

English 101: College Composition
Three Rivers Community Technical College
Spring, 2009

Subasey
Location

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1. Course Description (from the college catalog)

"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 issues and ideas. Methods for research, including use of the library, appropriate documentation, and incorporation of sources in original papers will be taught through assigned writings."

2. Goals

At the end of this course you should be able to:

- read and understand essays which offer differing points of view on a topic
- compare or contrast various perspectives on a topic
- analyze a particular perspective or argument on a topic and evaluate its relative merits
- develop your own perspective on a topic and state that perspective in a written "thesis"
- support that thesis with specific and detailed evidence from readings, research, and, if appropriate, personal experience and observations
- document information from other sources using MLA parenthetical documentation
- recognize the reader as an intrinsic element in writing and employ strategies that 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 basic print media and electronic data bases
- collaborate with others in analyzing writing, developing points of view, and conducting research

3. Texts

Faigley, Lester. *The Brief Penguin Handbook* (including helpful electronic exercises at www.ablongman.com/faigley). (3rd Edition) New York: Pearson Longman, 2009. We will refer to this book as HANDBOOK.

Anderson, Chris, and Lex Runciman. *Open Questions: Readings for Critical Thinking and Writing*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2005.

See the website at

www.bedfordstmartins.com/openquestions

(We will refer to this book as OPEN.)

4. Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is an important part of this course. To miss even one class is to significantly decrease your chances of benefiting from the course. Attendance records will be kept, and may affect your final grade. In addition, a test will be given at the end of each class, and class notes will be graded, and these may not be made up by absentees. Therefore, if at all possible, be here for each class.

Also, I will be starting class promptly at 6:30, and I will expect you to be in the classroom at that time, ready to work and learn. You have made a serious commitment by enrolling in this class, and I will take your commitment seriously.

5. Office Hours

My "office" will be the teacher's desk in our classroom. My office hours will be the 30 minutes before and after each class. Please feel free to come up to the desk for a conference. *No appointment is necessary.* If I appear to be working at the desk, don't hesitate to interrupt me. At that time I am there to be of service to you.

6. Class Cancellation

In case I have to cancel a class due to illness or emergency, we will use a phone tree to contact everyone. Please be sure to call the next person(s) on the tree.

7. Course Requirements

Your final course grade will be based on the following:

1. Writing projects.

A. Two mid-length papers. (24% each)

B. One research project. (29%)

2. Nightly tests at the end of class on reading and class notes. These may not be made up by absentees. (10%)

3. Attendance and participation

I'm hoping this part of the course requirement will be a relatively easy way for you to boost your grade. If you attend class regularly, are in the classroom ready to learn at 6:30, and stay alert and involved until the end of class, this part should be an easy 'A' for you. (7%)

4. Class notes

I will expect you to take careful notes throughout each class. (You will need a separate notebook, or a separate section of a notebook, for this purpose.) We will discuss different approaches to note-taking, and I will check your notes at the end of each class and assign a grade. (6%)

8. Assignment Specifications

Mid-length Papers

These papers will be based on the following essays:

Paper #1: Barbara Kingsolver, "Stone Soup", p. 64-70;
Andrew Sullivan, "The Pursuit of Happiness", p. 217-220;
Judith Ortiz Cofer, "The Story of My Body", p. 323-331.

Paper #2: George Orwell, "Politics and the English Language", p. 461-471; Alice Walker, "Am I Blue?", p. 478-481; Tracy Kidder, "The Good Doctor", p. 645-654.

NOTE: The exact assignment will be given on the night the paper is written during class at the Subase.
Paper #1 will be written in the Computer Lab during class on Monday, February 9.
Paper #2 will be written in the Lab during class on Monday, February 23.

IMPORTANT NOTE: To save a tree or two, I would prefer that papers be emailed to me as an attachment AND pasted into the email (just in case). Please be sure you can use your email account on the Base.

Research paper

The topic for your research project will be announced soon. Much of the research will be done when we meet for class at the Groton Public Library on Monday, March 2. Details for the research project will be given out as we get closer to the library visit.

9. Class Schedule and Assignments

Wednesday, January 21

6:30 Professor's introduction
 6:35 Class roster, attendance
 6:45 Syllabus, introduction to the course
 7:05 Phone tree
 7:10 Textbooks
 7:30 Break (professor available for conferences)
 7:40 Using formulas (or recipes) for writing
 8:00 Discuss specifications for papers
 8:20 Reading from OPEN
 End of class: TEST
Homework: Continue reading and taking notes on OPEN.

