

**Syllabus**  
**English 100 Reading/Writing Connection**  
**Wednesday evening**

Instructor: Joyce Back  
Home email [joyceback@att.net](mailto:joyceback@att.net)  
TRCC email [jback@trcc.comnet.edu](mailto:jback@trcc.comnet.edu)  
Home phone 860-572-2977

**Texts:** Faigley, *The Brief Penguin Handbook, Third Edition*  
Buscemi and Smith, *75 Readings, Eleventh Edition*

**Course requirements:**

- Regular attendance. *Students who miss more than two classes will MOST LIKELY not be given a passing grade.* In the case of serious illness or other situation that makes it impossible for a student to attend class over a period of time, allowances will be made on a case-by-case basis. You will be given an ACTIVITY GRADE at the end of the semester. This grade is based on participation in assigned activities. Every time you miss an activity assigned in class, you will lose two points on this grade. Class activities, including quizzes, cannot be made up except in the case of serious illness requiring hospitalization.
- One short (2-3 pages) research paper (two drafts) and one longer (4-6 pages) research paper (one draft only). The papers must be word-processed; they cannot be passed in hand-written. The papers must be formatted in the MLA style. LATE PAPERS WILL BE DOWNGRADED 10 POINTS PER CLASS. You must be prepared to use a computer with a printer and Internet access. This may mean working at school in a computer lab. Lack of a computer cannot be used as an excuse for not completing the course requirements.
- Successful completion of a final exam. You must receive at least a 74% on the final or I will not pass you, even if your other grades are good.
- Reading assignments and successful completion of a series of four quizzes on the readings. Quizzes cannot be made up. You can miss one quiz without your grade being affected; more than one will result in a grade of zero on each subsequent one that is missed.
- We will be doing worksheets in class. Although these will not be graded, you must make a good effort to complete them correctly. Lack of effort will affect your activity grade.

**Grading:**

The final grade will be based on the following:

Short paper:	20 percent
Long paper:	20 percent
Average of quizzes:	20 percent
Activity grade:	20 percent
Final exam:	20 percent

*Note: Feel free to contact me if you need to. Please let me know right away if you have any special problems or concerns.*

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course emphasizes the close relationship between reading, writing, and critical thinking. Compositions will be assigned in response to reading non-fiction prose. This course is preparation for ENG 101 and other college-level courses.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

*Upon successful completion of these courses, students should be able to:*

### ***Read and think critically***

- understand the connections between the reading and writing processes
- recognize different genres of non-fiction, such as editorials, speeches, and essays
- recognize common organizational patterns in reading and writing
- comprehend and summarize college-level reading material to develop their own ideas
- identify and defend logical inferences based on textual evidence

### ***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
- apply various writing processes in composing unified, coherent and fully developed paragraphs and short essays
- use an effective thesis or assertion in order to develop more complex essays
- demonstrate an understanding of the positive and negative impact of word choice
- choose appropriate language for a given context

### ***Demonstrate information literacy***

- 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 to avoid 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
- use 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

**Basic Schedule:**

First hour – Lecture and Worksheet

Second hour – Various activities

Third hour – Sentence of the week; educational puzzles (on quiz days, quiz will be third hour)

**Day to Day Schedule****August 26 through September 23 – THESIS REVIEW**Class date WED, August 26

Assignments due on this day None.

Activities planned for this day

First hour: Discuss the syllabus, this schedule, and the two textbooks; group activities.

Second hour: In the Penguin Handbook, read Section 1, Chapter 1 (pp 1-6). Discuss.

Third hour: Analyze the sentence of the week; do a word puzzle.

Homework In the Penguin Handbook, read Section 1, Chapter 2.

Class date WED, September 2

Assignments due on this day In the Penguin Handbook, read Section 1, Chapter 2.

Activities planned for this day

First hour: Review the thesis type essay. Read sample essays and identify the parts.

Second hour: Working with your group, read an essay and find the introduction, thesis statement, body, and conclusion. Discuss some current events and make a list of five current issues that would be good subjects for a research paper.

Third hour: Analyze the sentence of the week; do a word puzzle.

Homework In the Penguin Handbook, read Section 1, Chapter 3. QUIZ NEXT WEEK ON CHAPTERS 1, 2, 3.

Class date WED, September 9

Assignments due on this day In the Penguin Handbook, read Section 1, Chapter 3.

Activities planned for this day

First hour: Do a worksheet on writing thesis statements and write one for your first research paper.

Second hour: Analyze the sentence of the week; do a word puzzle.

Third hour: QUIZ on Penguin Chapters 1, 2, and 3.

Homework In the Penguin Handbook, read Section 6, MLA Tab, pp 258-260 and 272-280. Get started on your first research paper. DUE SEPTEMBER 23.

Class date WED, September 16

Assignments due on this day Penguin Handbook, Section 6, MLA Tab, pp 258-260 and 272-280.

Activities planned for this day

First hour: Discussion of the MLA format. Instructor will pass out a quick guide and we will review it together. We will examine a sample short essay in MLA format.

Second hour: Comma rules worksheets

Third hour: Analyze the sentence of the week; do a word puzzle.

Homework In the Penguin Handbook, read Section 6, MLA Tab, pp 282-296.

