

**CRN:** 10457  
**English K101:** Composition  
**Term:** Spring 11  
**Schedule:** MWF 9-9:50 Rm E206  
**Instructor:** Fredrick-Douglass Knowles (Prof. K)  
**Office Hours:** M 11-12 T 3-4 W 2-3 or by Appt.  
**Office:** Rm C120 (diagonal from library)  
**Phone:** 860.383.5271  
**Email:** [fknowles@trcc.communet.edu](mailto:fknowles@trcc.communet.edu)

### **Required Text:**

- Barnet, Sylvan and Hugo Bedau. *Current Issues and Enduring Questions: A Guide To Critical Thinking and Argument, with Readings*. 9<sup>th</sup> Ed. Boston: Bedford / St. Martins, 2011.
- Faigley, Lester. The Brief Penguin Handbook. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. New York: Pearson-Longman, 2009.
- Composition notebook

**Course Description:** College Composition engages students in critical observation, reading and writing. The course prepares the student for the exposition, analysis, and argument required in college writing, and for meeting the conventions of college writing. Writing assignments require that students develop their own point 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 tests is required prior to enrollment.

### **Objectives:**

- Apply critical thinking and reading skills
- Show confidence in written expression
- Master writing as a process
- Refine writing mechanics
- Demonstrate confidence in MLA style citation, quotation, paraphrase and works cited entries

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Compose a minimum of 20 pages minimum (250 words per page) for the semester of typed, revised, and prose
- 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 are 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 aimed to improve argumentative 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:**

In-Class participation:	10
Questions:	10
Response Papers:	25
Essay 1:	25
Essay 2:	30

**Class Attendance Policy:** Instructional staff assigned to all sections of credit bearing courses at Three Rivers are required to take attendance at each class meeting and retain accurate records of attendance for at least three calendar years. The manner in which attendance is taken is determined at the professional discretion of the instructor. In certain instances, these records are furnished to the Financial Aid Office and the International Student advisor. (I added this –you must come to class. If you do not come you will miss in-class and homework assignments. If you miss 3 assignments, due to absence you will place yourself in a position of failing the class).

**Students with Disabilities:** Students with a documented disability are provided supportive services and accommodations to assist them with their academic objectives. Services are strictly confidential. Disability services may include: individualized accommodations, advising advocacy, counseling, technical assistance and referral information. Students with learning disabilities or ADD/ADHD should contact Chris Scarborough at 860.892.5751. Students with a physical, medical or psychiatric disability contact Kathleen Gray at 860.885.2328 or Matt Liscum at 860.383.5240.

**Academic Integrity / Plagiarism Policy:** The effective operation of any organization is dependent on the honesty and goodwill of its members. In an organization devoted to the pursuit of knowledge, acting with integrity is essential to effective teaching and learning. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. To emphasize the importance of academic integrity, Three Rivers Community College adheres to the following policy in addition to the Student Discipline Policy, sections 2:10 and 3:1-10, as provided by the Board of Trustees of Connecticut Community Colleges. Since collaboration is central to the learning community, Three

Rivers wishes to emphasize that this policy is not intended to discourage collaboration when appropriate, approved, and disclosed.

**Withdrawal Policy:** After the last drop date specified in the academic calendar, students may withdraw from courses by completing the appropriate form which is available online or in any Student Services Office. If necessary you can withdraw by phone by calling the Registrar's office. Withdrawals are accepted until the week before classes check the specific date in the academic calendar end **–May 9–**. A grade of "W" will be entered for each course from which a student withdraws. The course(s) and grade "W" will appear on the student's transcript.

**Class Cancellation Procedure:** In the event that I must cancel class due to sickness or personal emergency, I will contact the Academic Dean's office so that they can post the cancellation and discuss how I intend to make up the class time. The academic dean does not contact students when class is cancelled. To provide early warning for a cancellation I will email, or start a telephone tree.

**Cell Phones:** Cell Phones and beepers are allowed only if they are turned off or turned to silent mode in classrooms, academic support areas, and the library. Under no circumstances are phones to be used in class [including texting]. If there are extenuating circumstances, the student is to make arrangements with their instructor before the class begins (I added this –if I catch you texting in class I will ask you to leave for the remainder of the class).

**Questions:** Students are required to answer the **Topics for Critical Thinking and Writing** section of questions located after each assigned reading. 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.

