

English 101: College Composition
Three Rivers Community College
Spring, 2011
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1. Course Description (from the college catalog)

"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 English. Writing assignments require that students develop their own points of view and demonstrate understanding of complex issues and ideas. Methods for research, including use of the library, appropriate documentation, and incorporation of sources in original papers will be taught through assigned writings."

2. Goals

At the end of this course you should be able to:

- read and understand essays which offer differing points of view on a topic
- compare or contrast various perspectives on a topic
- analyze a particular perspective or argument on a topic and evaluate its relative merits
- develop your own perspective on a topic and state that perspective in a written "thesis"
- support that thesis with specific and detailed evidence from readings, research, and, if appropriate, personal experience and observations
- document information from other sources using MLA parenthetical documentation
- recognize the reader as an intrinsic element in writing and employ strategies that engage the reader
- craft effective sentences and paragraphs
- employ strategies for effective major revision of writing, including attention to organization and paragraph coherence
- employ strategies for effective editing, including attention to grammar and usage
- conduct basic library research, including accessing basic print media and electronic data bases
- collaborate with others in analyzing writing, developing points of view, and conducting research

3. Texts

Faigley, Lester. *The Brief Penguin Handbook* (including helpful electronic exercises at www.ablongman.com/faigley). (3rd Edition) New York: Pearson Longman, 2009.

We will refer to this book as HANDBOOK.

Anderson, Chris, and Lex Runciman. *Open Questions: Readings for Critical Thinking and Writing*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2005.

See the website at www.bedfordstmartins.com/openquestions

We will refer to this book as OPEN.

4. Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is a very important part of this course. To miss even one class is to significantly decrease your chances of benefiting from the course. Regular and active attendance counts for 20% of your overall grade. Therefore, if at all possible, be here for each class.

Also, I will be starting class promptly at 6:00, and I will expect you to be in the classroom at that time, ready to work and learn. You have made a serious commitment by enrolling in this class, and I will take your commitment seriously.

5. Office Hours

My "office" will be the teacher's desk in our classroom. My office hours will be the 30 minutes before and after each class. Please feel free to come up to the desk for a conference. *No appointment is necessary*. If I appear to be working at the desk, don't hesitate to interrupt me. At those times I am there to be of service to you.

6. Class Cancellation

In case I have to cancel a class due to illness or emergency, we will use a phone diagram to contact everyone. Please be sure to call the person directly below you on the diagram.

7. Course Requirements

Your final course grade will be based on the following:

A. Writing projects:

- 1) Two mid-length formal papers 20% each
- 2) One mid-length formal research paper 28 %

B. Attendance and participation:

I'm hoping this part of the course requirement will be a fairly easy way for you to boost your grade. If you attend class regularly, are in the classroom ready to learn at 6:00, take careful notes, and stay alert and involved until the end of each class, this part should be an easy 'A' for you. 16%

C. Nightly class notes 4%

D. Nightly vocabulary quizzes 4%

E. Final vocabulary test 8%

8. Assignment Specifications

1. Mid-length formal papers

Each of these papers will be based on three essays in OPEN:

Paper #1

First draft due to me by email attachment on Sunday, February 6. Final polished version due by email attachment on Wednesday, February 16.

Essays in OPEN for this paper: Maxine Hong Kingston, "No Name Woman", p. 45-54; Cornell West, "The Moral Obligations of Living in a Democratic Society", p. 123-127; Kofi Annan, "Nobel Lecture", p. 225-228

Paper #2

First draft due by email attachment by Tuesday, February 22. Final polished version due Wednesday, March 9.

Essays in OPEN for this paper: Judith Ortiz Cofer, "The Story of My Body"; Nora Ephron, "The Boston Photographs", p. 433-438; Eric Schlosser, "What We Eat", 491-497.

ASSIGNMENT: In both papers, discuss a single theme that you find in each of the three assigned essays. Some examples might be *courage, love, kindness, drifting, ignorance, darkness and light, patience, forgetfulness, transformation*, etc. Be imaginative. Look for a theme that other readers might miss. Just remember to support it with direct references to each of the essays.

Each paper should contain five paragraphs: an opening and closing paragraph, and three "body" paragraphs. The body paragraphs should be in the 11-sentence format, and should discuss how your chosen theme plays out in each of the three essays. The final drafts should be orderly, clear, and mistake free, since these are formal college essays.