Class date WED, September 23

Assignments due on this day FIRST RESEARCH PAPER DRAFT 1 DUE. Also, you should have read the Penguin Handbook, Section 6, MLA Tab, pp 282-296.

Activities planned for this day

First hour: Develop a thesis statement for your next research paper.

Second hour: First, second, third person editing practice; subject/verb practice.

Third hour: Word puzzle.

Homework Work on your SECOND research paper. THE SECOND RESEARCH PAPER IS DUE OCTOBER 21, ONE DRAFT ONLY, MLA FORMAT REQUIRED.

## February 26 through April 9 – READING AND RESPONDING

<u>Class date</u>	<u>WED, September 30</u>
Assignments due on this day	None.
Activities planned for this day:	Word puzzles. Draft 1 of the research paper will be returned, and each student will confer individually with the instructor.
Homework	Work on draft 2 of your FIRST research paper, DUE OCTOBER 7. REMEMBER, BESIDES EDITING AND REVISING, YOU MUST PUT YOUR DRAFT IN THE MLA FORMAT IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO.
<u>Class date</u>	<u>WED, October 7</u>
Assignments due on this day	DRAFT 2 OF THE <b>FIRST</b> RESEARCH PAPER DUE TODAY.
Activities planned for this day	
First hour:	In <i>75 Readings</i> , read 'Lifeboat Ethics: The Case Against Helping the Poor.'
Second hour:	Working with your group, identify the thesis presented in 'Lifeboat Ethics.' Write a list of statements expressing Hardin's main ideas as presented in the essay.
Third hour:	Sentence of the week; word puzzle.
Homework	In <i>75 Readings</i> , read 'The Details of Life.' QUIZ NEXT WEEK ON 'Lifeboat' AND 'Details.'
<u>Class date</u>	<u>WED, October 14</u>
Assignments due on this day	In <i>75 Readings</i> , read 'The Details of Life.'
Activities planned for this day	
First hour:	Discussion of 'Lifeboat Ethics' and 'The Details of Life.' Read an article about Garrett Hardin.
Second hour:	Sentence of the week; word puzzle.
Third hour:	QUIZ on the two essays.
Homework:	Finish your second essay; DUE OCTOBER 21.
<u>Class date</u>	<u>WED, October 21</u>
Assignments due on this day	SECOND RESEARCH PAPER DUE
Activities planned for this day	
First hour:	Discussion of Narration type essays.
Second hour:	In <i>75 Readings</i> , read '37 Who Saw Murder Didn't Call the Police.' Discuss.
Third hour:	Sentence of the week; word puzzle.
Homework	In <i>75 Readings</i> , read 'Grandmother's Victory.' QUIZ NEXT WED. ON 'GRANDMOTHER'S VICTORY' AND '37 WHO SAW MURDER.'
<u>Class date</u>	<u>WED, October 28</u>
Assignments due on this day	In <i>75 Readings</i> , read 'Grandmother's Victory.'
Activities planned for this day	
First hour:	Discuss the Grandmother and Murder essays.
Second hour:	Sentence of the week; word puzzle.
Third hour:	QUIZ on Grandmother and Murder essays.
Homework	In <i>75 Readings</i> , read 'A Partial Remembrance of a Puerto Rican Childhood.'

<u>Class date</u>	<u>WED, November 4</u>
Assignments due on this day	In <i>75 Readings</i> , read 'A Partial Remembrance of a Puerto Rican Childhood.'
Activities planned for this day	
First hour:	Discussion of Description and Process Analysis types of essay. In <i>75 Readings</i> , read 'Why Leaves Turn Color in the Fall.'
Second hour:	Write a one-page Narration type essay concerning some aspect of your childhood. Be prepared to read your essay aloud to the rest of the class.
Third hour:	Sentence of the week; word puzzle.
Homework	In the Penguin Handbook, read Section 8, Chapters 32 and 33. QUIZ NEXT WEEK ON THESE CHAPTERS.

**November 11 through November 25 – EDITING PRACTICE**

<u>Class date</u>	<u>WED, November 11</u>
Assignments due on this day	In the Penguin Handbook, read Section 8, Chapters 32 and 33.
Activities planned for this day	
First hour:	Worksheets on grammar and punctuation.
Second hour:	QUIZ on Penguin Chapters 32 and 33.
Third hour:	Sentence of the week; word puzzle.
Homework	None.

<u>Class date</u>	<u>WED, November 18</u>
Assignments due on this day	None.
First hour:	Worksheets on grammar and punctuation.
Second hour:	Sentence of the week; word puzzle.
Third hour:	Early dismissal.
Homework	In the Penguin Handbook, read Chapter 38.

Class date WED, November 25  
 THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS

**December 2 – SKILL REVIEW**

<u>Class date</u>	<u>WED, December 2</u>
Assignments due on this day	In the Penguin Handbook, read Chapter 38.
Activities planned for this day	Review for final exam, TO BE GIVEN DEC. 9.
Homework	Study for final exam. Instructor will provide some guidance as to what will be covered on the exam.

**December 9 – FINAL EXAM**

**December 16 – FINAL EXAMS RETURNED; ATTENDANCE IS NOT MANDATORY.**