your final grade by one and a half letter grades and can determine whether or not you pass the class. If you ever have questions about your course grade or attendance record, please feel free to ask me. We will go over your current standing and how, if needed, you may improve your engagement in class and your in-class writing grade.

Our course is designed as a face to face course and, as such, your success will rely on your being in class to interact with course materials, other students, and me. Even though we may use iCollege and other online platforms for discussions and completing work, nothing can replace the in-person interaction during class. For this reason, no daily writing or in-class work can be made up if you are absent. In other words, you can't simply make up work on your own, submit it to iCollege, and presume I will accept it.

Just as your attendance is critical to your success in this course, so is your active participation. This means regular, meaningful contributions to our class discussions, be they ideas, statements, questions, or written responses. Participation in a university-level classroom may seem intimidating at first. Some of you may be nervous speaking in front of others—you're not alone as most of us have been there. Public speaking is unavoidable, both for the duration of your academic career and beyond. Overcoming this unease is remarkable, and is something you should be very proud of. Additionally, because we are a learning community, your thoughts and questions are absolutely vital to the success of our class. We will all work to make our class a place where all feel comfortable sharing their work and ideas.

### **Supplemental Attendance Policies related to COVID-19**

Students who want to do well in this course will attend class following the attendance policy. You will need an excused absence due to illness. GSU has a new process for students seeking excused absences through the Dean of Students Office. Please submit documentation to <https://deanofstudents.gsu.edu/student-assistance/professor-absence-notification/>. I will then be notified by the Dean of Students of any excused absences. **Anyone who has a positive COVID test is encouraged to alert the university so that appropriate contact tracing can be conducted.**

### **Wearing a Face Mask in Class**

You are encouraged to wear a face covering in all class meetings. I know that face masks may make some aspects of class more difficult. It will be harder for us all to project our voices and read each other's facial expressions. However, I am willing to sacrifice these elements since wearing a mask is one thing I can control to support the health and safety of our community. Be aware that wearing face mask is not required by GSU, so there is no penalty if you choose to not wear a mask. Our university community has a strong tradition of upholding the value of mutual respect, we therefore ask students to not engage in behavior that would be disruptive if your fellow students make a different choice about wearing masks. If you have concerns, please discuss them with me and I will work to the best of my ability to provide a comfortable environment conducive to student learning.

### **Missed and Late Work**

Generally, late major projects and papers are not accepted. However, I understand that emergencies can arise. Late assignments will therefore be evaluated on a case-by-case basis in keeping with the university policy on excused absences. All major assignments must be completed to pass the course. Please see me to discuss allowances that I can make in the case of a necessary absence (such as a documented illness or family emergency).

### **Communication**

Assignment material, changes to our schedule, or other announcements will be made in class, sent via email, and/or posted on our class iCollege site. Remember, you are responsible for all information covered in class, including days you are absent. I suggest you share phone numbers or email addresses with at least one of your classmates in the event you must miss class one day.

If you would like to contact me outside of class, please do so via email or come by during my office hours. You may have questions or just want to chat—I encourage both! I typically check my email on weekdays during regular work hours. This means I may not receive an email you send on Friday night until Monday—plan accordingly. Additionally, while we each have preferred email accounts, I will only send emails to your GSU student email account, per university policy. All correspondence, therefore, will come to yourcampusid@student.gsu.edu from my @gsu.edu faculty email account. Please check this account regularly as any communication outside of class will be sent to this address.

### **Artifact Submission**

All major assignments will be submitted electronically to our class iCollege site. Emailed assignments will not be accepted unless specifically noted otherwise in class or on an assignment sheet.