2. Mid-length formal research paper.

“Works Cited” page due by email attachment by Sunday, February 27.

First two body paragraphs due by email attachment on Sunday, March 6.

Final polished version due by email attachment by Sunday, March 20

ASSIGNMENT: Write a six-paragraph research essay on a topic, *not related to your work*, that is of special interest to you. Perhaps it might be a hobby, a place that’s important to you, a historical person or event – anything outside of your job that you find especially interesting. In the essay, use at least eight in-text citations from at least eight different sources. The sources should include at least five online sources and at three print sources. A “Works Cited” page listing all the sources should be included. The four body paragraphs should be in the 11-sentence format. The final paper should be free of typos and careless mistakes of any kind, since it should read like a sophisticated academic research paper.

Note: For this assignment, we will follow the guidelines and procedures set forth in our HANDBOOK. We will be discussing these in the next few weeks.

9. Class Schedule and Assignments

Monday, January 24

6:00 Professor’s introduction 5

6:05 Class roster, attendance 10

6:15 Syllabus, introduction to the course 15

6:30 Phone diagram 5

6:35 Textbooks 10

7:45 Note-taking procedures 20

7:05 *Break (professor available for conferences)* 10

7:15 Using formulas (or recipes) for writing 15

7:30 Discuss specifications for papers 15

7:45 Vocabulary work 15

8:00 Additional material and review ...

End of class: collect notes

Homework: Read the Kingston essay and take notes for Paper #1. I will be checking reading notes in each class.

Wednesday, January 26

6:00 Attendance; return notes; vocabulary quiz 10
 6:10 Using formulas for formal writing; in-class writing 20
 6:30 HANDBOOK, Ch. 1 and 23 20
 6:50 *Break (conferences)* 10
 7:00 Discuss research project 15
 7:15 Discuss Kingston essay and check reading notes 30
 7:45 Vocabulary work 10
 7:55 An example formula essay by the professor 10
 8:05 Additional material and review...

End of class: collect notes

Homework: Read and take notes on West essay. I will check your notes at the next class, **which will meet at the TRCC Library in Norwich.**

Monday, January 31

CLASS WILL MEET AT THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE LIBRARY, Norwich, promptly at 6:00 pm.

Homework: Read and take notes on Annan essay. I will check notes on Wednesday.

Wednesday, February 2

6:00 Attendance; return notes; vocabulary quiz 10
 6:10 Discussion of West and Annan essays, and check notes 25
 6:35 Vocabulary work 10
 6:45 Handbook, Ch. 2 and review 23 30
 7:15 Break (open for conferences) 10
 7:25 Discuss research paper 15
 7:40 Some formula writing by the professor 20
 8:00 Additional material and review...

End of class: collect notes

Homework: By Sunday night, send first draft of Paper #1 by email attachment

Monday, February 7

6:00 Attendance; return notes; vocabulary quiz 10
 6:10 Discuss first drafts 30
 6:40 Vocabulary work 10

6:50 Handbook, Part 8: Understanding Grammar 20
 7:10 Break 10
 7:20 Continue discussion of first drafts 20
 7:40 Read and takes notes on Cofer essay 20
 8:00 Additional material and review...

End of class: Collect notes
 Homework: Read all of Cofer essay and take notes.

Wednesday, February 9

6:00 Attendance; return notes; vocabulary quiz 10
 6:10 Discuss first drafts 20
 6:30 Vocabulary work 10
 6:40 Discuss Cofer essay and check notes 15
 6:55 HANDBOOK, Ch. 4 and 27 20
 7:15 Break 10
 7:25 Discuss research paper 10
 7:35 Discuss first drafts 25
 8:00 Additional material and review

End of class: collect notes
 Homework: Read and take notes on Ephron essay

Monday, February 14

6:00 Attendance; return notes; quiz
 6:10 Discuss first drafts (or example writing by the professor) 15
 6:25 Discuss Ephron essay and check notes 15
 6:40 Handbook, Ch. 5, 30 30
 7:10 Break 10
 7:20 Vocabulary work 10
 7:30 Handbook, Ch. 31 15
 7:45 Additional material and review...

End of class: collect notes
 Homework: Final draft of Paper #1 due by email attachment by
 Wednesday. Read and take notes on Schlosser essay.

