

## WELCOME TO ADVANCED COMPOSITION, ENG 208

Mrs. Marcy, Office: Room 204, Office Hours: MW 1:50 to 2:40 and F 12:45 TO 1:35

**Texts:** One Hundred Great Essays edited by Robert DiYanni  
A Writer's Companion by Richard Marius

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course further develops and refines expository writing skills for both an academic and popular audience. Assignments will stress interpretation, argumentation and critical thinking, with an emphasis on clarity, style and organization.

Prerequisite: ENG\*101 with at least a C or permission of the instructor

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

- recognize and define different essays: including personal, expository, analytic, argumentative and persuasive
- recognize and understand the development of the essay within historic and cultural contexts
- recognize the linguistic, literary, and cultural conventions of the essay
- develop the ability to summarize and interpret complex essays
- produce effective prose based on clarity, coherence, logical organization, accuracy and correctness, sufficiency, and style
- understand and practice writing as a process
- write essays of different kinds including personal, expository, analytic, argumentative and persuasive
- incorporate independent research into both class discussion and written work
- effectively participate in peer review
- use MLA parenthetical style more adeptly to document references to text

### Class Time

Class time generally will be divided into three segments: discuss/analyze text essays, discuss/critique peer essays, and discuss/review handbook assignments.

### Grading

Please note that there are no quizzes, tests, or final exam. What is important is

<b>your writing</b>	<b>90%</b>
20 finished pages:	
no fewer than three essays	
no more than six	
one essay must be based on research, the others may or may not	

<b>and your class preparation and participation</b>	<b>10%</b>
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This grade takes the following into account:

- attending class regularly

- participating in class discussions
- coming to class prepared, homework done

#### **Essay Assignments/Due Dates:**

- Every two weeks you should complete about 3 pages of finished writing. Use this instruction to pace yourself. Do not pass in more than one essay at a time.
- The last class period, pass in your best **revised** essay along with the original.
- You may generate your own ideas for your essays or use "Possibilities for Writing" in your reader.

#### **Handbook Assignments**

**Week 2:** ch 11, appendix two; **Wk 3:** ch 1; **Wk 3:** ch 2; **Wk 4:** etc.

#### **Reader Assignments**

##### **Week 2:**

Michel de Montaigne: "Of Smells"  
 Judy Brady: "I Want a Wife"  
 Annie Willard: "Living Like Weasels"  
 Gretel Ehrlich: "About Men"  
 Barbara Holland: "Naps"

##### **Week 3:**

Henry David Thoreau: "Why I Went to the Woods"  
 Dave Barry: "Road Warrior"  
 Jane Brox: "Influenza 1918"  
 Joan Didion: "On Self Respect"

#### **Miscellaneous**

- To every class, bring both texts and your essay-in-progress, hard copy and disk.
- You may pass in all essays one class period late **in person** without penalty. For the sake of my sanity, please do not email me your essays.
- **Attendance is important.** After six absences, you will automatically receive an F. Each class period is worth three absences; each 50 minutes is worth one class period. All absences count. Since it is probably not possible for me to determine whether you are absent or tardy for a good reason, I will assume it is for a good reason. Therefore, you do not need to tell me, email me, or phone me to explain your absence. If you feel compelled, leave a note in the class folder. If you are unfortunate enough to have a semester in which life's problems interfere with your course work, I suggest that you drop the course and take it at a more convenient time.
- If you are a student with a disability and will need accommodations for this class,

contact the Disabilities Counselor at 383-5240. To avoid any delay in receiving accommodations, call this number asap. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations for you until I have received a letter from the Counselor.