

ENG 101: Composition (CRN: 30515)  
Instructor: Susan Lynch  
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Saturday, 9:00-11:45 a.m.  
Thames Campus Rm. 226

### Course Description

College Composition engages students in critical thinking, reading, and writing. The course prepares students for the types of writing required in college courses and for meeting the conventions of college English. Writing assignments require students to develop their own points of view and to demonstrate understanding of complex issues and ideas. In addition, methods of research, including the use of the library, appropriate documentation of sources, and incorporation of sources in original papers, will be taught through assigned writings. A placement test is required for enrollment.

**PLEASE NOTE: If you were advised to enroll in ENG 094 or ENG 100 as a result of your placement test and you have not done so, you are placing yourself at a serious disadvantage in this class. It will be difficult for you to achieve the outcomes of the course without basic skills. I strongly advise you to take ENG 094 or ENG 100 before taking ENG 101.**

### Required Texts

*Rereading America: Cultural Contexts for Critical Thinking and Writing* by Gary Colombo, Robert Cullen, and Bonnie Lisle (6<sup>th</sup> edition)

*A Writer's Reference* by Diane Hacker (5<sup>th</sup> edition)

### Learning Outcomes

If you successfully complete this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Read challenging essays and identify the main ideas and points of view in them.
- Compare and contrast various perspectives on a topic.
- Analyze a particular perspective or argument on a topic and evaluate its merits.
- Develop your own perspective on a topic and state that perspective clearly in a written thesis.
- Support the thesis with specific and detailed evidence from readings, research, and/or from personal observation and experience.
- Document information from other sources using MLA format.
- Use effective writing strategies to engage the reader, your audience.
- Employ strategies for effective global revision of writing, especially organization and paragraph coherence.
- Employ strategies for effective editing, including attention to grammar and usage.
- Conduct basic library research, including accessing basic print media and electronic databases.
- Collaborate with others in analyzing writing, developing points of view, and conducting research.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

### **Responses to Readings 15%**

Each set of assigned reading will require a written response. These responses are designed to help you clarify your ideas about the authors' themes or points of view. Some of the readings will be easily accessible; others will require effort to understand them. Each reading response will be two, typed, double-spaced pages long, unless I say otherwise. They will be assessed for the quality of ideas that you present in them.

### **Major Essays 20%**

Because the focus of this course is on the writing process, your "tests" will be several essays assigned throughout the semester. Each essay provides an opportunity for me to see both how well you understand what you have read and how clearly and thoroughly you can express your ideas on paper. In preparation for each of these essays, we will discuss and practice the necessary skills on which you will be graded.

### **Participation 15%**

Participation in this class will take many forms. They include, but are not limited to the following:

- attending class regularly;
- participating regularly in class discussions;
- working in small groups;
- sharing a piece of writing with the class/small group;
- generating ideas and essay topics;
- editing drafts;
- completing in-class writing assignments.

All of these activities will help you prepare for the reading and writing that you will complete independently for the course.

### **Writing Portfolio 50%**

The writing portfolio contains a collection of your best work, polished to the highest degree. From the collection of writings produced during the semester, you will select 15-20 pages to include in the portfolio. These pages, together with a reflective cover letter introducing the work and explaining your choices, comprise the Writing Portfolio. In selecting which writings to include, the only mandatory requirement is that one essay must be a research essay. This research essay must be a minimum of five full pages in length, not including a Works Cited page. The Writing Portfolio will receive one letter grade as a total body of work.

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### **Format of Assignments**

Unless we are working on an in-class writing activity, all work must be word processed or typed, using the following format:

- 1-inch margins
- double spacing
- standard size type (about 12 point)
- plain font (Times New Roman, for example)
- No italics or script; no use of all caps

Whenever I specify a number of pages, I mean typed pages of approximately 250 words per page.

## **Late Work**

Because your involvement in the classroom is vital for all of us, I expect you to submit all work on time. If you come to class without your assignment for the day, your ability to participate in the class is limited. As a result your Participation grade will suffer. **If you miss an assignment, I will only accept it one week beyond the due date.** Beyond one week from the due date, the assignment will not be accepted and you will receive a 0.

The final Writing Portfolio will not be accepted after the due date. If you fail to submit the portfolio on time, then you will fail the course.

## **Academic Honesty**

Plagiarism is a violation of academic honesty. It occurs when you take credit for someone else's work and submit it as your own, either intentionally or through the careless documentation of sources. Any plagiarized work will result in an F on that assignment and possibly an F for the semester. In this class, we will talk about how to avoid plagiarism.

## **The Writing Center**

I encourage you to visit the Writing Center and review your writing with a tutor. Tutors can help you to get started on an assignment, to work through writer's block, or address specific problems in grammar and writing techniques. All tutors have successfully completed this course and are specially trained to work with students. Please understand, though, that tutors are not there to do your work for you. They will not generate original ideas for a paper, nor will they edit your papers for you.

## **Time Management**

Between the readings, written responses, essays, and research that you will complete this semester, you should plan on spending an average of about 4-5 hours per week on work for this course. Don't procrastinate!

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## **Students with Disabilities**

Any student with a hidden or visible disability which might require classroom modifications should see me within the first week or two of class. I will ask you to see one of the learning disabilities counselors on campus so that together we can work out an appropriate plan to meet your needs.

## **Withdrawal from Class**

Up to November 4, a student may officially withdraw at the Registrar's Office for any reason without the signature of the faculty. From November 4 through November 28, a student may withdraw with the signature of the instructor or advisor. A student who stops attending class, but who never officially withdraws, will receive a grade of F for the semester. There are **no** withdrawals after November 28. Please review the student handbook or the course registration booklet for more detailed information.

## **Messages and Conferences**

The best way to contact me outside of class is to email me at the address above. I encourage you to meet with me to talk about your writing and your grades; the best time is immediately before or after class. Don't be shy; I'm here to help.

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## **An Important Note About Attendance**

Because this class meets weekly, attendance does impact your grade. We will meet only 15 times in the semester. If a student is absent just twice, he or she will have already missed 10% of the classes. Therefore, it is important for you to understand that with a 3rd absence, I will deduct 10% from your Participation grade. Every absence after the third one will result in an additional deduction of 5% per absence from your Participation grade

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