

**English Composition 101**  
**Three Rivers Community College**  
**Spring 2015 Online**

**Instructor: Todd Barry**

**Office: C-272**

**Office Hours: Tues 2-4, Wed 3:30-4:30, and by appt.**

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**Required Texts:**

- Barrios, Barclay. *Emerging: Contemporary Reading for Writers*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Boston: Bedford-St. Martin's, 2013. Print.
- Graff, Gerald. *They Say/I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*. 3rd ed. New York: Norton, 2010. Print.

**Course Overview:**

College Composition engages students in critical observation, reading, and writing. This course prepares the student for the exposition, analysis, and argument required in college writing, and for meeting the conventions of college English. Writing assignments require that students develop their own points of view and demonstrate understanding of complex ideas and issues. Methods for research, including use of the library, appropriate documentation, and incorporation of sources in original papers will be taught through assigned writings.

**Learning Goals of this Seminar:**

*Upon successful completion of these courses, students should be able to:*

**Respond to Rhetorical Situations**

- Adapt writing as audience and purpose requires
- Develop and apply an independent writing process that includes generating, revising, editing, and proofreading
- Reflect on and explain writing choices regarding audience and purpose

**Engage with and Use Authoritative Sources**

- Use the reading process to differentiate between supporting points, evidence, and reasoning in complex texts (texts that engage with multiple perspectives and use a variety of rhetorical strategies and evidence)
- Employ effective annotation skills to the reading of complex texts
- Locate and evaluate sources appropriate to the rhetorical situation
- Interpret and analyze argument, evidence, and rhetorical strategies in complex texts

- Evaluate information in complex texts for accuracy, validity, and relevance, with particular attention to the type and purpose of source material
- Demonstrate critical and evaluative reading comprehension
- Write accurate summaries and paraphrases of complex texts and differentiate these from student's own writing
- Respond to an argument in a complex text and synthesize perspectives in multiple texts
- Integrate complex texts to fulfill the rhetorical purpose

### **Craft Logical Arguments**

- Produce essays with clear thesis statements (or controlling ideas) and logical support for assertions
- Compose unified, coherent, and fully developed paragraphs with attention to transitions and signal phrasing for source material
- By the end of the semester, write at least one thesis-driven, text-based essay of 1500 words demonstrating competent argumentation using complex texts

### **Apply Language Conventions**

- Apply Standard English language conventions (diction, tone, or level of formality) consistently, with particular attention to college-level writing situations
- Cite varied sources in MLA citation style

### **Course Assignment Requirements**

- 1) **Readings:** Do the readings and be prepared to discuss them when assigned.
- 2) **Short Writings:** Throughout the semester you will be asked to complete several short writing assignments. These pieces will often be exercises in employing concepts learned in class/reading, or will be opportunities for you to make connections between the ideas you encounter.
- 3) **Essays:** The English Department requires that all students in 101 write at least 20 pages of revised, polished prose by the end of the semester. In our class, these pages will mainly come in the form of four major essays.

### **Formatting your Essays:**

- Use 12-point Times New Roman font, left-justified with one-inch margins.
- On the first page of the paper, in the upper left-hand corner, place your name, course title, my name, assignment name, due date.
- Your title should then appear two spaces down, centered on the page. Please note that the assignment name is not the title of your essay.
- The body of your essay is double-spaced.
- Number pages beginning on page one in the upper right hand corner with your last name and the page number.

- A cover or title page is not necessary.
- Use MLA citation to document sources.

### **Essay Grading:**

The following is what you should expect to earn if your paper has the following qualities:

An “A” paper is excellent and has a clear thesis or focus, along with strong points that ground the argument of the paper. It will be thought-provoking, both for the writer and its readers. The paper will be well organized, with a logical flow of ideas, and will offer evidence to support the argument. This paper will answer the prompt fully and have few grammatical errors. It will work with other texts in a thoughtful and provocative manner, showing that you are engaging with the reading and moving beyond summary or a simple agreement or disagreement, and working toward some semblance of original knowledge (the key to academic writing in the humanities).

A “B” paper is very good but, though thought provoking, does not provide a fully controlled answer to the prompt. The thesis is strong and arguable, but the ideas backing the thesis could be improved with stronger examples and organization. The writing is coherent, but may lack the high polish of a sophisticated piece of academic writing.

A “C” letter grade is average and will be awarded to those essays that do not provide a strong arguable thesis and evidence. The essay will have a focus, but this focus will most likely be unclear, and its ideas may not flow together coherently or be adequately supported. The writing style may be weak and there may be a significant number of grammatical and citation errors.

A “D” paper will not have an adequate thesis, will not be organized, and will only touch upon the prompt without answering it. A “D” paper will most likely rely on summary rather than analysis. There may be significant weaknesses in writing mechanics and style.

An “F” paper will have more serious deficiencies than a “D” paper.

