

English 25: College Writing Skills

Time: 6:00-7:50 p. m.--TTh--Selma--Room 408

Sections: 7305

Instructor: Keith Heller

Telephone: 591-4333

Course Objectives: To learn better how to write clear, error-free, expository prose; to compose short descriptive, analytical, and argumentative essays; to develop skills in more logical and critical methods of thinking; to read and analyse nonfictional and fictional prose

Attendance: The classroom door will be closed and roll will be taken at 6:00 every evening. Any student not present at that time is, by definition, absent. Unavoidable absences may be excused in advance or retroactively with proper consultation. More than three unexcused absences may be grounds for dismissal.

Decorum: Any student who talks out of turn will be expelled from the class. Any student who is abusive or who uses derogatory language will be expelled from the class. Any student who disrupts the class in any way will also be expelled.

Texts: *Patterns for College Writing*, ed. Kirsznner and Mandell
Brief Handbook for Writers, ed. Howell
The Stranger, a novel by Albert Camus

Class: The day-to-day classroom activities will include lecture, discussion, and individual tutoring. It is hoped that the students themselves will participate fully in the learning process and try to teach themselves and their fellow students. An active approach is crucial if each student wishes to gain the fullest advantage of what the class has to offer.

Quizzes: Short reading quizzes will be regularly supplied by the instructor to check that everyone is keeping up with the reading. There will be no tests.

Papers: Each week, the instructor will supply writing assignments to be done in or out of class. In general, these will be examined by the instructor and handed back without a grade. To get a grade, the student must--with the helpful collaboration of others in the class--make the corrections and resubmit the paper. It will then be given its proper grade. Improvement in the course of the semester is the most important consideration for the final grade. At the end of the term, each student will submit a 5- to 7-page typed research paper on the novel, *The Stranger*, based upon one of a list of topics provided by the instructor. This paper is meant to be a serious and scholarly study of the novel and of its background philosophy or history.