

drop date

English 25
Fall 1998

T - Th 14:00 - 16:00
Reedley College

Instructor: Ed Sense
Message Phone: (209) 688-9133

All writers are at times made anxious, even alarmed, by the blank page or processor screen before them. What they have learned is to conquer their fear by improving their abilities, treating writing as any other skill that can be improved by constant, concentrated practice. For them, writing is no longer an ominous task. This course is designed so that you, through much practice, also may conquer any doubts or fears and increase the effectiveness of your writing. Your improved writing skills will prepare you not only for English 1 and other college courses, but for all jobs you are likely to encounter as college graduates. Writing can also be an immensely rewarding personal experience, leading to an appreciation of self and new revelations about the world, a world in which you will be represented by your writings.

TEXTS

Langan, John. College Writing Skills. 4th ed. New York:
McGraw-Hill, 1997.
a college dictionary

REQUIREMENTS

Attendance:

Your active participation and attendance will be crucial to your success as a developing writer. Three unexcused absences will be allowed. Please remember, excessive absences will result in your failure to receive credit for this class.

Journal:

Because jotting down random thoughts, things that excite or puzzle you, memories, dreams, or whatever comes into your mind will improve your skills of observation and your ability as a writer, you will be required to produce a writer's journal for this class. You should write in your journal every day, producing at least 7 pages of writing each week. The purpose of the journal is to provide you with a place for risk-free writing where I will not be looking for mistakes in grammar or punctuation. I prefer the use of spiral notebooks because all of your writing will be physically held together for you. Also, you will soon be amazed at the amount of writing you are capable of producing.

Writing assignments:

You will write a number of in-class essays. You will also write six (6) formal essays which can be finalized through a number of drafts and revisions. The final drafts of these essays must be neatly and correctly typed.

Workshops:

A complete draft of your paper will be due for discussion during workshops. The essay need not be typed, but it must be in readable form. For the workshops, as a reader, you will be responsible for giving useful comments and suggestions for improvement to papers of other writers in the class.

Requirements and Grading:

Each essay will be evaluated and placed into one of the following categories:

- "publishable"-- A publishable essay is one that makes a clear and perceptive point, is well supported with reasoning and details, is well organized, is written in a mature and appropriate style, and contains only minor mechanical and spelling errors.
- "revisable"-- A revisable essay is one that is well conceived and shows considerable evidence of planning, but which fails to execute successfully in one or more of the areas listed in the definition of "publishable"-- that is, in terms of support, style, organization, or mechanics.
- "re-write"-- A re-write essay is one that is deficient in one or more of the following ways:
- 1) is ill-conceived; makes no consistent or useful point;
 - 2) is poorly constructed and carelessly written; the reader has trouble following the ideas or train of thought;
 - 3) contains so many errors in sentence structure and usage that the message is troublesome to decipher;
 - 4) departs from the assignment in an unacceptable way.

The portion of the final grade for the course that is concerned with out-of-class essays will be determined by the number of revisable and publishable essays you produce. The following will apply to those essays:

- A four publishable and two revisable essays
- B two publishable and four revisable essays (however, there must be a total of four attempted revisions)
- C six revisable essays (with at least four attempted revisions)
- D near fulfillment of the C requirements
- F serious failure to fulfill the C aspects, coupled with a lack of effort

These essays will constitute forty percent of your grade. The total percentages are as follows:

Journal	10%
Out-of-class essays	40%
Mid-term	10%
Final	20%
Class participation, in-class essays, homework, tests	20%
Total	<u>100%</u>

Late Papers:

I will accept no late papers or assignments. Your lateness is not fair to those who come prepared. If a major emergency occurs to prevent your timely effort, you or a proxy must contact me by 5 P.M. of the due date by leaving a message at the telephone numbers I have provided.

Plagiarism:

DO NOT PLAGIARIZE, which is presenting someone else's work as your own--whether it is their written work, their ideas, your paraphrasing of those ideas, or taking credit for something that you have imitated from someone else's work. The district has a strict written policy on plagiarism. Check with me if you have any questions about this policy.