- 4) **Revision:** Each paper will go through a drafting process in which your ideas and formal writing skills will experience significant *growth*. Students of all skill levels must be prepared to put significant time and effort into this process in order to demonstrate improvement.
- 5) **Writing Workshops:** Much of the helpful advice you will receive on your papers will come in the form of Peer Review. Participation in these workshops will be graded.

### **Class Participation:**

Virtual presence is not enough; plan to actively participate. Participation means openness to the idea of discussing your own writing and the writing of your classmates. Your participation in group discussions, large and small, is vital to the success of the class and will be reflected in your final grade.

Never be afraid to ask a question, offer a comment, take a stand on an issue, or disagree with us or anyone else. We will refine our views mostly through free and lively exchange. Several guidelines can help govern this exchange:

- Entering this class intending to learn a great deal.
- Being willing to offer your own ideas.
- Commenting respectfully on the ideas of others.
- Cultivating intellectual curiosity.

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is essential to a useful education. Failure to act with academic integrity severely limits a person's ability to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. In this class and in the course of your academic career, present only your own best work; clearly document the sources of the material you use from others; and act at all times with honor.

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses. Dishonesty in written work may result in an F for the course, and any occurrence of plagiarism will be reported to the Academic Dean for possible disciplinary action. If you have any questions about how to incorporate the words and ideas of others into your writing, please ask me.

### **Written Communication with Instructor**

Please use the internal Message system in our Blackboard course to contact me. Consider your messages to me a formal communication. They should include some kind of salutation at the beginning, signature at the end, and be written in standard written English. I will normally respond within 24 hours except on holidays and weekends.

### **Withdrawal**

Up to May 11, students may officially withdraw from the class at the Registrar's Office.

**Grading:** Grades will be determined on a 1000 point scale as follows:

Categories	Weight by %	Point Value
<b>Essays</b> Essays 1-3 – 150 points each Essay 4 – 200 points	65	650
Annotated Bibliography & Research Proposal	10	100
<b>Discussion Posts, Short Assignments, and Writing Workshops</b>	25	250
Total Points	100%	1000

### Grading Scale:

<b>A</b>	930-1000
<b>A-</b>	900-929
<b>B+</b>	870-899
<b>B</b>	830-869
<b>B-</b>	800-829
<b>C+</b>	770-799
<b>C</b>	730-769
<b>C-</b>	700-729
<b>D+</b>	670-699
<b>D</b>	630-669
<b>D-</b>	600-629
<b>F</b>	0-599

You can check your grades in the My Grades link on the left-hand menu of Blackboard.

### Disabilities:

If you have a question regarding a disability that may affect your progress in this course, please contact one of the college's Disability Service Providers as soon as possible. Chris Scarborough (860-892-5751/Room A-119) generally works with students who have Learning Disabilities, Attention Deficit Disorder, or Asperger's Syndrome (Chris's position is part-time). Kathleen Gray (860-885-2328/Room A-119) generally works with students who have physical, visual, hearing, medical, mobility, or psychiatric disabilities.

*\*\*\* Please note that an instructor cannot provide disability accommodations until a student provides the necessary paperwork from the college's Office of Disability Services to the instructor. Also, accommodations take effect when the instructor receives the paperwork from a student, and accommodations will not be provided retroactively*

### **“N” Grade Policy:**

The N Grade is assigned to students when there is no basis for a grade. This would apply to students who never came to class as well as to those who didn't attend or participate long enough to be graded. The N grade is used to distinguish between earned failures (F), official withdrawals (W), and students who stop attending or participating before there is a basis for a grade. In most cases there would be no basis for a grade for students who stop attending or participating before the 60% point. Like a withdrawal, the N grade does not get included in a student's GPA but does count as a non-completed course.

### **Digication Statement**

All students are required to maintain an online learning portfolio in Digication that uses the college template. Through this electronic tool students will have the opportunity to monitor their own growth in college-wide learning. The student will keep his/her learning portfolio and may continue to use the Digication account after graduation. A Three Rivers General Education Assessment Team will select and review random works to improve the college experience for all. Student work reviewed for assessment purposes will not include names and all student work will remain private and anonymous for college improvement purposes. Students will have the ability to integrate learning from the classroom, college, and life in general, which will provide additional learning opportunities. If desired, students will have the option to create multiple portfolios.

### **Due dates:**

**Late Discussion Posts and Short Assignments can't be rewritten and will get a 0 if they are late.**

LATE ESSAYS WILL BE ACCEPTED UP TO ONE WEEK PAST THE DUE DATE BUT WILL BE DOWNGRADED ONE FULL LETTER GRADE. LATE ESSAYS MAY NOT BE REVISED.

**Only those students who hand in the completed essay on time and receive a grade below C will have the option to revise a major essay assignment;** however, all such re-writes must first be discussed with me. I will only count the re-write grade. Essay Assignment 4 may not be rewritten and must be handed in by the due date.

**All reading and writing assignments will be posted in the weekly modules that will gradually appear in the course Blackboard shell. You are responsible for checking Blackboard each week to see what you are responsible for that week. You can also check the Calendar link on the left menu to keep track of upcoming assignments.**