Syllabus – Spring 2007
10472 English K094: Read Discuss Writing

Instructor: Jennifer L. Seelhorst E-Mail: jseelhorst@trcc.commnet.edu
Meets in THAM 223 – Tuesdays/Thursdays 6:00-7:45
Office Hours: Mondays 11:50-1:50 (MOH 106) and 6:30-7:30 (MOH 105)/Tuesdays 4:50-5:50 (THAM - Cafeteria)/And by appointment
Office Location: Annex 12 Phone: (860) 892-5719

Required Texts
A Community of Readers: A Thematic Approach to Reading, 4th Ed. Alexander and Lombardi
A Writer's Reference, 5th Ed. Hacker
A college dictionary

Required Supplemental Materials
A stapler and a box of paper clips
A method for backing up your work on a computer (i.e. zip disks, 3.5"disks, memory sticks, etc.)
Three folders with pockets (one to keep handouts and two for handing in essays)
A notebook with two sections (notes and reading responses with vocabulary lists)
An organizer/calendar, for writing down homework assignments

Course Description
This is a fundamental course in understanding the ideas of others as well as expressing one's own. This course provides instruction in reading, discussion, and writing skills, which develop thinking and ideas. Through participating in the three processes, students will come to understand how one supports the other, and how clear and directed thinking depends upon them.This course is preparation for ENG K100, ENG K101, and other courses, which require critical thinking and the communication of ideas. Emphasis is placed on strategies for improved reading and writing, comprehension skills, vocabulary, paragraph and essay development, grammar, and summarizing.

Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of English 094, students should be able to:
- Synthesize the processes of reading, discussing, and writing to articulate their ideas clearly.
- Demonstrate proficiency in literal reading comprehension skills and a growing ability to use inferential skills.
- Employ an increased reading and speaking vocabulary.
- Write responses effectively both in paragraph and short essay format and based on ideas garnered from reading and discussing.
- Employ strategies for effective editing.
- Summarize readings typically assigned in college level classes.
- Participate actively and effectively in group discussion.

Grading
Students must get a "C" or better to pass this course. Final grades will be based on the following:
- 25% Class Participation (Participation includes: attending all classes and participating in class discussion, group work, in-class writing, peer reviews, homework, and coming to class prepared by doing the required reading and assignments on time).
- 20% Reading Responses
- 15% Mastery Tests
- 10% Midterm
- 5% Paper 1 – Summary
- 10% Paper 2 – Exploring Research/Information Literacy (with Research Log)
- 15% Final Exam

Methods of Instruction
In this class, you can expect to:

-Read every day.
-Write every day, in a variety of formats: responding to readings, doing pre-writing activities for essay drafting or revising formal papers.
-Spend class time in writing workshops, practicing various rhetorical strategies.
-Analyze the techniques and strategies of other people's writing.
-Look closely at your own strengths and challenges as a writer through individual conferences.
-Learn new stylistic options in a number of ways: through lecture, as well as by analysis of readings, your own writing, and writing done by your peers.
-Work in small groups to discuss your own and peers' writings.

Our Classroom
Think of this class as a reading/writing workshop: A place where we meet to read/write, to talk about reading/writing, and to read one another's writing. I urge you to help me create a kind and encouraging environment, so that we may share ideas and learn from one another. We will be reading and discussing controversial topics, and I propose that we avoid debating issues and, instead, try to enter into points of view in order to understand them. "Debate" too frequently consolidates one in a previously held point-of-view, rather than opening up a receptiveness to new ideas and perspectives. Moreover, complex ideas generally have so many sides that an antagonistic approach to discussing them merely simplifies them out of their richness. This does not mean that we will always agree with one another, but we should try to disagree in ways that do not assume fixed and absolute positions. In addition, we shouldn't forget that thoughtful questions are as valuable as conclusive statements.

Attendance Policy

- Students are expected to attend all classes. If a student misses classes it will reflect in a lower final grade, regardless of when these absences occur and the reason(s) for which they occur, including illness. After six absences, a student may not be able to successfully complete the course.
- This class begins on time, and I appreciate when students are ready to begin on time.
- If a student will be absent, late or have to leave early, she/he must tell me in advance. For every three times that a student arrives late or leaves early, it will count as an absence.
- It is the student's responsibility to find out and do the assignment for any missed class.
- Quizzes and tests cannot be made up unless previously arranged with me.

