

## Reforming a Republic

**CRN:** 30175  
**English K100:** Reading / Writing Connection Rm E223  
**Term:** Fall 09  
**Schedule:** MWF 11-11:50  
**Instructor:** Fredrick-Douglass Knowles (Prof. K)  
**Office Hours:** MW 12-1, T 1-2 Rm C120 Phone: 383-5271  
**Email:** [fknowles@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:fknowles@trcc.commnet.edu)

### Required Text:

- Faigley, Lester. The Brief Penguin Handbook. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. New York: Pearson-Longman, 2009.
- Kirszner, Laurie G. and Stephen Mandell. Patterns for College Writing. 10<sup>th</sup> Ed. Boston: Bedford /St. Martins, 2007.

### Course Description:

This course emphasizes the close relationship between writing and critical reading. Reading assignments will include contemporary and classical writers. Compositions will be assigned in response to the reading. This course is preparation for English 101 and other courses requiring reading, writing and thinking skills.

### Objectives:

- Demonstrate a strong competency in grammar, spelling and sentence structure
- Utilize the writing process to construct compositions
- Compose well-organized paragraphs with specific topic sentences and examples
- Write using different stylistic modes
- Develop a basic understanding of the traditional academic essay
- Improve ability to read and understand a text
- Understand the connection between critical reading and writing
- Develop confidence in the ability to express ideas through writing

### Measurable Outcomes:

In order to complete the course with a grade of “C” or better you must:

- Produce drafts evidencing a variety of prewriting techniques
- Develop a main idea expressed in a thesis statement
- Support a main idea with specific details
- Use a variety of rhetorical patterns
- Organize ideas with attention to transitions
- Support thesis with logical thinking and sources
- Improve drafts with substantial editing and revision
- Incorporate appropriate diction, sentence variety, grammar and mechanics
- Select, synthesize and accurately document sources

- Show evidence of library and electronic research techniques documented using MLA

### **Course Requirements:**

The course is designed to provide a healthy, productive learning atmosphere in which the individual's oral and written thoughts, ideas and voice is not only heard but respected. Students are expected to engage in discussion to express various perspectives regarding subject matter. Students will be required to participate in classroom writing assignments, workshops, and media activities. Since the course is aim to improve writing skills students are expected to complete assignments and provide critical feedback to peers during the revision process. The nature of the course will feed off the energy of the material, instructor and students. Each component will contribute to the effectiveness of the course throughout the semester.

### **Assignments and Grade Percentage:**

Questions	20%
Class Participation	20%
Exemplification essay exam	20%
Narrative Essay Exam	20%
Cause and Effect Essay Exam	20%

### **Attendance:**

Classroom attendance is an integral part of the college experience. The faculty of the college believes that regular class attendance is necessary for a student to derive the maximum benefit from the learning experience and the overall value of the classroom instruction. The instructor reserves the right to issue an "F" if a student has more absences per semester than the number of times the class meets per week (3). There are some degree and certificate programs with special attendance policies that must be satisfied due to licensing requirements. Students should refer to the program handbooks. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor in the event of absence.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

To receive accommodations in class a student must make an appointment with the Learning Disability Specialists, Mr. Chris Scarborough or Judy Hilburger who will justify the special modifications that are needed to facilitate learning for the student. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask me for help.

### **Academic Honesty / Plagiarism Policy:**

Academic dishonesty is prohibited in accordance with the Board of Trustees' Proscribed Policy in section 5.2.1 of the Board of Trustees' Policy Manual. This policy prohibits cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration of assignments, unauthorized access to examinations or course materials, plagiarism and other proscribed activities. Plagiarism is defined as the use of another's idea(s) or phrase(s) and representing that/those idea (s) or phrase(s) as your own, either intentionally or unintentionally. If you are caught plagiarizing I will dismiss you from the class with a zero grade and report you to the dean.

**Withdrawal Policy:**

The last day to withdraw from this course is December 9. If you must withdraw from this course, it is your responsibility to go to the Registrar's office and fill out the correct form. If you are thinking about withdrawing, please talk to the instructor as soon as possible.

**Class Cancellation Procedure:**

If class is cancelled or delayed because of the weather, certain radio and television stations will carry an announcement. If I am unable to attend class, the Arts & Humanities Division Office will advise students of alternate learning activities.

