

Reforming a Republic

CRN: 10443
English K100: Reading / Writing Connection Rm D228
Term: Spring 09
Schedule: W 6:30-9:15
Instructor: Fredrick-Douglass Knowles (Prof. K)
Office Hours: TBA
Email: fknowles@trcc.commnet.edu

Required Text:

- Faigley, Lester. The Brief Penguin Handbook. 3rd Ed. New York: Pearson-Longman, 2009.
- Kirszner, Laurie G. and Stephen Mandell. Patterns for College Writing. 10th Ed. Boston: Bedford /St. Martins, 2007.

Course Description:

This course emphasizes the close relationship between writing and critical reading. Reading assignments will include contemporary and classical writers. Compositions will be assigned in response to the reading. This course is preparation for English 101 and other courses requiring reading, writing and thinking skills.

Objectives:

- Demonstrate a strong competency in grammar, spelling and sentence structure
- Utilize the writing process to construct compositions
- Compose well-organized paragraphs with specific topic sentences and examples
- Write using different stylistic modes
- Develop a basic understanding of the traditional academic essay
- Improve ability to read and understand a text
- Understand the connection between critical reading and writing
- Develop confidence in the ability to express ideas through writing

Measurable Outcomes:

In order to complete the course with a grade of “C” or better you must:

- Produce drafts evidencing a variety of prewriting techniques
- Develop a main idea expressed in a thesis statement
- Support a main idea with specific details
- Use a variety of rhetorical patterns
- Organize ideas with attention to transitions
- Support thesis with logical thinking and sources
- Improve drafts with substantial editing and revision
- Incorporate appropriate diction, sentence variety, grammar and mechanics

- Select, synthesize and accurately document sources
- Show evidence of library and electronic research techniques documented using MLA

Course Requirements:

The course is designed to provide a healthy, productive learning atmosphere in which the individual's oral and written thoughts, ideas and voice is not only heard but respected. Students are expected to engage in discussion to express various perspectives regarding subject matter. Students will be required to participate in classroom writing assignments, workshops, and media activities. Since the course is aim to improve writing skills students are expected to complete assignments and provide critical feedback to peers during the revision process. The nature of the course will feed off the energy of the material, instructor and students. Each component will contribute to the effectiveness of the course throughout the semester.

Assignments and Grade Percentage:

Questions	20%
Class Participation	20%
Essay Drafts	20%
Narrative Essay Exam	20%
Cause and Effect Essay Exam	20%

Attendance:

Classroom attendance is an integral part of the college experience. The faculty of the college believes that regular class attendance is necessary for a student to derive the maximum benefit from the learning experience and the overall value of the classroom instruction. The instructor reserves the right to issue an "F" if a student has more absences per semester than the number of times the class meets per week. There are some degree and certificate programs with special attendance policies that must be satisfied due to licensing requirements. Students should refer to the program handbooks. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor in the event of absence.

Students with Disabilities:

To receive accommodations in class a student must make an appointment with the Learning Disability Specialists, Mr. Chris Scarborough or Judy Hilburger who will justify the special modifications that are needed to facilitate learning for the student. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask me for help.

Academic Honesty / Plagiarism Policy:

Academic dishonesty is prohibited in accordance with the Board of Trustees' Proscribed Policy in section 5.2.1 of the Board of Trustees' Policy Manual. This policy prohibits cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration of assignments, unauthorized access to examinations or course materials, plagiarism and other proscribed activities. Plagiarism is defined as the use of another's idea(s) or phrase(s) and representing that/those idea (s) or phrase(s) as your own, either intentionally or unintentionally. If you

are caught plagiarizing I will dismiss you from the class with a zero grade and report you to the dean.

Withdrawal Policy:

The last day to withdraw from this course is May 11. If you must withdraw from this course, it is your responsibility to go to the Registrar's office and fill out the correct form. If you are thinking about withdrawing, please talk to the instructor as soon as possible.

Class Cancellation Procedure:

If class is cancelled or delayed because of the weather, certain radio and television stations will carry an announcement. If I am unable to attend class, the Arts & Humanities Division Office will advise students of alternate learning activities.

End of Text Questions:

Students are required to answer the sections: Comprehension, Purpose & Audience, and Style & Structure located after each assigned readings. Questions must be typed and answered in complete sentences providing critical analysis of the subject matter. Students are only required to answer this section unless otherwise specified. Questions are to follow all MLA guidelines

Essay Exams

Students will be responsible of completing 2 essay exams (mid-term and a final) which are to consist of 3-4 full pages, typed in Times Roman Font 12pt, double spaced. They are to follow MLA guidelines. Any papers that do not follow guidelines will not be accepted. Essays will be counted as exams and therefore must be handed in on assigned dates. Essays that are not will receive a zero. There are no submissions of late essay exams. No exceptions.

Late Work:

Students are required to hand in **work** on time. All work that is not turned in at the scheduled day and time is considered late. Students will have a 24 hour grace period to hand late work, after 24 hours, **no late essays** will be accepted and students will receive a **zero** for the assignment. Late essays will be lowered one grade (A is a B). Students are to deliver a copy to my mailbox in the English dept. **No emails of essays will be accepted.**

Course Schedule:

Week 1:

1/21 Introduction Review of syllabus/ discussion on ch 1 & 2

Week 2:

1/28 Ch. 3- 5 discussion / in class activity

The Role of Responsibility

Week 3:

2/4 38 *Who Saw Murder and Didn't Act*, Gansberg p120 questions due

- Week 4:
2/11 *Shooting of an Elephant*, Orwell p125 questions due
Narrative essay guidelines
- Week 5:
2/18 1st draft narrative essay due (1 copy): Penguin Ch. 33 Grammar workshop
- Week 6:
2/25 Film
- Week 7:
3/4 Peer edit workshop: 2nd draft due (3 copies)
Grammar Workshop Penguin Ch. 34 Subject-Verb agreement
- Week 8:
3/11 Midterm essay exam (final draft) due / in class activity
- Week 9: Spring Break
- Week 10:
3/25 Student Conferencing

Citizenship (Cause & Effect Essay)

- Week 11:
4/1 Read Ch.10 / discussion/ in class activity
- Week 12:
4/8 "A Peaceful Women Explains Why She Carries a Gun," Hasselstrom p371
questions due
- Week 13:
4/15 "The Power of Words in Wartime," Lakoff p377
questions due / essay guidelines
- Week 14:
4/22 1st draft cause & effect essay due (3 copies to class)
Grammar Workshop: Penguin ch. 29 write with emphasis
- Week 15:
4/29 Film
- Week 16:
5/6 2nd draft due / in class activity bring 3 copies to class
- Week 17:
5/13 Final essay exam due / class outro / evaluation

* **Syllabus is tentative and can be subject to change during the course of the semester**