

Three Rivers Community College
English 101 - Composition
Professor Valerie Vancza
Spring 2009

Thames Campus, Rm. E227
Tuesday: 6:30-9:15pm
Office Hours by Appt.
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Course Syllabus

Course Description: ENG 101, College composition engages students in critical observation, reading, and writing. This course prepares students 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 Overview: We will focus on developing reading and writing skills. Reading is integral to writing well, as in order to write well, you will need to learn to become a critical reader and thinker. The textbook assigned for this course, *Rereading America*, examines some of the dominant cultural myths in the United States and the effects of these myths. In each unit of *Rereading America*, various perspectives are developed that will encourage you to read and think critically to understand what main ideas are being presented in each essay and how those ideas are being developed. Because reading about issues will affect us subjectively and personally, I expect reactions to the readings will be diverse and complicated. Your goal will be to learn how to present your ideas thoughtfully, with good support, and to be mindful of audience. Throughout the semester, as you practice reading and thinking critically, you will apply these skills to your writing, where you will work on learning to communicate your ideas effectively in writing—skills you will need as you continue on in college or enter the work force.

Required Text:

- Columbo, Gary, Robert Cullen, and Bonnie Lisle, eds. *Rereading America: Cultural Contexts for Critical Thinking and Writing*, 7th edition
- Faigley, Lester. *The Brief Penguin Handbook*, 3rd edition

Course Objectives:

After completing English 101, you should be able to

- read and understand essays that offer differing points of view on a topic.
- compare and contrast various perspectives on a topic.
- analyze a particular perspective or argument on a topic and evaluate its merits.
- develop your own perspective on a topic and state that perspective clearly in a written thesis.
- support that thesis with specific and detailed evidence from readings, research, and/or from personal observations and experience.
- document information from other sources using MLA parenthetical format.
- recognize the importance of audience as an intrinsic element in writing and employ strategies that engage your readers.
- 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 databases.
- collaborate with others in analyzing writing, developing points of view, and conducting research.

Please note: If as a result of the placement test you were advised to take ENG 094 or 100 and you have not done so, you place yourself at a serious disadvantage in this class. It will be very difficult to achieve the objectives for this course.

Requirements:

Papers: **Three** formal papers (each including a required first draft)

- Essays will range from **three to five pages** in length, except for the final formal, research paper, which must be a minimum of five pages.
- All drafts must be **typed/word processed**, with 1-inch margins, double spacing and 12 point Times Roman font. Follow MLA format for heading, title and page numbers.
- All documents should be saved in multiple places: the hard drive, disk or CD.
- Final drafts are due on **due dates**; late submissions will lose credit per class meeting (i.e. B+ becomes a B-); allowance will only be given in case of emergency.
- Each student **must** complete all assigned writing projects in order to pass the course.
- All writing drafts should be produced at the **beginning** of the class session.

Writing Assignments: All in-class and out of class writing tasks

- Additional writing assignments will be given throughout the semester. Some will be in response to given readings while others will be considered part of the progressive elements needed to complete a given paper. These writing assignments will include: typed first drafts, reflective statements, pre-writes and post-writes, “Engaging the Text” reading responses, and peer review critiques. Formats for these will be varied.
- Grades are designated on a #scale of 1-5 (5 as the highest; 1 as the lowest)

Quizzes and Exams:

- Quizzes may be given periodically based on reading content. There are no make-ups. Grades are designated by a check (95), check minus (75), or zero (no credit).
- You will write a final writing self assessment during the end of the term, but there is no formal final exam in this class.

Attendance:

- You are expected to attend class regularly and punctually. Students who miss classes are **responsible** for 1) explaining the absence and/or verifying its necessity; 2) getting assignments from classmates or myself; and 3) making up the missed work.
- If you notify me in advance, absences for religious holidays, athletic participation, or other university-sanctioned events are **excused**. Other absences (illness, accident, personal tragedy) can be approved; however, it is **your duty** to contact me, first and foremost, **via e-mail** or leave a message on the Academic Division voicemail at 860-892-5770 to explain the absence within 24 hours of the missed class, and/or to provide **written documentation** at the next class meeting. Otherwise, a loss of points will result.

- More than **three** absences **will** lower your final grade, and excessive lateness will negatively affect your final grade. While allowance can be made for an emergency, generally, students who miss extensive **weeks** of class, will automatically **fail** the course.

Bad weather: On stormy days, please call the main campus number: **860-886-0177** to see if school is canceled. Also, listen to the radio or television for announcements. Since I commute long distance, if it looks like I will not be able to make it in, I will email all of you as soon as possible. And/or class members will be contacted by phone to relay the message. In case of cancellation, always follow the syllabus unless instructed otherwise.

Participation:

- The small-class environment of ENG classes makes dedicated attendance and full participation the **responsibility** of each class member.
- Therefore, please keep in mind that if you *must* miss class, not only are you now held accountable for making up any material covered in class but participation opportunities are lost. Remember that the work we do in class (in-class writing, group work) cannot be made up; it will affect your overall participation grade.
- You are expected to be an active and consistent participant in class. Participation means arriving prepared, taking notes, and contributing to class discussions, collaborative activities, and peer critiquing workshops in a constructive and thoughtful manner.

Grade Breakdown:

- Formal Papers: 50% (15% Paper #1 & #2, 20% Paper #3)
- Reflective Responses: 20% (reading responses, additional writing assignments, quizzes)
- Participation & Attendance: 10% (including class discussion, peer review, group work)
- Writing Process: 15% (first drafts, post-writes, thoughtful revision between first and final drafts and in-class writing)

Academic Integrity: 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. The act of plagiarism, taking an author's ideas and claiming them as your own, is a serious academic offense, and if committed, the result is a zero for the assignment and possible F for the course. In this class and in your academic career, present only your **own best work**; clearly document the sources you use from others; and act at all times with honor.

General Definition (Student Discipline Policy, section 2:10, Board of Trustees of Connecticut Community Colleges)

Academic Dishonesty shall in general mean conduct which has as its intent or effect the false representation of a student's academic performance, including but not limited to

- (a) cheating on an examination,
- (b) collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course,
- (c) plagiarizing, including the submission of others' ideas or papers (whether purchased, borrowed, or otherwise obtained) as one's own,
- (d) stealing or having unauthorized access to examination or course materials,
- (e) falsifying records of laboratory or other data,
- (f) submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course, and

(g) knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.

The Writing Center: Three Rivers has trained writing tutors to assist students in developing their writing at any stage of the process from revision to grammar. Please take advantage of this valuable service; just don't wait until the last minute to get help, as good writing takes time. (Tutors are also available through email at TRWritingCenter@trcc.commnet.edu.)

Students with disabilities: Any student with a hidden or visible disability which may require classroom modifications should see me about her/his disability within the first week or two of class. I urge you to contact the learning disabilities counselor on campus, Chris Scarborough, so that together we can work out an appropriate plan to meet your needs.

Cell Phones and Beepers: School regulations require that all cell phones and beepers be turned off in learning environments. If it is vital for to have access by cell phone or beeper, please speak to me to arrive at a suitable agreement. (Please no text messaging during class)

Final Comments:

1. The last day to **Add/Drop** with partial financial adjustment is **February 3rd**. The last day to Withdraw from classes is **May 11th**. A student who merely stops attending a class, but *does not* officially withdraw at the **Registrars Office**, will receive an automatic F in the course.
2. Once again, please remember to keep all of your course work throughout the semester in hard copy. Use a designated folder or binder for this purpose.
3. Last, know that you are responsible for your own learning. Autonomy is essential in sculpting your person and goals.