

## **Facilitating vs. Teaching**

First-year teaching assistants in the Department of English are TAs who facilitate rather than teach courses. In this context, *facilitate* means that the TAs manage designated Blackboard forums in which the TAs interact regularly and asynchronously with undergraduate students, especially ENGL 1303 or 1304 students, about the students' progress on assigned papers. The undergraduate students' Blackboard interactions serve as half of their required classwork.

Facilitators do not grade the students' writing in Blackboard forums, but guide and support the students, offering strategic feedback.

After earning 18 graduate hours (i.e., usually after their first year of their TAship), teaching assistants become teaching fellows. TFs are instructors of record: they teach their own classes. Almost all TFs begin by teaching ENGL 1303 and/or ENGL 1304 and then move on to a mix of ENGL 1303 or 1304 and 2000-level English classes.

## **1000-level English Courses vs. 2000-level English Courses**

The English Department's 1000-level English courses consist mostly of First Year Writing I (ENGL 1303) and First Year Writing II (ENGL 1304). Usually, undergraduate students complete these courses to earn their required six hours of Communication component area credit in the Core Curriculum. Both of the courses are offered in face-to-face, hybrid (half-online), or fully online formats, but the majority of class sections meet face to face.

The Department's 2000-level English courses include Introduction to Fiction, Introduction to Poetry, Introduction to Drama, Literature and Film, Literature and Culture, and Creation and Performance of Literature. Students who take these courses may have any major or minor. Many students take 2000-level English courses to earn required credit hours in either the Language, Philosophy, and Culture (LPC) component area or the Creative Arts (CA) component area of the Core Curriculum.