### **Plagiarism**

You should familiarize yourself with Georgia State's policy on Academic Honesty ([https://codeofconduct.gsu.edu/files/2019/07/2019\\_7\\_3\\_Academic\\_Honesty.pdf](https://codeofconduct.gsu.edu/files/2019/07/2019_7_3_Academic_Honesty.pdf)). This policy refers to every piece of writing you do for class, drafts, reading responses, and finished essays alike. If you are ever unsure what may or may not be plagiarism, please do not hesitate to ask me. In fact, I welcome your questions. Any work that is turned in to this class that is plagiarized or violates the university academic honesty policy will receive an automatic 0 for the assignment grade. Furthermore, I may refer you to the College of Arts and Sciences for further disciplinary action or course penalties.

Georgia State University defines plagiarism as “. . . any paraphrasing or summarizing of the works of another person without acknowledgment, including the submitting of another student's work as one's own . . . [It] frequently involves a failure to acknowledge in the text . . . the quotation of paragraphs, sentences, or even phrases written by someone else.” At GSU, “the student is responsible for understanding the legitimate use of sources . . . and the consequences of violating this responsibility.” In addition, students are required to be honest in their academic work by writing their own papers. Handing in writing or other content you receive from someone else or allowing someone else to heavily edit or write work for you constitutes an academic honesty violation.

### **Incompletes**

In order to receive an incomplete, a student must inform the instructor, either in person or in writing, of his/her inability to complete the requirements of the course. A grade of incomplete will only be considered for students who meet the following three conditions: passing the course with a C or better; present a legitimate, non-academic reason to the instructor (documentation may be required); have only one major assignment left to finish. Assignment of incompletes and the terms for removal of the “I” will be set at the instructor's discretion.



### **Student Accommodations**

Students who wish to request accommodation for a disability may do so by registering with the Office of Disability Services. Georgia State University complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by the Office of Disability Services of a signed Accommodation Plan and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to instructors of all classes in which an accommodation is sought. Also, please schedule an appointment with me so that we may discuss any accommodations you need in our class during office hours. To respect your privacy, we will not discuss these accommodations in class.

### **Writing Studio**

The Georgia State University Writing Studio writes, “The purpose of the Writing Studio is to enhance writing instruction by providing undergraduate and graduate students with an experienced reader who engages them in conversation about their writing assignments and ideas, and familiarizes them with audience expectations and academic genre conventions. We focus on the rhetorical aspects of texts, and provide one-on-one, student-centered teaching that corresponds to each writer’s composing process. Although we are not a line-editing or proofreading service, we are happy to discuss grammar concerns with students from a holistic perspective and offer additional resources that can aid students in building confidence. In tutor sessions, tutors will be alert listeners, will ask thoughtful questions, and will not judge or evaluate the work in progress. We offer confidential, 30 minute sessions (for undergraduate students) and 60 minute sessions (for graduate students) for face-to-face tutoring. Through Write/Chat, our online tutoring service, we also offer similarly-timed sessions for remote interactions. For instructors and faculty, the GSU Writing Studio often sponsors workshops and classroom visits, led by faculty and staff, on various topics dealing with academic writing. Finally, all are welcome to take advantage of our print resources and quick-help handouts that respond to the most popular requests and topics. Please visit the Writing Studio in 25 Park Place (The Sun Trust Building), Room 2420 or at [www.writingstudio.gsu.edu](http://www.writingstudio.gsu.edu) for more information. We look forward to seeing you.”

This service is free and a valuable resource for all writers, and I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this space. Please note, that you will need to make an appointment for tutoring at [www.writingstudio.gsu.edu](http://www.writingstudio.gsu.edu), although you are welcome to stop by the Studio to get information or to get assistance with making an appointment.

### **Online Evaluation of Instructors**

Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at Georgia State. Upon completing the course, please take time to fill out the online course evaluation.

### **Title IX at Georgia State University**

The Title IX Coordinators are the designated university officials with primary responsibility for coordinating the compliance with Title IX. This includes providing leadership for Title IX activities; providing consultation, education and training; and helping to ensure the university responds appropriately, effectively and equitably to Title IX issues. Contact information for the Title IX Coordinators are available at the bottom of [this site](#).