

## English 012: Foundations of Writing – Spring 2012

**Instructor:** Phillip J. Fox

**Class Time:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 10 – 11:40AM

**Class Location:** E227

**Instructor Office and Hours:** By appointment.

**Instructor E-mail:** [pfox@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:pfox@trcc.commnet.edu) (e-mail is a great way to reach me)

### Required Texts:

- \*Henry, D. J. Writing for Life. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Pearson Longman, 2010.
- Ingalls, Anna. Expectations. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Pearson Longman, 2006.
- Faigley, Lester. Brief Penguin Handbook. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Pearson Longman, 2011.

\*Note: Your textbook is a workbook. I will need to check assignments, and you will need to keep the book to do assignments. Please plan accordingly.

### Additional Material:

1. A regular, weekly or bi-weekly publication—that is, a newspaper or magazine. For example, the New York Times, Washington Post, Sports Illustrated, etc. Many of these publications are free of charge on the internet
2. A college dictionary/thesaurus
3. [Mywritinglab.com](http://mywritinglab.com) access / Blackboard Access - Mandatory (please work out any access issues the 1<sup>st</sup> day).
4. A method for backing up your work on a computer (e.g. a USB thumb drive)

### Course Description:

This *intensive* course leads students from the sentence to the paragraph to the short essay. Students learn to write short essays based on personal experience, reading, and observation. Writing is taught as a means of thinking critically and as a vehicle for developing, organizing, supporting, and refining ideas. Students learn the stages of the writing process from inventing to drafting and revising. The course develops students' skills in writing narrative, descriptive, and expository essays. Within this context, word, sentence, and paragraph skills are stressed. Attention is given to spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, word choice, organization, and development of ideas, and information literacy skills are introduced.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

*Upon successful completion of ENG 012, students should be able to:*

#### 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
- develop an awareness of their role as authors in the process of writing
- write responses both in paragraph and short essay format based on ideas developed from assigned academic readings and in-class discussions
- develop proficiency in expressing ideas in correct, complete sentences and in unified, coherent paragraphs
- recognize and fix common grammatical and sentence-level errors
- develop and use writing and speaking vocabularies

#### Demonstrate information literacy

- understand how and why outside sources are utilized in academic writing
- develop an understanding that information should be evaluated for accuracy and validity
- learn and employ strategies for avoiding plagiarism

## Course Policies

Grading includes the following:

### **Class participation – 20%**

Completed assignments; mywritinglab.com; attending and participating in **all** classes, group work, and assigned writings; arriving on time and prepared. Please arrive **on time and prepared** for class. There is a sign-in sheet at the front table. Be sure to sign your name legibly.

### **Writer's Journals – 35%**

Your Writer's Journal will be a series of responses from readings in Expectations: A Reader for Developing Writers and a series of paragraphs in different rhetorical styles. The Writer's Journals will serve as the basis for our in-class writing workshops. In addition, you are expected to revise your Writer's Journals with a tutor in The Writing Center, before handing in your final drafts.

Workbook Exercises – 10%  
Descriptive Paragraph – 5%  
Process Paragraph – 5%  
Narrative Paragraph – 5%  
Persuasive Essay – 10%

### **Final Research Project – “I”-search paper - 25%**

This semester, you will investigate an urgent topic in our culture. This major research project will teach you the foundations of picking a topic, critically thinking and researching the topic, reviewing and analyzing the current literature on the issue, and reporting on your process as you begin to see shifts in your thinking. After you select your topic, you will receive a lesson on library research, and will then find a new, academically valid source on your topic each week for six weeks. After you have gathered, annotated, and tracked your research, you will compose an “I-search” paper in MLA format. The paper will describe your processes and findings. There will be more information on this project during the semester.

### **Exit Exam – 20%**

The final examination is both comprehensive and reflective. Specific instructions and review for the final examination will be covered in class.

**Additional Grading** – Students must earn a “C” or better to pass this course and continue on to ENG 100.

**Assessment / Test Make-Up Policy** - If you miss a test, you must inform me and make an appointment at the Testing Center by calling 860-885-2318 or dropping by the Welcome Center (A-105) to make an appointment. Arrive 10 minutes before scheduled appointment. Check in at room A-117. Bring a photo ID.

### **Special Needs and Learning Disabilities**

If you have a question regarding a disability that may affect your progress in this course, please contact one of the college's Disability Service Providers as soon as possible. Chris Scarborough (892-5751) generally works with students who have learning disabilities or attention deficit disorder. Kathleen Grey (885-2328) generally works with students who have physical, visual, hearing, medical, mobility, and psychiatric disabilities. Matt Liscum (383-5240) also works with students who have disabilities.

