

English 101 FINAL Syllabus

College Composition Spring 2010

Wednesdays, 6:30 to 9:15, Room D105

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OFFICE HOURS: Classroom, 6:00-6:30 on Wednesdays OR by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: "College Composition engages students in critical observation, reading, and writing. The 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. A placement test is required prior to enrollment."

COURSE OUTCOMES: Successful completion of this course indicates that you can:

- Read and understand essays which offer differing points of view on a topic.
- Compare and contrast various perspectives on a topic.
- Analyze a perspective on a topic and evaluate its merits in relation to other perspectives.
- Develop your own perspective on a topic and present it clearly in writing.
- Support your perspective with specific and detailed evidence from readings, research and personal experience.
- Document source information in MLA format.
- Recognize the reader as an intrinsic element in writing and employ strategies to engage the reader.
- Craft effective sentences and paragraphs.
- Employ strategies for effective major revision of writing, including attention to organization and paragraph coherence.
- Employ strategies for effective editing, including attention to grammar and usage.
- Conduct basic library research, including accessing print and electronic sources.
- Collaborate with others in analyzing writing, developing points of view, conducting research, and revising drafts.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (College Policy): 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.

ATTENDANCE: You are expected to attend every class. Your absence will negatively affect your ability to meet the course requirement of class participation and to effectively complete the writing assignments. It is your responsibility to obtain and make up any material missed due to your absence.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT (College Policy): 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 (892-5751) generally works with students who have learning disabilities or attention deficit disorder. Kathleen Gray (885-2328) generally works with students who have physical, visual, hearing, medical, mobility or psychiatric disabilities. Matt Liscum (393-5240) also works with students who have disabilities.

WITHDRAWAL (College Policy): A student who finds it necessary to discontinue a course once a class has met should complete the withdrawal form in the Registrar's Office. Students may withdraw at the Registrar's Office for any reason until 10 May 2010. **Please let me know that you are withdrawing from the course.**

CLASS CANCELLATION: In the event of inclement weather, refer to the procedures on the Inclement Weather Handout. In the event that I must cancel class on short notice, I will send an email to the entire class, so be sure to check your email before coming to class. I will also inform the Academic Dean's office that I have cancelled class, so you may check there by calling 892-5770.

TEXTS:

Graff, Gerald, et al. They Say I Say. New York: W. W. Norton, 2009.

Faigley, Lester. The Brief Penguin Handbook. Third ed. New York: Pearson Education, 2008.

College-level Dictionary

ASSIGNMENTS:

Class Participation— This is a discussion course. You are expected to be an informed participant in every class. In addition to the 3 hours per week you will be in class, you should expect to spend an average of 6-9 hours per week outside of class on your reading and writing assignments. **Class Participation will be worth 15% of your grade.**

Vocabulary Lists— During the course of the semester you will create vocabulary lists of words that are new to you from the reading assignments or other sources. Each list will consist of 10 words with which you are unfamiliar, their definitions, and a sentence using each in a meaningful context. There will be a total of 3 lists. **These lists will be graded on correctness and completeness. Together, they will be worth 20% of your grade.**

Journals— Journal entries will consist of a 3-5 paragraph response to a given reading assignment. Your journal is your practice book—it is a place to attempt using new words and different strategies for organizing your thoughts in writing. I want to see that you are practicing and exercising your writing muscles on a day-to-day basis. **Journal entries will be graded on effort and completeness.** No rewrites are allowed. **Journal assignments will be worth 15% of your grade.**

Minor Essays— Each of the three Minor Essays will be 4 to 6 pages long, based on the reading assignments, class discussions, and other sources as assigned. Rewrites allowed on consultation with me. **The Minor Essays will be worth 25% of your grade and will be graded on the following criteria: Organization, 35%; Mechanics, 25%; Research, 20%; Wording 10%; Creativity, 10%.**

Final Essay— The final essay will be 8 to 12 pages long, based on one of your minor essays and expanded with material drawn from your own research. Rewrites are allowed only at my discretion. **The Final Essay will be worth 25% of your grade and will be graded on the following criteria: Organization, 35%; Mechanics, 25%; Research, 20%; Wording 10%; Creativity, 10%..**

GRADING: Because the students define the grading criteria and weighting and the value of the course components, students should clearly understand what each assignment was worth and what criteria were used to grade it. For computational purposes, letter grades carry the following values: A = 95; A- = 91; B+ = 87; B = 85; B- = 81; C+ = 77; C = 75; C- = 71; D+ = 67; D = 65; F = 50. **No assignment received = 0.**
DG = Deferred Grade—Requires a rewrite; if no rewrite is received, grade is F.
Rewrite Policy: Any essay which receives a grade of C+ or lower may be rewritten until it receives a grade of B- or better.