Monday, January 26

6:30 Attendance
 Using formulas (or recipes) for writing
 6:50 HANDBOOK, Ch. 1 and 23
 7:30 Break (conferences)
 7:40 Discuss research project
 8:00 Discuss specifications for papers
 8:10 Reading from OPEN
 End of class: TEST and grading of class notes
Homework: Continue reading and taking notes on OPEN.

Wednesday, January 28

6:30 Attendance

Using formulas (or recipes) for writing

7:00 HANDBOOK, Ch. 2 and 23 (again)

7:30 Discuss research paper

7:45 Break (open for conferences)

7:55 HANDBOOK, Ch. 18

8:10 Reading from OPEN

End of class: TEST and grading of class notes

Homework: Continue reading and taking notes on OPEN.**Monday, February 2**

6:30 Attendance

Tricks and techniques to improve writing

7:00 Handbook, Ch. 3 and 23 (again)

7:30 Break

7:40 Reading from OPEN

8:10 More tricks and techniques for writers

8:25 Reading from OPEN

End of class: TEST and grading of class notes

Homework: Continue reading and taking notes on OPEN.**Wednesday, February 4**

6:30 Attendance

Tricks and techniques to improve writing

7:00 HANDBOOK, Ch. 4 and 27

7:30 Break

7:40 Discuss research paper

7:50 Read from OPEN

8:15 More tricks and techniques

8:25 Read from OPEN

End of class: TEST and grading of class notes

Homework: Continue reading and taking notes on OPEN.**Monday, February 9**

6:30 Attendance

REST OF CLASS: Write Paper #1 in Computer Lab.

Homework: Continue reading and taking notes on OPEN.**Wednesday, February 11**

6:30 Attendance

Special guest: Librarian Tammy-Jo Ferdula: Tricks and techniques for doing research.

7:40 Break

7:50 Announcement of research paper topic and guidelines

8:10 Read from OPEN

End of class: TEST and grading of class notes

Homework: Continue reading and taking notes on OPEN.

Monday, February 16 (CLASS IN SESSION)

6:30 Attendance

Tricks and techniques

7:00 HANDBOOK, Ch. 5 and 30

7:30 Break

7:40 Read from OPEN

8:30 More tricks and techniques

End of class: TEST and grading of class notes

Homework: Continue reading and taking notes on OPEN.

Wednesday, February 18

6:30 Attendance

Tricks and techniques

7:00 HANDBOOK, Ch. 7 and 32

7:30 Break

7:40 Read from OPEN

8:30 More tricks and techniques

End of class: TEST and grading of class notes

Homework: Continue reading and taking notes on OPEN.

Monday, February 23

6:30 Attendance

REST OF CLASS: Write Paper #2 in Computer Lab

Homework: Work on research paper

Wednesday, February 25

6:30 Attendance

Tricks and techniques

7:05 HANDBOOK, Part 5, Researching

8:00 Break

8:10 Read OPEN

End of class: TEST and grading of class notes

Homework: Work on research paper

Monday, March 2

MEET AT GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, 6:30.

At the end of the evening, I will review your research notes and give them a grade.

Homework: Work on research paper

Wednesday, March 4

6:30 Attendance

Trick and techniques

7:05 HANDBOOK, Part 6: Documenting

8:00 Break

8:10 HANDBOOK, Part 8: Understanding grammar

End of class: TEST and grading of class notes

Homework: Work on research paper

**Monday, March 9 NO CLASS (met instead on February 16,
Presidents Day)**

**Wednesday, March 11 NO CLASS (will meet instead on
Monday, March 16)**

Monday, March 16**FINAL CLASS**

**RESEARCH PAPER DUE BY EMAIL ATTACHMENT, MIDNIGHT
TONIGHT.**

6:30 Attendance

Trick and techniques

7:05 HANDBOOK, Part 6: Documenting

7:30 Break

7:40 HANDBOOK, Part 9: Punctuation and mechanics

End of class: TEST

8:10 Professor evals

Goodbye and thanks to everyone!

10. College Withdrawal 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, or send a written request to withdraw from the course. Students may withdraw from class anytime during the first ten weeks (or until completion of two-thirds of a summer session or module course) without being in good standing or obtaining prior approval of the instructor. After that period, a student must request written permission from the instructor (using the official withdrawal form) to withdraw from the class,

and must have maintained a C- average. Withdrawals are recorded with a 'W' grade on the student's permanent record, and carry no penalty. Students who merely stop attending but fail to formally withdraw are assigned 'NC' grades, signifying "No Credit."

Disabilities and Learning Differences

If you have a hidden or visible disability or learning difference which may require classroom modifications, please see me as soon as possible. Also, if you have not already done so, please contact the Disability Services office, at 860-823-2830.