College Withdrawal Policy:
A student who finds it necessary to discontinue a course once class has met must provide notice to the Registrar. Withdrawal forms are available at the Registrar's office in both the campuses and at the office at the Sub-base. Non punitive "W" grades are assigned to withdrawal requests. An instructor's signature is required after the deadline has passed. No withdrawals are permitted after the last class preceding the final exam. Students who do not obtain an official withdrawal, but simply stop attending classes, run the risk of receiving an "NC" grade for the course.

Weather Cancellations:
Call (860) 866-0177 or go online to: www.trcc.commnet.edu.
TV Channels 3 & 8.
Radio Stations: WCTY, Q105, WICH, WNLC.

Late Work
All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Work submitted later will receive a penalty of one full letter grade for each class period the assignment is late.

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism
All work submitted must be original. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's words or ideas in your writing. If you use any ideas, thoughts, writing, quotes, or even paraphrase some other writer's thinking, you must acknowledge that person. Whether conscious or unconscious, plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Any student who willfully presents another persons' work as his or her own will be subject to discipline. Penalties that may be imposed are failure for a particular assignment or course and/or dismissal from this course.

Students with Disabilities
To receive accommodations in class a student must make an appointment with the Learning Disability Specialists, Mr. Chris Scarborough (office in Mohegan library) or Judy Hilburger (office in the Registrar's office) who will justify the special modifications that are needed to facilitate learning for the student. I will be glad to speak with a student regarding this or any special medical needs.

Course Guidelines and Grading
Reading Responses
There are eight chapters in your English 094 text, and this semester, we will cover each of them.

Writing
Writing assignments for this course will include two major papers. The papers will involve (1) summarizing an article that was written on a current social/political topic (2) honing your information literacy skills by keeping a detailed research log, which you will turn into an essay on your research exploration. Both papers will be typed in MLA format and will involve topic selection, prewriting, drafting, revision, and the production of a final copy. Specific information concerning format and guidelines for both papers will be distributed and discussed in class. In addition to the formal papers, reading responses, in-class writing, and exercises in style, grammar, and mechanics will be required.

Note of Reading:
Reading is an important means of communication. It helps one to think, write, and communicate better. Just as there are different skill levels in any sport, reading has different skill levels and achievement as well. This course will help you to understand the different kinds of reading, help you to appreciate the importance of improving your reading skills, and show you how to improve your reading. By working together, we can accomplish our goals.

Tutoring/Writing Center:
They are eager to help so please call.
Tutoring Academic Success Center (TASC) call (860) 892-5745.
Writing Center call (860) 892-5773 or 892-5769 or e-mail TRWritingcenter@trcc.commnet.edu

Technology:
Turn off your cell phone, pager, or other electronic equipment.

Tentative Schedule

Tuesday	Thursday
1/23 – Course introduction and syllabus review	1/25 – Chapter 1/Reading Response #1
1/30 – Chapter 1/ Reading Response #2	2/1 – **Chapter 1 Test/Introduce Paper 1**
2/6 – Chapter 2/ Reading Response #3	2/8 – Chapter 2/Reading Response #4
2/13 – **Chapter 2 Test**	2/15 – Chapter 3/Reading Response #5
2/20 – **Chapter 3 Test**	2/22 – Chapter 4/ **Paper 1 Rough Draft Due**/Revising summaries//Reading Response #6
2/27 - Chapter 4/Reading Response #7	3/1 – **Paper 1 Peer Review/ Midterm**
3/6 – **Paper 1 Final Draft Due**/ Chapter 5 /Reading Response #8	3/8 - Chapter 5/Discussion: Research Logs/Reading Response #9
3/13 – Chapter 5/ Reading Response #10	3/15 – **Chapter 5 Test**
2/20 – Spring Break – No class	3/22 - Spring Break – No class
3/27 – Chapter 6/ Reading Response #11	3/29 – Chapter 6/ Reading Response #12
4/3 – Chapter 6/ Reading Response #13	4/5 – Research Logs Due/ **Introduce Paper 2: Exploratory Essay**/ Reading Response #14
4/10 – Chapter 7/ Reading Response #15	4/12 – Chapter 7/ Reading Response #16
4/17 – **Chapter 7 Test**	4/19 – **Paper 2 Draft Due for Editing Workshop**/Chapter 8/ Reading Response #17
4/24 – Chapter 8/**Paper 2 Peer Review**/ Reading Response #18	4/26 – **Paper 2 Final Draft Due/Chapter 8 Test**
5/1 – Review for Final Exam/Large Group Discussion	5/3– **Final Exam**

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."
-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

This syllabus is subject to change by the instructor.