

FALL 2019
ENG K101-30212
Composition
M/W 3:00 PM-4:15 PM Room E223

Professor: Ms. Margaret McNellis

Office: D205E

Office Hours: By appointment or request before or after class, Mondays and Wednesdays

Contact: mmcnellis@threerivers.edu

PART ONE: WHAT IS THIS COURSE?

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 English. Writing assignments require that students develop their own points 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.

Course Prerequisites

ENG* K101 or ENG* K101S placement[∞] or completion of ENG* K096 with a “C#” grade or better.

Required Readings

- *They Say/I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing* 4th Edition, by Gerald Graff, Cathy Birkenstein, and Russel Durst
- Additional in-class and optional readings will be provided on Blackboard and/or as handouts

Required Course Materials

- A writing journal
- A notebook for class notes
- A pen or pencil for each class
- A folder for handouts and assignments

PART TWO: WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Course Theme: Technology and Ethics

Technology can be viewed as both a help and a hindrance in our day-to-day lives. Do some technologies overstep ethical bounds? Are there some technological advances our human cultures are on the brink of utilizing that we should not use, or should we strive to become more technologically advanced? What impacts have recent technological strides had on our local, national, and global spheres?

Course Outcomes

Respond to Rhetorical Situations

- 1) Adapt writing as audience and purpose requires
- 2) Develop and apply an independent writing process that includes generating, revising, editing, and proofreading
- 3) Reflect on and explain writing choices regarding audience and purpose

Engage with and Use Authoritative Sources

- 4) Use the reading process to differentiate between supporting points, evidence, and reasoning in complex texts (texts that engage with multiple perspectives and use a variety of rhetorical strategies and evidence)
- 5) Employ effective annotation skills to the reading of complex texts
- 6) Locate and evaluate sources appropriate to the rhetorical situation
- 7) Interpret and analyze argument, evidence, and rhetorical strategies in complex texts
- 8) Evaluate information in complex texts for accuracy, validity, and relevance, with particular attention to the type and purpose of source material
- 9) Demonstrate critical and evaluative reading comprehension
- 10) Write accurate summaries and paraphrases of complex texts and differentiate these from student's own writing
- 11) Respond to an argument in a complex text and synthesize perspectives in multiple texts
- 12) Integrate complex texts to fulfill the rhetorical purpose

Craft Logical Arguments

- 13) Produce essays with clear thesis statements (or controlling ideas) and logical support for assertions
- 14) Compose unified, coherent, and fully developed paragraphs with attention to transitions and signal phrasing for source material
- 15) By the end of the semester, write at least one thesis-driven, text-based essay of 1500 words demonstrating competent argumentation using complex texts

Apply Language Conventions

- 16) Apply Standard English language conventions (diction, tone, or level of formality) consistently, with particular attention to college-level writing situations
- 17) Cite varied sources in MLA citation style

PART THREE: HOW WILL I GRADE YOUR WORK? WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT BEING A STUDENT IN THIS COURSE?

Course Assignments

For each essay assignment, you will receive an assignment sheet with specific details and requirements. Assignment sheets will be distributed online via Blackboard and in person; they will also be discussed in class.

Assignment(s)	Weight
Rhetorical Analysis Essay	15%
Synthesis Essay	20%
Synthesis + Research Essay (and Presentation)	10%
Research Essay (and Presentation)	25%
Writing journals	10%
Class participation and conferences	10%
Writing Homework Exercises	10%

Grading Policies:

Attendance Policy

The major responsibility for education belongs to the student. An assumption of responsibility is at the center of learning and accomplishment. Each student is expected to arrange a class schedule in such a way that conflicting employment or personal activities are held to a minimum.

Attendance is required in all courses. If students miss a class, they will miss important lessons and possibly work that can only be completed in class. Faculty availability outside of class has been established to provide extra class assistance for students; this is not intended to make up missed class time.

Composition classes are active, participatory learning environments.

You are expected to show up on time. Late arrivals are disruptive to class activities. If you are late, you will be marked late. **Three late arrivals equal one absence.**

Class Participation

You are expected to participate in class. You'll be expected to work equally with groups and partners, provide thoughtful peer critique(s), and speak during class and/or group debates and discussions. This also means not distracting yourself or others during class time.

