

Syllabus – Spring 2014 **English 012: Foundations of Writing**

Instructor: Kirsten Holmstedt
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Mission Statement of the English Department

The English Department at Three Rivers Community College helps students become successful readers, writers, thinkers and speakers in order to facilitate the habits of mind that are at the heart of genuine inquiry and engender meaningful academic discourse and civic engagement.

Vision

The English Department at Three Rivers Community College is committed to providing students with the highest quality education over the entire range of courses we offer.

Required Text:

Henry, D. J. Writing for Life. third edition. New York: Pearson Longman, 2010.
A college dictionary

Required Supplements:

3 folders with pockets (for handouts, Midterm, and Exploratory Essay)
A notebook with two sections (for class notes and Writer's Journal)
A method for backing up your work on a computer

- ❖ *Your Textbook is a workbook; you will be writing and annotating and using them thoroughly. Enjoy having texts you can write on! I will be checking texts occasionally to check completed assignments as part of your participation grade.*
- Be prepared to share all writing assignments with the class.
- Make sure each assignment is the best it can be by editing, proofreading, peer draft review and going to the Writing Center.
- If you are absent you must ask instructor for any handouts missed at the next class period.

Course Description:

This intensive course leads students from the sentence to the paragraph to the short essay. Students learn to write short essays based on personal experience, reading and observation. Writing is taught as a means of thinking critically and as a vehicle for developing, organizing, supporting and refining ideas. Students learn the stages of the writing process from inventing to drafting and revising. The course develops students' skills in writing narrative, descriptive and expository essays. Within this context, word, sentence and paragraph skills are stressed. Attention is given to spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, word choice, organization and development of ideas, and information literacy skills are introduced.

*COURSE DOES NOT COUNT TOWARDS THE CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION.

Midterm Portfolio

By the mid-point of the semester, you will showcase your work to date, to get your midterm grade for the course. Your midterm will include four parts: A class performance self assessment, a Writer's Journal reflection, Writer's Journal entries to date, and revised "Workshop" paragraphs to date. Note: "Workshops" are paragraphs that your instructor will assign that teach you a step by step process for writing using the patterns of organization (i.e. description, narration, process, example, classification, comparison/contrast, definition, cause/effect, and persuasion).

Exploratory Essay

This semester, you will write a research paper on a current social issue on the theme of "Food in Our Culture." This major research project will teach you the foundations of picking a topic, critically thinking and researching the topic, reviewing and analyzing the current literature on the issue, and reporting on your process as you begin to see shifts in your thinking. In short, the Exploratory Essay is a first-person, chronological narrative account of your research process. After you select your topic, you will receive a lesson on library research, and will then find a new academically valid source on your topic each week for six weeks. After you have gathered, annotated and tracked your research, you will begin composing your paper according to MLA formatting guidelines. This paper will be based on a research question, not a thesis statement, and you will be required to summarize and directly quote from at least three sources in the body of the essay. Specific directions detailing the Research Log, essay drafting, and peer reviewing will be covered in class.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of ENG 012, students should be able to:

Write critically and analytically

- demonstrate an understanding of the organizational skills required for academic writing, such as pre-writing activities, outlining, paragraph development, revising, and the ability to thoroughly edit
- develop an awareness of their role as authors in the process of writing
- write responses both in paragraph and short essay format based on ideas developed from assigned academic readings and in-class discussions
- develop proficiency in expressing ideas in correct, complete sentences and in unified, coherent paragraphs
- recognize and fix common grammatical and sentence-level errors
- develop and use writing and speaking vocabularies

Demonstrate information literacy

- understand how and why outside sources are utilized in academic writing
- develop an understanding that information should be evaluated for accuracy and validity
- learn and employ strategies for avoiding plagiarism

All students are required to maintain an online learning portfolio in Digication that uses the college template.

Grading:

The final grade will be a letter grade, A - F.

❖ **Students must get a “C” or better to pass this course.**

Grading is based on:

Class Participation.....20%

Participation is extremely important because we learn from each other. Participation includes:

- Completed text assignments (“Practices” and “Workshops”)
- Mywritinglab.com,
- attending all classes and participating in class discussions,
- small and large group work,
- in class writing,
- coming to class prepared by reading all assigned work and doing assignments on time.

