# English 125: Writing for College

# Fall 2014: Exploring Cultural Communities

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English 125, CRN: 59443

Room: Tu: Hum 62, Th: Soc 35

Class time: 3:00pm-4:50pm

Prerequisites: Successful completion of English 252 or English as a Second Language 225W or placement by the college assessment process.

**Course Overview**

In this course, students will develop the process of writing, revising, and finishing essays, which includes the logical development and organization of ideas. Students will avoid common writing errors, develop their writing skills by reading model essays and analyzing rhetorical strategies, develop critical thinking skills by matching the structures of writing to meaning and audience, and by using writing as thinking to explore and express ideas. This course is a companion to ENGL 126 and prepares students for ENGL 1A. **Students must successfully complete written course work to receive credit.**

Writing is not just a demonstration of one’s ability to write. Writing is a tool, a strategy for generating ideas, for analyzing information, for inventing responses, for communicating successfully, for critiquing your own thoughts, or creating a record of your thinking. In this class writing will serve many purposes. Consequently, you will be asked to write for many different reasons; thus, your writing will not simply be a reflection of your competence, it will be a representation of your engagement in the class. Using research strategies, you will also be expected to incorporate material from outside sources in a research essay.

This class is meets in both a traditional classroom and a lab classroom, on alternating days. Our assignments will be patterned to fit the space we are in each day.

**Required Texts/Materials:**

**Handouts (provided by instructor, must be brought to class unless posted on Bb)**

**Money set aside to copy individual writing projects for workshopping**

**Flash/jump/thumb drive for saving assignments during lab hours**

**Access to Blackboard and SCCCD email account**

**Course Content**

The course will be divided into three writing projects and a final essay exam. Each final paper will be preceded by two drafts, and all writing assignments must be completed in order to pass the class. Each reading assignment will be accompanied by a journal entry, each writing project by a reflection, and each grammatical lesson with a skills review. So, the homework for this course should run between eight to ten hours per week. You will be expected to participate in a workshop for each writing project. Also, you will need to contribute to class discussions on Blackboard and in the classroom*.* Growth comes from practice, therefore all assignments are used to calculate the final grade (see grading below).

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

Write multiple papers of at least 1200 words, which include an introduction, multiple body paragraphs, and conclusion of some sophistication.

Objectives:

In the process of completing this course, students will:

* learn about writing papers which include introductions, body paragraphs, and conclusions
* learn to write with some sophistication
* practice writing thesis statements
* practice writing topic sentences
* learn about using quotations and in-text citations that support the topic sentences and the thesis
* practice developing supporting material that exhibits critical thinking
* develop an understanding of what a complete sentence is and practice using a variety of sentence types (simple, compound,
* complex, and compound/complex sentence)
* learn about common sentence errors, such as fragments, comma splices, sentence fuses
* develop their usage of descriptive vocabulary that exhibits growth and sophisticated word choice
* learn how to follow MLA guidelines when formatting papers and using quotations and a works cited page
* learn about avoiding plagiarism
* write papers in which they will use 3rd person point of view and practice addressing a specific audience
* practice using all stages of the writing process as necessary and appropriate
* practice writing in-class essays

**Course Requirements**

Small Groups, Class Discussions, Workshops

Class participation is mandatory and will be a necessary part of your success in this class.Therefore**,** you will need to come to class prepared with homework done and ideas to share – everyday. Graded class participation will include daily content quizzes, small group activities, small group workshopping, online workshops, and large group discussions.

Workshopping is an important component to this class. Workshopping gives you the opportunity to get audience feedback on your writing; workshops are also an opportunity to get ideas for approaching various writing tasks, to understand the range of rhetorical components – besides grammar – that are available for revision, and finally to assess a piece of writing for it’s rhetorical effectiveness. Participating in these workshops will help you to read and revise your own work with more fluency and expertise.

Writing Assignments

Writing is not just a demonstration of one’s ability to write. Writing is about thinking on paper. It is about learning something new. It is about expressing important ideas and making your own meaning from the ideas expressed by others. It is about connecting to an audience. The writing I will ask you to do will emerge from the concepts, processes, and issues that we will read and discuss in this class. All of these writing projects will encourage you to choose topics that are important to you; that connect with the theme of the class: “Exploring Cultural Communities.” This semester you will complete three major writing projects. Each of these projects will involve multiple drafts and writing workshops. I will give you writing prompts at the beginning of each project so that you have a clear idea about what you are required to do.

As we move through the course, each writing project will challenge you to add more knowledge, skills, and practices of writing **to what you already know from the assignment before**.

***Specifications:*** All writing projects must be formatted with one-inch margins with 12-point, Times New Roman font. The length of these writing projects will vary from 2 to 6 pages. A Works Cited page is mandatory for all essays that incorporate outside sources. All writing must adhere to MLA guidelines.

Reading

Reading and writing go hand in hand. The reading we will do in this class will be necessary for our topics of class discussion, for modeling approaches to writing, and for developing a better understanding about form, rhetorical approach, and the use of evidence in writing. I will expect that when a reading assignment is due that you will have **read actively**; that is, you will have annotated your text, will have questions to ask, and will be ready to engage in conversation with others about the reading. You will participate in small group and whole class discussions of the reading, and track your active reading with homework “journals.”