**Response Papers:** Students are required to hand in a **Full 2** page response paper on assigned reading. Response papers are to be typed in Times Roman font, 12 pt. and **stapled**. They are to also follow MLA guidelines. Papers that do not follow the above guidelines will **not** be accepted. Response papers are **not summaries**. They are a critical analysis of the reading. Response papers should reflect how you, the reader reacts or responds to a particular argument; or overall response to the author's topic (thesis). A response paper outline must be attached to the front of the response paper. If an outline is not attached the paper will receive an automatic 2 pt deduction.

**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 one class grace period to hand in late work, after the following class, **no late work** will be accepted and students will receive a **zero** for the assignment. Students will have a one class grace period to hand in late work which will receive an automatic 50% reduction before graded. **No emails of work will be accepted.**

**Essays:** Students will be responsible of completing two 6-8 (full) page researched essays practicing the components of an argumentation using MLA guidelines. Essays will be counted as exams and therefore must be handed in on assigned dates.

**The Writing Center/ TASC:** Room C117 (across from my office)  
860.892.5713, [TRWritingcenter@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:TRWritingcenter@trcc.commnet.edu), online tutoring: <http://www.etutoring.org/>

**Weather Cancellations:** 860.886.0177 [www.trcc.commnet.edu](http://www.trcc.commnet.edu)

### Course Schedule:

#### Week 1:

1/24 m review syllabus / intro to Social Epistemic Theory  
Read ch. 1 critical thinking and reading  
w intro to components of argumentative essay / MLA guidelines  
f Read ch 3. Critical Reading: Getting Deeper into Argument / quiz on ch 1 &3

#### Week 2:

1/31 m Read Ch. 5 Writing an Analysis of an Argument  
w Read Ch. 6 Developing and Argument of your Own  
f Read ch. 8 Toulmin model / quiz on ch. 5, 6 & 8

2/7 m Sec. 21- Read: The Death Penalty: Is it ever Justified p575, questions due  
w Read: The Death Penalty p580, questions due  
f 1<sup>st</sup> draft response paper due on either reading in sec 21  
peer edit session bring 2 copies to class

#### Week 4

2/14 m Information Literacy workshop scheduled in Library /  
w 2<sup>nd</sup> draft due / Read ch. 7 Using Sources / quiz  
f Sec-16 Read: Genetic: Modification of Human Beings: Is it Acceptable? p515  
questions due

#### Week 5

2/21 m Read: Genetically Modified Humans? No Thanks p520, questions due  
w Response paper due on **either** reading in sec 16, peer edit session 2copies to class  
f in class activity: annotated bibliography / 2<sup>nd</sup> draft due / in class activity

#### Week 6

2/28 m film / essay 1 guidelines  
w film  
f film

#### Week 7

3/7 m film discussion / one page submission of essay topic  
w Law and order prep  
f Law and order

#### Week 8

3/14 m spring break  
w spring break  
f spring break

## Week 9

3/21	m	student conferencing
	w	student conferencing
	f	student conferencing

## Week 10

3/28	m	Sec 31-Read: Torture: Is It Ever Justifiable? P824 and The Truth About Torture p828 only questions on p836 due.
	w	Read: Defusing the Ticking Bomb Scenario p836, questions due
	f	in class activity: intro to rebuttals / informal write

## Week 11

4/4	m	Response paper due on <b>one</b> reading in sec 31, peer edit session 2copies to class
	w	Law & Order Prep
	f	Law & Order / 2 <sup>nd</sup> draft due

## Week 12

4/11	m	Read Sec- 29: Commencement Address p772, questions due
	w	Read: The Case for "Service" p 778, questions due
	f	Read: Serve or Fail p.794-798, one page response due on question on p798

## Week 13

4/18	m	Film / Essay 2 guidelines
	w	Film
	f	Film

## Week 14

4/25	m	Film discussion / one page submission of essay topic due
	w	Response paper due on <b>one</b> reading in sec 29, peer edit session 2copies to class
	f	in class activity / informal write/ 2 <sup>nd</sup> draft due

## Week 15

5/2	m	discussion of essay topics
	w	Revision of one selected response paper due / in class activity
	f	Evaluation of secondary sources

## Week 16

5/9	m	Essay 2 peer edit: full draft
	w	Peer edit
	f	Peer edit

## Week 17

5/16	m	Final essay exam 2 due /1 previous revised response paper
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**\*Course Syllabus is tentative and may be subject to change**