

## **Syllabus – Spring 2011**

### **31394 English K100-T18, Reading –Writing Connection**

Amy Lynn Reifsnyder, Instructor

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 3:30 to 4:45 p.m., Room E206

Office Hours by appointment

Contact information: areifsnyder@trcc.commnet.edu; Voice Messages: (860) 465-9534

**Required Texts:** Muller, Gilbert H. and Harvey S. Wiener. *To the Point- Reading and Writing Short Arguments*. 2d edition. New York: Pearson Education Inc. 2009

Faigley, Lester. *The Brief Penguin Handbook*. 3d. New York: Pearson Education Inc. 2009

Collegiate dictionary (e.g. *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary and Thesaurus*)

Various hand-outs and other supplemental material

### **Required material**

3-ring binder with section separators (grammar, vocabulary, class notes, compositions)

Dark blue or black ink pens

Yellow highlighter

Colored pencils as needed

USB flash drive to back up work

Dedication, patience, and a sense of humor

Please note: All material submitted may be shared with other students and/or staff as appropriate. Students retain first publication rights.

### **Additional suggested texts**

Barron's *501 English Verbs*; Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style*; English grammar

### **Course description:**

This course emphasizes the close relationship between reading, writing, and critical thinking. Vocabulary development and 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 this course, students will be able to:**

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

Understanding the connections between the reading and writing processes;

Recognizing common organizational patterns in reading and writing;

Comprehending and summarizing college-level reading material to develop own ideas

Identifying and defending logical inferences based on textual evidence

**Write critically and analytically by**

Demonstrating 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;

Demonstrating through reading and writing an understanding of the rhetorical concepts of audience, invention, style, organization, and delivery;

Applying various writing processes in composing unified, coherent and fully developed paragraphs and short essays;

Using an effective thesis or assertion in order to develop more complex essays;

Demonstrating an understanding of the positive and negative impact of word choice;

Choosing appropriate language for a given context.

**Demonstrate informational literacy by**

Evaluating sources for accuracy, validity, and academic relevance;

Using information to support and develop their assertions through paraphrasing, quoting, and summarizing;

Citing sources using MLA citation style;

Learning and employing strategies to avoid plagiarism.

**Apply the foundations of strong academic skills by**

Developing and using academic reasoning and speaking vocabularies;

Using tools appropriately related to reading and writing, such as dictionaries, thesaurus, and writing handouts;

Utilizing word processing programs, including proofreading software, in the writing process;

Producing documents according to MLA formatting conventions;

Employing strategies for effective editing, including attention to grammar, mechanics, usage, and the conventions of standard United States English;

Collaborating with others in developing points of view and analyzing writing;

Employing effective annotation skills;

Using writing and reading for inquiry, learning, thinking, and communicating in a college setting;

Formulating appropriate questions and hypotheses.

**Grading**

The final grade will be a letter grade, A – F, based on a percentage system.

Students must get a 73% (C) or better to pass this course.

**Numerical Grading Scale**

A	94-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	65-66
A-	90-93	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-64
B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	0-59

Attendance and participation are required and counts for 10% of grade.

Readings/Worksheets 10%

Short Essays 20%

Portfolio 60%

**Please note:** There is an Entrance Exam for 0 points. Other compositions and writing assignments will be added as necessary to encourage further understanding of skills.

### **Academic Integrity**

**Plagiarism and cheating are not acceptable.** Please refer to the TRCC handbook for a thorough description of plagiarism and potential consequences. Plagiarizing may result in a 0 for the assignment, and possibly the course.

Using language translation devices and personal resources is acceptable, as long as you are able to use the same language and sentence structure on your own. “Uncle Fred” will not be in class with you, so be sure you understand what it is “you” wrote.

Hand-held translators are not allowed during vocabulary quizzes and tests. Neither are other electronic devices unless they are a pre-approved ADA accommodation; see me before first quiz.

### **Attendance and Assignment Deadlines**

Students are expected to attend all classes. Military personnel should make previous arrangements as necessary.

Class work, including quizzes, cannot be made up.

Essays are due when they are due. There is a two day grace period, at the cost of 5 points per day. After the “drop-dead” date, no essays will be accepted, except for extenuating circumstances, such as a death in the immediate family, serious medical condition, birth of a child, etc. Please contact me as soon as possible to make alternate arrangements.

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you have a disability that may require certain modifications, please contact the Counseling and Advising Center at (860) 383-5217 as soon as possible.

### **Electronic device policy**

Please turn off your cell phone unless you are the parent or spouse of military personnel in active duty, or the birthing coach or partner of a pregnant woman. Accepting calls from these people is acceptable. Otherwise, encourage the understanding of professional boundaries by not answering calls from friends, family, and others during class time.

### **Classroom environment**

Three Rivers Community College does employ a sanitation staff. However, they are not here to pick up your pencils, the edges of notebook paper, or other trash. Please be considerate and clean up after yourself and any other previous students who may not have been as thoughtful and conscientious as you are.

### **Several key rules to follow:**

No blood. No guts. No broken bones.

Be kind. Be gentle. Be thoughtful.

Everyone participates.

Do your homework.

This is a class about argumentative essays. Your **first assignment** is to know and understand the difference between being argumentative and contentious. Please take a moment to look up both terms in your dictionary and to write their definition below. Turn in papers next class.

**Argumentative:**

**Contentious:**