

50180 Engl 25 Coll Writing Skills  
7:00-8:50 MW B 40 and INC-1  
Reedley College  
Simone Ostrander, Instructor  
Fall 2000

## SYLLABUS

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Development of writing process, revising and finishing short papers, including logical development and organization of ideas. Emphasizes avoiding common writing errors, develops reading skills by reading model essays and analyzing rhetorical strategies. There will be emphasis on each class meeting as a writing lab; therefore, **attendance is not only mandatory, but irreplaceable.** Grades will be based on attendance, class participation, quizzes on mechanics, journal output of 1000 words a week, ten drafts and six writings brought to completion, utilizing the Writing Process. **An English 25 Portfolio composed of the student's best work will be presented at the final.**

**TEXT AND REQUIREMENTS:** MLA Handbook

*Punctuation Pocket*

3-ring binder for Portfolio

Spiral notebook for English Journal

Pocket dictionary and Pocket thesaurus

Formatted disk

Plastic pocket containing stapler, post-it notes, hole punch, scissors, tape, yellow highlighter, #2 pencil, red pen, paper clips.

**TARDY AND ABSENCE POLICY:** After 3 absences (Due to double session) in the first quarter, the student will be dropped. If 6 absences are accumulated over the semester, the student will receive a grade no higher than a C. Three tardies equal one absence. Remember the words of Woody Allen: "80% of life is showing up."

### **GRADES:**

**A =**

- Attends Speakers Series evenings
- Meets course requirements on attendance and tardies.
- Completes assigned drafts on time.
- Writings display an out-of-class work hour ratio.
- Journal assignments completed regularly
- Full and thoughtful responses to others in class workshops
- Final manuscripts receive a 5 or 6 in content and mechanics..

**B =**

- Meets course requirements on attendance
- Completing assigned drafts and portfolio
- No more than three tardies
- Up to date journal assignments
- Full and thoughtful responses to others on their writing
- Final manuscripts that receive a 4 or better in content and mechanics.

*Drop date  
Attendance*

**C =**

- 4 or more tardies and more than 2 absences
- 3 Incomplete assigned drafts
- 4 Missing journal assignments
- Mediocre participation in peer responses
- Final manuscripts that receive 3's in content and mechanics.

**D =**

- 5 tardies and 6 absences
- 4 incomplete assigned drafts
- 5 missing journal assignments
- Final manuscripts that receive 3's and 2's in content and mechanics

**F = Non attendance and inferior work.**

**Late work is unacceptable. You will receive a penalty grade (one grade lower) for late work.**

### **CLASS SCHEDULE**

**1/10-12:** Introduction to class, Syllabus, Writing as a Process  
Workshop #1: Choosing a topic and focus  
Journal entry: Personal Collage  
Reading: Simone Ostrander, "A Christmas Memory"  
**Writing #1: Interview a classmate, due 1/19**

**1/17: HOLIDAY - MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY**

**1/19-26:** Sentence Combining  
Workshop #2: Show not Tell  
Journal entry: Back to the past  
Reading: Gary Soto, "Being Mean"  
Student writing: "Peacocks"  
**Writing #2: A Childhood Memory, due 1/31**

**1/31-2/2:** Voice and Point of View  
Workshop #3: Picture writing  
Journal entry: A new slant on a children's story or rhyme  
**Writing #3: A Grimm Tale, due 2/7**

**2/7-9:** Impressionist writing through five senses  
Workshop #4: Similes, metaphors, personification  
Journal entry: Painted poem using color words  
**Writing #4: These I Love due 2/14**  
Reading: Rupert Brooke, "The Great Lover" and assorted poems

2/14-16: Workshop #5: Writing Letters  
Journal entry #5: Letter to fictional character, President Clinton, teacher, boss, relative  
Reading: Martin Luther King, "Letter from the Birmingham Jail"  
Student essay, A Modern Modest Proposal"  
**Writing #5: Letter of appreciation, advice, or protest, due 2/23**

**Thursday, 2/17, 7:00 p.m. in Forum: Phil Levine on Writing**

**2/21: Holiday - Presidents' Birthday**

**2/23: Writing Lab**

**2/28-3/1: Inference**

Workshop #6: Writing a literary analysis using quotations from text

Journal #6: Bio of two main characters in "Hills", then and now attitude toward abortion

Reading: Ernest Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants"

**Writing #6: Literary analysis of "Hills" due 3/3**

Mini-mechanics: Use of quotation marks

**3/3-8: Description of a Place**

Workshop #7: Using spatial description

Journal #7: A Place on Campus (Library, classroom, bookstore, cafeteria)

Reading: "The Libido for the Ugly"

Student writings: Job from Hell

Mini-mechanics: Pulling your sentences together: Subordination and complex sentence writing

**3/13-15: Biographical writing**

Workshop #8: The Narrative: the story of one's Roots

Reading: Alice Walker, "In My Mother's Gardens"

Student samples: "My Grandmother"

Journal #8: Interview with my parent/grandparent

**Writing #7: My Father's Story, due 3/20**

**Thursday, 3/16, 7:00p.m. in Forum: Charlotte Alston on Writing**

**3/20-22: Analogy writing**

Workshop #9: Comparison writing using simile and metaphor

Journal #9: An Inanimate Object brought to life

Reading: "My Horse"

Student sample: "Maybelline"

**3/27-29: Comparison writing**

Workshop #10: Compare and contrast writing techniques

Journal #10: Day and night people, animals, teachers

**Writing #8: Comparison paper**

**4/3-5: Process writing**

Workshop #11: How to do something, sequencing

Journal #11: Using the senses to describe a favorite activity

Reading: Saddling a horse

**Writing #9: A Process paper**

Mini-mechanics: Transitions in paragraphing

4/10-12: Persuasion, Argumentation Writing  
Workshop #12: Selling your idea, product, or stance  
Readings: "The Search for the Perfect Child"  
Jonathan Swift, "A Modest Proposal"  
Journal Entry#12: Eugenics – good or bad?  
Writing #10: Playing God or Brave New World

Thursday, 4/13, 7:00p.m. in Forum: Ron Hanson on Writing

**SPRING BREAK**

4/24-26: Library Paper  
Workshop #11: Intro to research

5/1-3: The Works Cited Page  
Workshop #12: MLA documentation

5/8-10: The Portfolio  
Workshop #13: Polishing and Presenting the Portfolio  
Writing: The Cover Letter

**ENGLISH 25 FINAL: MONDAY 5/15, 7:00-9:00AM**

Your final will consist of the presentation of your Portfolio to the class in a RAG. You will be required to read and comment in writing on your fellow classmates' Portfolios.