

## **English 25: Writing Skills for College**

**Fall 1998**

Schedule# 1432

T 6-7:50 HUM 62  
TH 6-7:50 PHY 75

Instructor: **Zay Guffy-Bill**  
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To learn to compose is to discover both the power of the mind and the meaning of human freedom.

Ann Berthoff  
The Making of Meaning

Writing is so difficult that I often feel that writers, having had their hell on earth, will escape all punishment hereafter.

Jessamyn West

### **BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION**

English 25 offers you, the student, extensive practice in writing to help you develop clear thinking and more fluent use of language. In addition to writing and revising out-of-class essays, you will produce a considerable amount of in-class writing.

**In order to receive credit, you must:**

- 1) **Submit a passing portfolio at the end of the term**
- 2) **Complete at least 70% of the course work**

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Texts:**

- Ellsworth, Blanche and John A. Higgins. English Simplified. 8th ed. Longman Press.
- Eschholz, Paul and Alfred Rosa. Themes for Writers. St. Martin's.

#### **Miscellaneous Materials:**

- A three-ringed binder in which to keep your journal and other class assignments and writings
- A three-ringed binder big enough to hold your final portfolio and tabbed dividers
- Two double-sided, double-density computer disks (do not purchase until after first meeting in computer lab)
- A good college pocket dictionary. I prefer the American Heritage.
- Five 11 x 8 1/2 Examination Blue Books
- Multiple photocopies of your written essays for peer response workshops
- Three-hole punched, college-ruled notebook paper for class journal. **You may not use pages torn from a spiral**

Final grading of coursework is weighted as follows:

- a. Final Portfolio - 50%
- b. Writing assignments - 20%  
In-class and out-of-class writing assignments  
Drafting/Revisions
- c. Coursework - 20%  
Assignments from the text  
Reading assignments  
Peer Evaluation  
Journal assignments  
Reading responses  
Computer assignments  
Presentations
- d. Quizzes - 10%

**Remember:** You may submit a passing portfolio, but if you do not earn at least **70%** of the assigned points you will not pass this class.

#### **MAJOR WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**

##### **Out-of-Class Essays:**

You will be assigned 5-6 essays that will be mainly written by you outside of class. Each essay must be revised at **least two times. Late essays will be docked 10 points for each day that they are late.** All drafts of revisions, except prewriting, must be typed using clear, black ink; double-spaced with no more than 1 inch margins; and on clean, white paper.

Please staple pages together on top, left-hand corner.

##### **In-Class Essays:**

There will be at least five 45 minute in-class essays assigned. **You may not make up in-class essays missed.**

##### **Journal:**

Nearly every week I will collect a set number of journal pages from you. The assignments will vary sticking pretty close to your text.

These pages **must be handwritten** by you on lined, college-ruled paper. Loose-leaf binder paper or perforated notebook paper is okay; **do not use pages torn from a spiral bound notebook.**

#### **STUDENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES**

You and I will meet together **2-3 times** in prescheduled, one on one conferences this semester. The purpose of these meetings is for you to discuss with me any questions you have concerning your work. Attendance is mandatory. You are responsible for attending and being prepared with meaningful questions and/or comments about writing.

### **CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT**

By nature, this syllabus stands as a kind of contract between instructor and student. By staying in this class, you as a student demonstrate acceptance and knowledge of my expectations and the means by which your work will be evaluated.