**End of Text Questions:**

Students are required to answer the sections: **Comprehension, Purpose & Audience, and Style & Structure** located after each assigned readings. Questions **must be typed** and answered in complete sentences (a minimum of 5 sentences per question) providing critical analysis of the subject matter. Students are only required to answer this section unless otherwise specified. Questions are to follow all MLA guidelines

**Essay Exams**

Students will be responsible of completing 3 essay exams which are to consist of 3-4 full pages, typed in Times Roman Font 12pt, double spaced. They are to follow MLA guidelines. Any papers that do not follow guidelines will not be accepted. Essays will be counted as exams and therefore must be handed in on assigned dates. Essays that are not will receive a zero. There are no submissions of late essay exams. No exceptions.

**Late Work:**

Students are required to hand in **work** on time. All work that is not turned in at the scheduled day and time is considered late (assignment are due on the date stipulated on the syllabus). Students will have a 24 hour grace period to hand late work, after 24 hours, **no late essays** will be accepted and students will receive a **zero** for the assignment. Late essays will be lowered by 10 points and questions by 5. Students are to deliver a copy to my office C120 (slide underneath door) stamped with date & time, if not stamped they will not be accepted. **No emails of essays will be accepted.**

**Course Schedule:**

## Week 1:

W 8/26 Introduction Review of syllabus  
F 8/28 Lecture: Fears of writing / Critical Thinking

## Week 2:

M 8/31 read ch. 1 discussion  
W 9/2 read ch. 2 discussion: exercise 9 on p34 due  
F 9/4 read ch.3 discussion: 1st draft writing workshop on p11 due  
(1 page ds typed)

Week 3:  
 M 9/7 Labor Day No class  
 W 9/9 read ch.4 & 5 discussion  
 F 9/11 read ch. 6 narration 2<sup>nd</sup> draft writing workshop due

### **Narrative Essay: Race Relations**

Week 4:  
 M 9/14 Read, *Finishing School*, Maya Angelou: questions due p105  
 W 9/16 Penguin Ch. 33 Grammar workshop  
 F 9/18 class activity / Narrative essay guidelines

Week 5:  
 M 9/21 Read, *Indian Education*, Sherman Alexie: *Reading Literature*  
 questions due p139  
 W 9/23 Grammar Workshop Penguin Ch. 34 Subject-Verb agreement  
 F 9/25 class activity / 1st draft narrative essay due (1 copy):

Week 6:  
 M 9/28 Film  
 W 9/30 Film  
 F 10/2 Film

Week 7:  
 M 10/5 Peer Edit 2<sup>nd</sup> draft (bring 3 copies to class)  
 W 10/7 Peer edit  
 F 10/9 Narrative essay exam (final draft) due / in class activity

Week 8:  
 M 10/12 Student Conferencing  
 W 10/14 Student Conferencing  
 F 10/16 Student Conferencing

### **Exemplification Essay: Citizenry**

Week 9:  
 M 10/19 Read Ch. 8 / Discussion  
 W 10/21 Read, *Star-Spangled Stupidity*, Dick Teresi, questions due p249  
 F 10/23 Penguin Workshop: ch. 29 write with emphasis / Exemplification essay  
 guidelines

Week 10:  
 M 10/26 in class activity  
 W 10/28 Read, *The Human Cost of an Illiterate Society*, Jonathan Kozol questions  
 due p259  
 F 10/30 Penguin Workshop: TBA / 1<sup>st</sup> draft due

Week 11:  
 M 11/2        Film  
 W 11/4        Film  
 F 11/6        Film

Week 12:  
 M 11/9        Peer edit (3 copies to class)  
 W 11/11      Veterans Day No Classes  
 F 11/13      Final Exemplification essay exam due

### **Cause & Effect: Societal Influence**

Week 13:  
 M 11/16      Read ch. 10 / discussion  
 W 11/18      Read, *Television: The Plug-in Drug*, Marie Winn questions due p358  
 F 11/20      Penguin Workshop: TBA / Cause & effect essay guidelines

Week 14:  
 M 11/23      in class activity  
 W 11/25      Read, *Why Boys Don't Play with Dolls*, Katha Pollitt questions due p364  
 F 11/27      Penguin Workshop: TBA / 1<sup>st</sup> draft due

Week 15:  
 M 11/30      Film  
 W 12/2        Film  
 F 12/4        Film

Week 16:  
 M 12/7        Peer Edit (3 copies to class)  
 W 12/9        Peer edit  
 F 12/11      peer edit

Week 17:  
 M 12/14      Review / class evaluation  
 W 12/16      Final Cause & Effect essay exam due

\*        **Syllabus is tentative and can be subject to change during the course of the semester**