**Grading and Evaluation**

Homework and Class Participation 300 pts

Skills Assessments 100 pts

Project #1: Personal Essay

2-3 page paper, drafts, workshops, etc. 150 pts

Project #2: Summary Essay

2-3 page paper, drafts, workshops, etc. 150 pts

Project #3: Research Essay

4-6 page paper, drafts, workshops, annotated bibliography 300 pts

Midterm Exam (TBA) 100 pts

Final Exam (Thursday, 12/11/14 at 3:00pm) 100 pts

Total: 1200 pts

Grading Scale

90-100% A

80-89% B

70-79% C

60-69% D

 0 -59% F

You must complete all required writing in order to receive credit for the course. Completing all the major essays, short writings, drafts, and peer responses to the best of your ability will help improve your writing—and therefore your final grade. Each essay may be revised for up to a 10% increase in score, but revisions must be completed by the deadline given in class.

**Failure to turn in any one of the assigned essays or to complete the Final will mean a failing grade in the class. As with any college class, grades can change significantly due to a single missed assignment or project. Do not presume if you are receiving a certain letter grade on most your assignments that it will be reflected in your final grade for the class. The point system will be strictly enforced.**

Attendance:

Attendance is highly important and if you fall behind in the daily assignments you **cannot** make them up. I will not accept **any** late assignments. You will be required to do daily writing assignments in class and points will be given. You will be expected to come to class prepared to discuss the homework assignment.

**ABSENCES:** Students with more than four absences may not be eligible for a passing grade. Student with four absences before the census date will be DROPPED. Students who miss a class during the first week or two classes during the first two weeks will also be DROPPED.

If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to check on announcements and changes made to the schedule while you are away. **Advanced notice of planned absences is always appreciated, but will not constitute “excused” absences.**

**Submitting Assignments:** Assignments should be submitted per the directions given in class whenever possible (typically hard copy or to Bb, in person, on the date due). However,we live in a digital age, therefore if you cannot attend class you are still responsible for submitting assignments by the due date either via email or on Bb. Each student will be allowed one “missed” homework assignment and one “incomplete” essay assignments without penalty.

**Tardiness/Leaving Early: Arriving more than 10 minutes late or leaving more than 10 minutes before the end of class will constitute an absence. Additionally, every three tardies (lateness less than 10 minutes) will constitute an absence.**

NOTE: The deadline to drop for a refund is August 22, 2014.

The deadline to add a class is August 29, 2014

The deadline to drop a class to avoid a “W” is August 29, 2014 (in person).

The final deadline to drop is October 10, 2014.

Accommodation: If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e. Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible.

The classroom is a special environment in which students and faculty come together to promote learning and growth. It is essential to this learning environments that respect for the rights of others seeking to learn, respect for the professionalism of the instructor, and the general goals of academic freedom are maintained. Differences of viewpoint or concerns should be expressed in terms that are supportive of the learning process, creating an environment in which students and faculty may learn to reason with clarity and compassion, to share themselves without losing their identities, and to develop an understanding of the community in which they live. Student conduct which disrupts the learning process shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

I am in class to teach. You should be in class to learn and contribute in meaningful ways. Any disruptive behavior is unacceptable. Do not take this class if it conflicts with your work schedule, as you will not be excused. Do not use class time to work on outside projects. Do not talk about things irrelevant to the subject matter of this course when you are assigned for group activities in class. Some of our discussions/activities will result in the sharing of personal information. This is a judgment-free space. **Disrespect toward me or the other students will not be tolerated. If your behavior is inappropriate for an academic learning environment, you will be asked to leave the class.**

**Cell Phones/Personal Electronics:** There will be no used of cell phones or other personal electronics in class without prior approval from me. At the start of class, phones should be placed out of sight and on silent, and should remain so for the rest of the class period. You will receive one warning; after your first warning, you will be marked absent **and** lose your daily participation points each time you use personal electronics in class. **I will not interrupt class to notify you, I will simply record the absence in the roster.**

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is, as I imagine you know, the copied or undocumented use of another’s work or ideas. The issue of plagiarism goes deeper than “copying,” though, to an issue of academic honesty. In class, you will be encouraged to discuss your work at great length with others, you will consult models of reading and writing and other student work to help you, you may confer with a tutor or writing center technician, and you will do lots of different activities to guide your learning. But it is NEVER permissible- as Dr Tim Hankins, professor at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, so concisely says- “to give or receive answers” or ideas or even words “in a way that bypasses the need to think on your own” about your reading or writing. Help from any source must be acknowledged, and there are accepted ways to do this. If in doubt, please ask me. Violation of the letter or intent of this policy will result in serious harm to your learning, to your grade, to your standing in class, and perhaps to your standing at the college.

Cheating is the actual or attempted practice of fraudulent or deceptive acts for the purpose of improving one’s grade or obtaining course credit; such acts also include assisting another student to do so. Typically, such acts occur in relation to examinations. However, it is the intent of this definition that the term ‘cheating’ not be limited to examination situations only, but that it include any and all actions by a student that are intended to gain an unearned academic advantage by fraudulent or deceptive means. Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating which consists of the misuse of the published and/or unpublished works of others by misrepresenting the material (i.e., their intellectual property) so used as one’s own work.

By enrolling in this course, you join a community requiring intellectual integrity. When you write your name on an assignment, you take credit for the work contained, whether that be an entire text or only a sentence. Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty demonstrate a disrespect of the community and will not be tolerated.