

English 101 Syllabus

Spring, 2008

Three Rivers Community College

MOH 309

Thursday, 6:30-9:15

William Pett

(401) 885-7092

(401) 644-5283 (c)

apett@trcc.commnet.edu

Office hours Thursday 5:30-6:25

Or by appointment

ENG 101

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 academic resources, appropriate documentation, and incorporation of sources in original papers will be taught through assigned writings. A placement test is required prior to enrollment.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

Read and think critically

- demonstrate an understanding of the intrinsic connection between reading, critical thinking, and writing
- demonstrate the ability to read and understand academic writing with differing points of views and be able to recognize and analyze the merits of each position
- evaluate the accuracy and validity of a specific perspective or argument
- understand how audience, purpose, genre, and context shape the meaning and effectiveness of all texts, especially texts presented in college settings

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
- demonstrate in reading and writing an understanding of the rhetorical concepts of audience, invention, style, organization, and delivery
- develop their own perspective into an academic argument that reflects critical analysis

Demonstrate information literacy

- conduct research using library tools, print and electronic media, and any other sources that enhance academic writing
- evaluate sources for accuracy, validity, and academic relevance
- use information to support and develop their assertions through paraphrasing, quoting, and summarizing
- cite sources using MLA citation style
- learn and employ strategies for avoiding plagiarism

Apply the foundations of strong academic skills

- develop and use academic reading and speaking vocabularies
- use tools appropriately related to reading and writing, such as dictionaries, thesaurus, and writing handbooks
- utilize word processing programs, including proofreading software, in the writing process

- produce documents according to MLA formatting conventions
- employ strategies for effective editing, including attention to grammar, mechanics, usage, and the conventions of standard American English
- collaborate with others in developing points of views and analyzing writing
- employ effective annotation skills
- use writing and reading for inquiry, learning, thinking, and communicating in a college setting
- formulate appropriate questions and hypotheses

OVERVIEW

This course will focus on developing your skills in writing and communicating, as well as your skills in reading and thinking critically. We will examine a variety of texts, both verbal and visual, from the textbook, *Rereading America*. These readings will present a variety of perspectives on some of the ideas or myths that dominate our culture. They will give you the opportunity to examine and develop your own ideas while learning how to analyze the ideas of others. Whatever your own perspective(s) may be, (and all are welcome), it will be your task to present your own ideas clearly and effectively while respecting the views of others. These are skills that will be important to you both academically and professionally.

Always remember: Our class is a community for learning, a place where we come together to share our thoughts. Diverse views are welcome so long as we are respectful and accepting of others, without regard to race, ethnicity, religion, political views, gender, sexual orientation, or disabilities.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Columbo, Gary, Robert Cullen, and Bonnie Lisle, eds. *Rereading America: Cultural Contexts for Critical Thinking and Writing*, 7th edition.

Faigley, Lester. *The Penguin Brief Handbook*.

PAPERS

There will be 3 formal papers (3-5 pages each) and a research paper (4-6 pages). For each one, you will bring in several copies for peer review one week, then bring in your final draft the following week, with your peer review draft attached along with the comments of your peer reviewers.

Paper 1: a response to several texts on a theme (typically from a single unit). In this one you will explore an idea, focusing on your questions about the idea and the kinds of answers you find in the texts.

Draft for peer review 2/7, final draft 2/14.

Paper 2: an analytical paper, looking closely at how several writers develop ideas on an issue.

Draft for peer review 3/6, final draft 3/13.

Paper 3: an argumentative paper in which you establish and argue for your own perspective, while drawing on the works of several writers to support your argument, or to present opposing views that you will counter.

Draft for peer review 4/3, final draft 4/10.

Paper 4: final research paper with annotated bibliography. In this you will develop your ideas further with research from the library and the web. This may draw on material from any of your previous papers or assignments, as appropriate. You will begin planning this one early in the semester in order to plan the research.

Draft for peer review 5/1, final draft 5/8.

SHORT ASSIGNMENTS

There will be numerous short assignments as well. Those assigned as homework must be typed, double-spaced,. Those assigned as in-class projects will be handwritten neatly and legibly. Short assignments

will normally be a page to a page-and-a-half in length. These will not be graded, except as successfully completed, but failure to complete all work will reduce your grade.

GRADING

Your grade will be based on the three formal papers (20% each), the research paper (30%), and class participation (10%).

ATTENDANCE

I will take attendance. Excessive absences and/or late arrivals or early departures will lower your grade.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All work must be your own. Anytime you draw on sources, whether the textbook other print sources, or the web, you must cite them properly using MLA style.

THE WRITING CENTER

Three Rivers has a Writing Center available to offer tutoring. Take advantage of this service—it always helps to have another pair of eyes look at your writing. You can also contact tutors through email at TRWritingCenter@trcc.commnet.edu.

BAD WEATHER

Listen to the radio or television for announcements; you may also call the school's cancellation line: 860-886-0177.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Reading assignments will be given each week, both from *Rereading America* and from *The Penguin Brief Handbook*.