### **The Writing Center/TASC**

Room C117 (next to the Library).  
(860) 892-5713 or (860) 892-5769  
TRWritingCenter@trcc.commnet.edu  
Online tutoring: <http://www.etutoring.org/>

**You are strongly encouraged to work with tutors at the Writing Center, including Jon Brammer, the Writing Center Coordinator**

### **Technology:**

Turn off your cell phone, please. Please do not access unrelated content while working on assignments in class. **I cannot accept any final assignment through e-mail.**

### **College Withdrawal Policy:**

A student who finds it necessary to discontinue a course once class has met must provide notice to the Registrar. Withdrawal forms are available at the Registrar's office and at the office at the Sub-base. Non punitive "W" grades are assigned to withdrawal requests. An instructor's signature is required after the deadline has passed. No withdrawals are permitted after the last class preceding the final exam. Students who do not obtain an official withdrawal, but simply stop attending classes, receive an "F" grade for the course.

### **Weather Cancellations:**

Call (860) 886-0177 or go online to: [www.trcc.commnet.edu](http://www.trcc.commnet.edu).

### **Late Work:**

Work is due on the dates stated in the course outline or by instructor. Late work without a documented reason will **not** be accepted.

### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's words or ideas in your writing. If you use any ideas, thoughts, writing, quotes, or even paraphrase some other writer's thinking, you must acknowledge that person. Whether conscious or unconscious, plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Consequences for plagiarism can range from failing the assignment to failing the course.

## Course Schedule

There are many things that can and do change from the time I write this schedule to the time each date occurs. Please understand this schedule is tentative and subject to change. An up-to-date schedule of the week's activities can be found on mycommnet, in our Blackboard course. In fact, students are strongly encouraged to use the Blackboard calendar for daily assignments and reminders.

Major Due Dates: 2/8, 2/13, 2/22, 2/27, 3/5, 3/7, 3/12, 3/14, 3/26, 3/28, 4/4, 4/16, 4/25, 5/14

January 23, 2012 – First day of class. Verify Blackboard access. Purchase all texts. Set goals for what you want to get out of this course.

January 25, 2012 – Chapters 1, 16

January 30, 2012 – Chapters 2, 17

February 1, 2012 – Chapters 3, 18. Informal quiz, grammar.

February 6, 2012 – Chapters 4, 19. I-search topic pre-writing.

February 8, 2012 – Chapters 5, 20. **Final research topic list due.**

February 13, 2012 – Chapters 6, 21 – **Final Descriptive Paragraph due.** Research (currency, etc).

February 15, 2012 – Chapters 7, 22 – Library Lesson (bring research log).

February 20, 2012 → Washington's Birthday, Holiday, No Classes

February 22, 2012 — Chapters 8, 23. Annotated bibliography. **Final Process Paragraph due.**

February 27, 2012 – Chapters 9, 24. **Annotated bibliography – 1<sup>st</sup> source.**

February 29, 2012 – Chapters 10, 25.

March 5, 2012 – Chapters 11, 26. **Annotated bibliography – 2<sup>nd</sup> source.**

March 7, 2012 – Chapters 12, 27. **Final Narrative Paragraph due.**

March 12, 2012 – Chapters 13, 28. **Annotated bibliography – 3<sup>rd</sup> source.**

March 14, 2012 – Chapters 14, 29. **Mid-term take home exam due.**

March 19, 2012 → Spring Recess, No Classes

March 21, 2012 → Spring Recess, No Classes

March 26, 2012 – Chapters 15, 30. **Annotated bibliography – 1-6 sources.**

March 28, 2012 – Chapters 14- 15, 31. **Annotated bibliography due.**

April 2, 2012 – Chapters 14- 15, 32

April 4, 2012 – Chapters 14- 15, 33. **Persuasive Essay topic due.** Opposing viewpoints.

April 9, 2012 – Chapters 14- 15, 32

April 11, 2012 – Chapters 14- 15, 33.

April 16, 2012 – Chapters 14- 15, 34. **Persuasive Essay. Annotated bibliography due.**

April 18, 2012 – Chapters 14- 15, 35

April 23, 2012 – Persuasive Essay work.

April 25, 2012 – Writing workshop – I-Search paper. **Persuasive Essay Due**

April 30, 2012 – Writing workshop – I-Search paper

May 2, 2012 – Writing workshop – I-Search paper

May 7, 2012 – Writing workshop – I-Search paper

May 9, 2012 – Final Exam Preparation (critical self-analysis piece), I-Search paper.

May 14 – Final Exam. I search Paper due.

**Best wishes in future endeavors.**