

English 125
College Writing Skills
Code 53804
Fall Semester 2009

Text: Patterns for College Writing (10th ed.)

Days and Hours: MTWTh 04:00-05:50 PM

Room: CCI-207

Instructor: Tom Moradian

Voice Mail #3913

Drop Deadline: Sept. 16

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- A. Prewrite constructively to generate ideas and determine ideas, opinions, positions, and ultimately theses and plans
- B. Respond to a prompt quickly and independently
- C. Write a developed essay with a clear thesis and support
- D. Write with some sophistication: introduction should be more than a thesis; a conclusion should be more than a summary; an essay should have ample substance
- E. Plan and revise fairly independently employing all stages of the writing process as necessary and appropriate
- F. Recognize and revise common errors such as problems with comma splices throughout a piece
- G. Construct idiomatically correct sentences although there may be an "accent" resulting from a consistent type of ESL error
- H. Use a variety of rhetorics and structures, including documented sources
- I. Use MLA style with some guidance to set up papers and document sources

Students are expected to write a minimum of 5,000 words in this course, including paragraphs, essays, responses to reading assignments, in-class tests, learning logs and a reference paper.

Vocabulary acquisition will be stressed continuously in this course.

Students are expected to turn in outside work in printed form; use of computers is encouraged.

Collaborative or group work will be a regular class activity.

We will work on the following subjects in the approximate time and order as noted.

A. Diagnostic paragraph; first meeting.

B. Intro. to the audience, first meeting. Teachers are:

1. pressed for time;
2. harried by stacks of papers to be graded;
3. intolerant of rambling, vague writing;
4. appreciative of concise, clear writing.

C. Intro. to the paragraph (first two weeks):

1. pre-writing exercises emphasizing mapping;
2. paragraph writing rules;
3. paragraph writing exercises, emphasizing rules;
4. collaborative activities to sharpen writing.

D. Reading assignments from text, from third week on:

1. vocabulary acquisition;
2. pre-writing mapping of text questions;
3. pre-writing mapping of answers;
4. collaborative exercises in class.

E. Critical thinking (beginning third week, throughout course):

1. shaping topic sentences;
2. organizing supporting sentences;
3. positioning concluding and linking sentences (in essays).

F. Intro. to research skills (sixth week):

1. summarizing;
2. paraphrasing;
3. use of quotes;
4. documentation (MLA).

G. Planning, developing and writing the short reference paper (eighth week through remainder of course):

1. learning skills to use electronic and library resources on campus;
2. surveying information sources;
3. selecting pertinent information;
4. organizing information into a short essay;
5. turning essay into a reference paper;
6. presenting paper in class.

H. Grading:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----|
| 1. Writing assignments | 50% |
| 2. Reading responses | 25% |
| 4. Reference paper | 10% |
| 5. Learning Log | 15% |

I. Grades: All assignments are graded by points. Final grades are computed on a strict percentage basis: 90%+= A, 80+=B, 70%+=C, 60%+=D.

J. Tardies: Each tardy under twenty minutes will count as one-half of an absence. Each tardy over twenty minutes will count as an absence.

K. Attendance: After four unexcused absences you will be dropped. Absences may be excused by presenting notes from the school nurse or a doctor in case of illness. In case of illness or emergency you must notify me ASAP via voice mail at the voicemail number 3913. Email is not working. You must leave me a number where I can reach you to give you assignments missed, if you have no other way of getting them.

L. Late papers/missed exams: Late papers will be worth half the assignments' possible points. I will schedule make-up exams if you contact me ASAP in case of illness or emergency.

M. Learning Logs: At the end of each class you will summarize what you have learned that session in a detailed journal called a learning log. At the end of the course you will turn in this log, printed, with your final exam. Log and final will be worth equal points.

N. Plagiarism and cheating: Penalties for these offenses range from an F on the assignment to an F for the course.

O. Physically disabled students will have every opportunity for access to the class and its activities. Notify me regarding special situations.

P. Cell phones will be turned off in class.