Wednesday, February 16

6:00 Attendance; return notes; quiz 10
 6:10 Example writing from the professor 15
 6:25 Discuss Schlosser essay and check notes 30
 6:55 Handbook, Ch. 7 15
 7:10 Break 10

7:20 Vocabulary work 10
 7:30 Handbook, Ch. 8 15
 7:45 Handbook, Ch. 9 15
 8:00 Additional material and review

End of class: collect notes

Homework: First draft of Paper #2 due by email attachment by next Tuesday. "Works Cited" page due by email attachment by Sunday, February 27

Monday, February 21

PRESIDENTS DAY: TRCC CLOSED, NO CLASS

Wednesday, February 23

6:00 Attendance; return notes; quiz 10
 6:10 Discuss first drafts 30
 6:40 Handbook, Part 5, Researching 20
 7:00 Break 10
 7:10 Vocabulary work 10
 7:20 Discuss first drafts 20
 7:40 Example writing 20
 8:00 Additional material and review...

End of class: Collect notes

Homework: Work on research paper. "Works Cited" page due on Sunday. First two body paragraphs due by email on Sunday, March 6. Final draft of Paper #2 due by Wednesday, March 9.

Monday, February 28

6:00 Attendance; return notes; quiz 10
 6:10 Discuss first drafts 30
 6:40 Handbook, Part 3, Writing in the Disciplines 20
 7:00 Break 10
 7:10 Vocabulary work 10
 7:20 Break 10
 7:30 Discuss first drafts (or an example paragraph by the professor) 30
 8:00 Additional material and review...

End of class: collect notes

Homework: Work on research paper. First two body paragraphs due by email on Sunday, March 6. Final draft of Paper #2 due by Wednesday, March 9.

Wednesday, March 2

6:00 Attendance; return notes; quiz 10
 6:10 Discuss "Works Cited" pages 30
 6:40 Handbook, Part 6: Documenting 20
 7:00 Break 10
 7:10 Handbook, Part 4: Designing and Presenting 20
 7:30 vocabulary work 10
 7:40 Handbook, Part 8: Understanding grammar 20
 8:00 Additional material and review...

End of class: collect notes

Homework: Work on research paper. First two body paragraphs due by email on Sunday. Final draft of Paper #2 due by Wednesday, March 9.

Monday, March 7

6:00 Attendance; return notes; quiz 10
 6:10 Discuss first two paragraphs 30
 6:40 Handbook, Sample MLA research paper 20
 7:00 Break 10
 7:10 Discuss first two body paragraphs 20
 7:30 Vocabulary work 10
 7:40 Some example writing 20
 8:00 Additional material and review...

End of class: collect notes

Homework: Work on research paper. Final draft of Paper #2 due by Wednesday.

Wednesday, March 9

6:00 Attendance; return notes; quiz 10
 6:10 Discuss first two body paragraphs 30
 6:40 Handbook, Part 7 30
 7:10 Break 10
 7:20 Vocabulary work 10
 7:30 Handbook, Part 9: Punctuation and mechanics 30
 8:00 Additional material and review...

End of class: collect notes

Homework: Work on research papers. Final draft due by Sunday, March 20. Study for final vocabulary test.

Monday, March 14 and Wednesday, March 16
NO CLASSES. SPRING BREAK

Monday, March 21 FINAL CLASS

6:00 Attendance; return notes 5

6:05 Final vocabulary test 15

6:20 Discussion of final drafts of research papers 45

7:05 Additional material and review of the course

Don't forget professor evals. They are very helpful to me.

Goodbye and thanks to everyone!

10. College Withdrawal Policy

A student who finds it necessary to discontinue a course once a class has met should complete the withdrawal form in the registrar's office, or send a written request to withdraw from the course. Students may withdraw from class anytime during the first ten weeks (or until completion of two-thirds of a summer session or module course) without being in good standing or obtaining prior approval of the instructor. After that period, a student must request written permission from the instructor (using the official withdrawal form) to withdraw from the class, and must have maintained a C- average. Withdrawals are recorded with a 'W' grade on the student's permanent record, and *carry no penalty*. Students who merely stop attending but fail to formally withdraw are assigned 'NC' grades, signifying "No Credit."

11. Disabilities and Learning Differences

If you have a hidden or visible disability or learning difference which may require classroom modifications, please see me as soon as possible. Also, if you have not already done so, please contact the Disability Services office, at 860-823-2830.