Classroom Etiquette

Please treat our classroom learning environment with respect. If you have to eat you may so long as it's not loud or smelly and you clean up any resulting mess. However, sleeping, catching up on other course work, etc. **may negatively impact your participation grade.** Please treat your classmates with respect.

Conference Policy

You are required to meet with me for at least one of your essay assignments. You can pick which one, and you can certainly have a conference (or more than one conference) for all of your essay assignments.

Come prepared with questions and a current draft of your writing. Expect conferences to last about 10-20 minutes. If you have a hectic schedule, consider scheduling your conference ahead of time. If Mondays and Wednesdays don't work for you, see me. While in-person is better, we can schedule a conference over video chat.

Late Essays

Even if you're absent, your essay is due on the due date listed in the course calendar. If your paper is not submitted on the due date, you may submit it late for a reduced grade. Your grade will be reduced by **one third (1/3)** for each day it's late.

For example, if you write an A paper, and hand it in one day after it's due, your grade would be reduced to an A-. If you hand in that same paper 5 days late, your grade would be reduced to a C+.

I will not accept essays after one week (7 calendar days, holidays included) after the due date. If you hand in a paper 8 days or longer after the due date, it will receive a zero (0).

The only exception to this policy is a documented extended illness, family emergency, or accommodation that states you have a situation which prevents you from completing your work on time.

Required Essay and Presentation Assignments

You will complete four essays and two presentations over the course of this semester. Your first essay will be a 5-page rhetorical analysis. Next, you'll write a 5-page synthesis essay. For your third essay, you'll augment your synthesis essay with 2 pages from group research; you'll also

complete a group presentation of this research. Your final assignment will be a 8-page research essay and presentation.

Revision

You will be permitted to revise your first essay. Rewrites will be due within one calendar month of receiving your graded final essay. Revision must be substantial. You must meet with me before you write and submit your revision.

I will average your grade for the original final draft of the paper and for the revision to reach your new final grade for that assignment.

Writing Homework Exercises

Often you will be asked to write a ½- to 2-page response to a question or series of questions. These assignments are designed to allow you to think about the writing process, our course theme, and get used to handing in your work for review.

These assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date marked on the course calendar. They should be printed out in Times New Roman size 12, double-spaced, with 1” margins. Complete writing homework exercises will receive a check; skipped assignments will receive a 0.

They will be marked as complete or incomplete, but I may, at times, provide additional feedback to help you continue to grow as a writer. Only with excused absences (see the attendance policy) will I accept late reading questions and exercises.

Writing Journals

Writing improves the most when we practice often. During almost every class period, you’ll be given time to free write. I will collect writing journals three times over the course of the semester. If you don’t want me to read an entry because of personal information, just fold one corner of the page down and I’ll just mark whether or not it’s completed. Complete writing journals will receive a check; skipped class days’ writing journals will receive a 0.

If you have questions about these or any other policies or information in this syllabus, or throughout the semester, please me.

Additional Policies:

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential to a useful education. Failure to act with academic integrity severely limits a person’s ability to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. In this class and in the course of your academic career, present only your own best work; clearly document the sources of the material you use from others; and act at all times with honor. All papers will be submitted as print-outs and through Blackboard using SafeAssign to determine originality.

Blackboard

We will use Blackboard in this course as a way to house extra and optional readings, as well as in-class readings (though handouts will also be provided of in-class readings). We will also use Blackboard to run papers through SafeAssign; however, you are required to bring print-outs of your papers to class on due dates.

We will also use Blackboard in the unlikely event of a cancelled class. Should this happen, you will receive an email from me to your school email account. If you have trouble accessing our course materials via Blackboard, please contact me as soon as possible.

Digication Statement

As a student you will maintain an online learning portfolio using a college-designed template in Digication. Through this electronic tool you will have the opportunity to monitor your own growth in college-wide learning. It may even help you determine a major that is best suited to you. You will be able to keep and maintain your learning portfolio after graduation.

A Three Rivers General Education Assessment Team will select and review random works to improve the college experience for all. If your work is selected and reviewed for assessment purposes, it will remain anonymous and private.

