

Syllabus – Spring 2010
English 012: Foundations of Writing – Section: 11980

Instructor: Jennifer Reilly

Meets: M W 10:00am to 11:40am

Office Hours: before class, after class and by appointment

Adjunct Office Location: D-203A

Faculty Mailbox Office Location: D-207

Phone: (860) 887-5546 (after 8:00am & before 8:00 pm)

E-mail: For communication purposes use Blackboard Vista (tutorial will be given during class)

Required Texts:

- Henry, D. J. Writing for Life. 2th ed. New York: Pearson Longman, 2010.
 - Ingalls, Anna. Expectations. 2nd ed. New York: Pearson Longman, 2006.
 - McWhorter, Kathleen. The Longman Reader's Journal
 - A college dictionary and thesaurus
- ❖ *Your Textbook is a workbook and I will be referring to it as such; you will be writing and annotating and using them thoroughly. Enjoy having texts you can write on! I will be checking texts occasionally to check completed assignments as part of your participation grade. FYI, remedial texts cannot be sold back to the book store.*

Required Supplements:

- 2 folders with pockets (one for expectation responses and one for the Exploratory Essay)
- A binder with loose leaf paper and dividers
- A method for backing up your work on a computer (USB drive)
- Student Handbook can be picked up at the Registrar's Office (A Wing)

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.

*COURSE DOES NOT COUNT TOWARDS THE CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION.

Expectations Journal

In addition to completing exercises in your workbook, you will also complete a series of academic, typed writing assignments. Your Expectations Journal will be a series of responses from readings in Expectations: A Reader for Developing Writers. These typed responses will include a variety of organizational patterns, A.K.A. rhetorical strategies, and will increase in length from paragraphs (in the beginning of the semester) to one-page essays (towards the middle and end of the semester). As a writer, you will be expected to employ a wide range of writing strategies, from pre-writing to drafting and editing. The Expectations Journals will serve as the basis for our in-class writing workshops, in which you will edit your own work and the

work of your classmates. In addition, you are expected to revise your Journal entry with a tutor in The Writing Center. Your final drafts will count as 25% of your final grade.

Exploratory Essay

This semester, you will write a research paper on a current social issue on the theme of “Food 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. In short, the Exploratory Essay is a first-person, chronological narrative account of your research process. It is not a research paper. 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 begin composing your paper according to MLA formatting guidelines. This paper will be based on a research question, not a thesis statement, and you will be required to summarize and directly quote from at least three sources in the body of the essay. Specific directions will be covered in class.

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

Grading

The final grade will be a letter grade, A - F. Students must earn a “C” or better to pass this course.

Grading is based on:

Class Participation.....25%

Participation is extremely important because we learn from each other. Participation includes:

- completed text assignments
- quizzes
- attending all classes and participating in class discussions
- small and large group work
- in class writing

- coming to class prepared by reading all assigned work and doing assignments on time

<u>Expectation Journals</u>	25%
<u>Research Log</u>	10%
<u>Exploratory Essay</u>	20%
<u>Final exam</u>	20%

A	=	93 -100
A -	=	90 - 92
B +	=	87 - 89
B	=	83 - 86
B -	=	80 - 82
C +	=	77 - 79
C	=	73 - 76
C -	=	70 - 72
D +	=	67 - 69
D	=	63 - 66
D -	=	60 - 62

Attendance:

- ✓ **Students are expected to attend all classes.** If a student misses classes it will reflect in a lower final grade, regardless of when these absences occur and the reason(s) for which they occur, including illness.
- ✓ **Class begins promptly, so don't be late or leave early,** as it will affect your grade.
- ✓ If a student misses a class, it is the student's responsibility to find out any missed assignment(s), do the class work and be prepared for the next class. This is why I suggest exchanging phone numbers with at least 2 classmates ASAP.

Late Work:

Work is due on the dates stated in the course outline or by instructor.
Late work (anytime after it is collected) will receive a whole grade penalty.

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.

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/>

Fall 2010 Writing Center Workshop Schedule

You are strongly encouraged to attend the following free workshops offered by Writing Center Coordinator, Jon Brammer:

Technology:

Turn off your cell phone or other electronic equipment before class begins. IT Help Desk is available at (860)885-2334 day or 885-2331 at night. You will be assigned an email address through our course shell at Blackboard Vista (tutorial will be given on 1st day of class). It is important that you use this address as the primary source of communication between teacher and student. If you need to make any copies, do so at the library or computer lab.

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.

Our Classroom:

Think of this class as a writing workshop: A place where we meet to write, to talk about writing, and to read one another's writing. I urge you to help me create a kind and encouraging environment, so that we may share ideas and learn from one another. In addition, we shouldn't forget that thoughtful questions are as valuable as conclusive statements.