Writer’s Journal..20%

Midterm Portfolio.....15%

Research Log10%

Exploratory Essay20%

Final exam.....15%

- A = 93 -100
- A - = 90 - 92
- B + = 87 - 89
- B = 83 - 86
- B - = 80 - 82
- C + = 77 - 79
- C = 73 - 76
- C - = 70 - 72
- D + = 67 - 69
- D = 63 - 66
- D - = 60 - 62

The “N” Grade:

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.)

Attendance:

- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **Class begins promptly, so don't be late or leave early,** as it will affect your grade.
- ✓ If a student misses a class, it is the student's responsibility to find out any missed assignment(s), do the class work and be prepared for the next class.

Late Work:

Work is due on the dates stated in the course outline or by instructor.
Late work (anytime after the end of class) will receive a grade penalty.

Plagiarism:

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. Consequences for plagiarism can range from failing the assignment to failing the course.

Disabilities:

If you have a disability that may affect your progress in this course, please meet with a Disability Service Provider (DSP) as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations cannot be provided until you provide written authorization from a DSP.

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| TRCC Disabilities Service Providers Counseling & Advising Office Room A-119 | |
| Matt Liscum (860) 383-5240 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Disabilities • Sensory Disabilities • Medical Disabilities • Mental Health Disabilities |
| Chris Scarborough (860) 892-5751 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Disabilities • ADD/ADHD • Autism Spectrum |

The Writing Center/TASC

Room C117 (next to the Library).
 (860) 892-5713 or (860) 892-5769
 TRWritingCenter@trcc.commnet.edu
 Online tutoring: <http://www.etutoring.org/>

Technology:

Turn off your cell phone or other electronic equipment.

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 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, receive an "F" grade for the course.

Weather Cancellations:

Call (860) 886-0177 or go online to: www.trcc.commnet.edu.

Our Classroom

Think of this class as a writing workshop: A place where we meet to write, to talk about 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.

Tentative Schedule

| Monday | Wednesday |
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| 1/27 – Course introduction and syllabus review | 1/29– (<u>Writing for Life</u>) Chapters 1, 16 |
| 2/3– Mini-lesson: Annotating. Brainstorm Exploratory Essay topics on “Food in Our Culture” theme. | 2/5– (<u>Writing for Life</u>) Chapters 1, 16 |
| 2/10– (<u>Writing for Life</u>) Chapters 2, 17 | 2/12– (<u>Writing for Life</u>) Chapters 2, 17 |
| 2/17-- No class | 2/19--(<u>Writing for Life</u>) Chapters 3, 18 |
| 2/24 – (<u>Writing for Life</u>) Chapters 3, 18 | 2/26– <u>Writing for Life</u>) Chapters 4, 19 |
| 3/3– (<u>Writing for Life</u>) Chapters 4, 19 | 3/5– (<u>Writing for Life</u>) Chapter 5, 20 |
| 3/10– (<u>Writing for Life</u>) Chapter 5, 20 | 3/12– Library Lesson |
| 3/17-- Spring Break | 3/19– Spring Break |
| 3/24--(<u>Writing for Life</u>) Chapters 6, 21 | 3/26-- (<u>Writing for Life</u>) Chapters 7, 22 |
| 3/31-- Complete Workshop pp. 134-136 | 4/2-- Midterm Portfolios Due. |
| 4/7--(<u>Writing for Life</u>) Chapters 7, 22 | 4/9--(<u>Writing for Life</u>) Chapters 9, 27 |
| 4/14--(<u>Writing for Life</u>) Chapters 10, 28 | 4/16--(<u>Writing for Life</u>) Chapters 11, 29 |
| 4/21-- Research workshop – Class time for finishing up “Food in Our Culture” research materials. (<u>Writing for Life</u>) Chapters 12, 30. | 4/23-- Complete Workshop pp. 216-219 |
| 5/5 – (<u>Writing for Life</u>) Chapters 13, 31 | 5/7– Exploratory Essay Editing Draft Due/ Editing Workshop/ Chapters (<u>Writing for Life</u>) 14, 32 |
| 5/12– Exploratory Essay Peer Review Draft Due/ Exploratory Essay Peer Review. (<u>Writing for Life</u>) Chapters 14, 32 | 5/14 Exploratory Essay Due/ Writer’s Journal Due. Final Exam review. (<u>Writing for Life</u>) Chapters 15, 34 |
| 5/19– Final Exam | |

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

This syllabus and course outline is subject to change by the instructor.