Digication provides a “place” where you will connect your learning from the classroom, college, and life in general. Sometimes when you review all of the work you have done and think about it, you end up learning something different and perhaps unexpected. By the end of the semester, your final research papers should be submitted to your Digication; please post your own choices as well. Have fun in learning!

Non-Discrimination Policy

Three Rivers Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, sex, national origin, marital status, ancestry, present or past history of mental disorder, learning disability or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or genetic information in its programs and activities. In addition, the College does not discriminate in employment on the basis of veteran status or criminal records. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Kenneth Saad
Three Rivers Community College
574 New London Turnpike
Norwich, CT 06360
(860) 215-9319

Library/Learning Resource Center

Pam Williams, Director of Library Services (860) 215-9306

The library provides resources and services to students, staff, faculty & the general public. The library provides a variety of services included but not limited to Orientation/Instruction on how to use online resources at the library, interlibrary loans and reserves. Books may be checked out

for thirty days and can be renewed in person or by telephone. CDs/DVDs can be checked out for seven days; the library will send overdue notices for materials that are not returned on the due date. The library web page provides a directory, links to databases and web resources, and on-line request forms. Library hours are posted at the beginning of each semester.

People with Disabilities Policy

The CSCU Board of Regents for Higher Education and all of the colleges under its jurisdiction are committed to the goal of achieving equal educational opportunity and full participation for people with disabilities in the Community Colleges. Please see above link for additional policy details. If you are in need of accommodations, please begin by visiting the Student Center; through them you can provide the necessary documentation to get the accommodation(s) you require.

Sexual Misconduct Policy

Three Rivers Community College strongly encourages all students to report any incidents of sexual misconduct, which includes, but is not limited to, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, and sexual assault. Students have the right to the prompt and fair resolution of all claims, and the College will preserve the confidentiality of all who report to the fullest extent possible and allowed by law. College employees will explain the limits of confidentiality before information about the incident is revealed. To report sexual misconduct, or to learn more about your options, please contact the Title IX Coordinator. If you need immediate, confidential assistance, please call the Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern Connecticut hotline at 860-437-7766.

Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern Connecticut
Hotline: (860) 437-7766
Office: (860) 442-0604
78 Howard Street, 2nd Floor
New London, CT 06320

Maria Krug, Title IX Coordinator
Three Rivers Community College
(860) 215-9208
574 New London Turnpike
Norwich, CT 06360

Technology in the Classroom

Please silence your phones. They should not be out of your pocket or bag. **Overuse or inappropriate use of technology may negatively impact your participation grade.** Some in-class activities will merit the use of the internet; I will tell you which activities these are as we meet throughout the semester.

Withdrawal Information

- Course withdrawals are recommended if you cannot complete your course and are accepted up until the week before classes end.

- Specific deadline dates are posted in the academic calendar and are strictly enforced.
- A grade of “W” will be assigned after you formally withdraw.
- If you stop attending classes without withdrawing, a grade of “W” will not be automatically assigned. Neglecting to withdraw may result in a grade of “F”.
- It is strongly advised that you speak with your instructor before withdrawing. Instructor signature is not required to withdraw.
- No tuition or fee refunds will be granted for a withdrawn course.

Additional information and guidelines available at: <https://www.trcc.commnet.edu/student-services/registrar-2/add-drop-information-2/>

You should also **always** check with the Financial Aid office before withdrawing, since financial aid may be tied to the number of credits for which you’re registered.

Writing Center

The Writing Center staff provides writing support for all students at all levels of writing ability. The staff also works in subjects across the curriculum, ranging from English to history to nursing. The Writing Center staff members can help students with research paper development in ways such as exploring topics, finding a thesis, drafting, revising, MLA or APA documenting, etc.

Walk-in appointments are available, and students can also reserve appointment times up to a month in advance to get feedback on their papers. In addition to the face-to-face services, papers are also accepted via e-mail. Students can take advantage of computer workstations that are fully networked with the rest of the campus, a local printer, copies of the most recent writing handbooks, and up-to-date references on citation and documentation for research.

To make the most effective use of your time, bring a plan with you: a draft or class/assignment notes and specific questions can help you make the most out of your time in the Writing Center.