

“Reforming a Republic”

CRN: 30201
English K100: Composition (Rm 222) TH campus
Term: Fall 2008
Schedule: T/R 5:00 – 6:15
Instructor: Fredrick-Douglass Knowles
Office Hours: TBA
Email: fknowles@trcc.commnet.edu

Required Text:

- Faigley, Lester. The Brief Penguin Handbook. 3rd ed. New York: Pearson-Longman, 2009.
- Kirszner, Laurie G. and Stephen Mandell. Patterns for College Writing. 10th 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:

1. Narrative	15%
2. Cause and Effect essay	20%
3. Argumentative essay	20%
4. Journals	20%
5. Attendance	10%
6. Class Participation	15%

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. College policy allows an instructor to issue, for academic reasons, an NC grade (no credit) if a student has more absences per semester than the number of times the class meets per week. In addition, 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. If students miss more than two (2) classes, I reserve the right to issue an NC.

Emergencies do arrive; however do not abuse the policy.

Students with Disabilities:

To receive accommodations in class a student must make an appointment with the Learning Disability Specialists, Mr. Chris Scarborough (office in Mohegan Library) or Judy Hilburger (office in the Registrar's office) 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 15. 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.

Essays:

Essays are to consist of 2-3 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

Late Work:

Students are required to hand in **essays** on time. All work that is not turned in at the scheduled day and time is considered late. 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 one grade (A is a B). Students are to deliver a copy to my mailbox in the English dept. **No emails of essays will be accepted.**

Journal writes:

Students are required to write a 1 page (both sides) journal response to the readings and film material. Entries must be made in assigned journal book which should include: essay or film title and date. Journals will be collected randomly during the course of the semester. Students will also be required to bring journals to class for free write sessions. Free writes must also be titled and dated.

Student Groups: Students will be assigned to groups for peer editing. The goal of the group is to give and receive critical feedback on the progress on your writing skills. Students are expected to be present and fully participate in peer editing work.

[Recommended Web Resources](#)

[Writing Help](#)

[Current Issues Companion Site](#)

[NVCC Library - "Opposing Viewpoints"](#)

[O'Keefe Library Hot Paper Topics](#)

[The Bedford Research Room](#)

[The Guide to Writing Research Papers](#)

[Thesis builder and online outliner](#)

[How to write a thesis statement](#)

[Writing a thesis statement](#)

[Strunk's *The Elements of Style*](#)

Documenting Sources

[Sample MLA-style research papers from Hacker's *Research and Documentation*](#)

[Online Purdue University's Online Writing Center - OWL](#)

[How to Document Your Sources Using MLA Style](#)

[CitationMachine.net](#)

Research Sources

[Internet Public Library](#)

[Electronic Databases at NVCC Library](#)

(Search databases like Expanded Academic ASAP and EBSCOhost.)

Electronic Texts

[Bartleby.Com Great Books Online](#)

[Bibliomania/The Network Library](#)

[The Online Books Page](#)

Quotations

[Bartlett's Quotations](#)

Other Important Links

Vista/ WebCT

<http://my.comnet.edu/>

Tutoring

<http://www.etutoring.org/>

Online Student Center http://www.trcc.comnet.edu/distlearn/student_center.shtml

Course Schedule:

Week 1:

9/2 T Introduction

9/4 TH Review of syllabus/ discussion on ch 1 & 2

Week 2:

9/9 T Ch. 3- 5 discussion

9/11 TH Ch. 6 Narration

Family Relationships (Narrative Essay)

Week 3:

9/16 T *Only Daughter*, Sandra Cisneros (p.96)

9/18 TH 1st draft narative esay due(1 copy): Penguin Ch. 33 Grammar workshop

Week 4:

9/23 T *The Men we Carry in our Minds*, Scott Russell Sanders (p.481)

9/25 TH Peer edit workshop in class: 2nd Draft due (3 copies)

Week 5:

9/30 T Film: *Soul Food*

10/2 TH Film: *Soul Food*

Week 6:

10/7 T Peer edit workshop: 3rd draft due (3 copies)

10/9 TH Final draft due: Grammar Workshop Penguin Ch. 34 Subject-Verb agreement

Citizenship (Cause & Effect Essay)

Week 7:

10/14 T read Ch. 10 Cause & Effect and essay

The Power of Words in Wartime, Robin Tolmach Lakoff (p.377)

10/16 TH *The Threat of National ID Cards*, William Safire

Week 8:

10/21 T 1st Draft due (1copy): Grammar Workshop: Penguin Ch. 38 & 39

10/23 TH *Why Fear National ID Cards?*, Alan Dershowitz

Week 9:

10/28 T Student Conferencing

10/30 TH Student Conferencing

Week 10:

11/4 T Peer Edit Workshop in class (3 copies)

11/6 TH Film: *Fahrenheit 9/11*

Week 11:

11/11 T Film: *Fahrenheit 9/11*

11/13 TH Final Draft due: Grammar Workshop: Penguin ch. 29 write with emphasis

Economy (Argumentative essay)

Week 12:

11/18 T Ch. 14 patterns: Argumentation

11/20 TH *The Case for Wal-Mart*, Coster & Edmonds (p650)

Week 13:

11/25 T Thanksgiving Break

11/27 TH Thanksgiving Break

Week 14:

12/2 T *Down & Out in Discount America*, Liza Featherstone (p659)

12/4 TH Peer edit workshop: 1st draft due (3 copies)

Week 15:

12/9 T 2nd draft due (1 copy): Film

12/11 TH Film

Week 16

Final Essay #3 Due: TBA

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