**English 125**: Writing Skills for College (56319)

Course Units: 4.0

Reedley College, Fall 2015

Syllabus

**Instructor**: Ms. Erin Chausse

**Email**: erin.chausse@fresnocitycollege.edu

**Location**: CCI-207 **Office Hours**: TBA

**Day/Times**: TTh 2:00pm-3:50pm

Course Description:

English 125 develops 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. **Prerequisites: Designated score on English placement test or satisfactory completion of English 252 or 282. Not recommended for students learning English as a second language.**

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Write multiple papers of at least 1200 words, which include an introduction, multiple body paragraphs, and conclusion of some sophistication. Each essay will include:
   1. A clearly defined thesis statement
   2. Unified supporting paragraphs, which begin with topic sentences
   3. Quotations that support the topic sentences and the thesis
   4. Supporting material and ideas, which exhibit critical thinking
   5. Complete sentences which include a variety of sentence types (simple, compound, complex, and compound/complex sentence)
   6. Descriptive vocabulary that exhibits growth and sophisticated word choice
   7. Avoidance of fragments, comma splices, sentence fuses and other basic skill errors, such as capitalization, spelling, homophone issues, verb tense issues, subject-verb agreement, pronoun agreement, word choice issues, etc.
   8. Use of MLA guidelines to set up essays, correctly use in-text citations for at least one source, and complete a works cited page
   9. Writing that is free from plagiarism
   10. Demonstrated awareness of how to write from the 3rd person point of view for a specific audience
2. Plan and revise independently, employing all stages of the writing process as necessary and appropriate.
3. Complete a multi-paragraph in-class essay with a thesis and support.

Required Texts/ Materials:

Hogan, Gina. *Building Better Essays*. 1st ed. Boston: Cengage, 2013. Print. (Required)

Graff, Gerald, Cathy Birkenstein, and Russel Durst. *They Say I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing: With Readings.* 2nd ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Company Inc., 2009. Print. (Required)

Access to Microsoft Word, a printer, ink, a stapler, and the internet, a spiral bound notebook or other journal and blue or black pens.

Grading:

Grading Scale:

A= 100% - 90%

B= 89.9% - 80%

C= 79.9% - 70% (*you must earn a C or higher to pass the class*)

D= 69.9% - 60%

F= Below 60%

Breakdown of course grade:

Essays 60%

Class work 20%

Homework 10%

Exams/Quizzes 10%

No Electronics +2%

Class Assignments and Components:

**Essays**:

This semester you will be writing four to five 5 paged TYPED essays. The essays add up to 60% of the total grade for the class which is the heaviest weighted portion of your overall grade. **These should not be taken lightly.** You will be required to write a rough draft *and* final draft for the papers. If you do not turn in the rough draft of the essay, you cannot receive credit for the peer review. Drafts of the essay will not be accepted late. Here is a brief description of the essays.

*Essay 1*: Narrative Essay

Outline 10 POINTS

Draft 10 POINTS

Peer Review 20 POINTS

Essay 60 POINTS

*Essay 2*: TBA Essay

Outline 10 POINTS

Draft 10 POINTS

Peer Review 20 POINTS

Essay 60 POINTS

*Essay 3*: TBA Essay

Outline 10 POINTS

Draft 10 POINTS

Peer Review 20 POINTS

Essay 60 POINTS

*Essay 4*: TBA Essay

Outline 10 POINTS

Draft 10 POINTS

Peer Review 20 POINTS

Essay 60 POINTS

All essays must be turned in at the **beginning** of the class period they are due. Only hard copies will be accepted. **No exceptions**. In addition, you are responsible for providing a hard copy of each draft essay for the peer review. On the due date, you must also submit your essay to turnitin.com which may be accessed through Blackboard. This electronic submission requirement checks for originality. All assignments must be submitted in MLA format with a works cited page when necessary.

\*\***No** **late work of any kind will be accepted. This is going to be a fast paced course and time will not allow for late work.**

**\*\**Remember, an absence does not excuse you from a deadline.***

Revision Workshops**:**

A key component to this class is peer response to drafts of formal and informal writing. Students will be expected to share their writing with their peers in order to get feedback about how to revise the writing to better address an audiences questions, challenges, and responses. This means that everyone will need to share their writing with others AND strive to be a good reader of peer drafts. There will be workshops for each paper that are meant to help you work on revision. Each of these are worth 20 points of your overall essay grade. Therefore it is recommended that you come to class prepared and ready to participate on these days.

Journal Entries/Freewrites:

An effective way to practice writing is freewriting. These entries engage students as they respond to either questions, readings, or topics that the instructor will provide. These writing assignments will most often work as warm-ups to get the class ready to participate and in the scholarly frame of mind. You should write as much as you can in these reflections and not worry as much about the grammatical hang-ups that occur when writing fast. They will be collected and used to help measure your participation in class.

Quizzes**:**

Quizzes will be administered to ensure that students have been doing their part of the work. They will be used to measure lesson efficacy, maintaining assigned readings, and for practicing key concepts. They can and may be given with or without notice.

Attendance:

You will be dropped from the course if you exceed **four** absences. If you arrive to class later than fifteen minutes or leave class early, you will be counted as absent. Contact me before class if you know you are going to be absent. If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting the informationfrom *another student in the class.*

Email**:**

You are required to check your email frequently in this class (at least every other day) to receive any announcements from me about the course. If you need to email me, do so through your email account because I may not receive them if you do so through Blackboard. My email is [erin.chausse@fresnocitycollege.edu](mailto:erin.chausse@fresnocitycollege.edu)

Extra Credit:

In the grade breakdown, you will find I have given you 2 percentage points of extra credit. This is given to the class freely and starts on the first day. However, there is a way to lose this extra credit. If someone’s phone rings/buzzes/etc in class or I find that you are on it, I will announce to the class that a fellow student found their phone was more important than your extra credit points and I will take away one point. This will leave you with one, but the same rules apply to the second extra credit point. It is up to you to be responsible with your electronics, time, and priorities during class. This gives you and the rest of the class the power to keep or take away everyone’s extra credit.

Common Courtesy/Etiquette**:**

You are expected to come to class prepared and on time, ready to participate actively by taking notes, asking questions, and remaining focused on the materials and the class. Please do not distract the class with extraneous conversation or interruptions. Do NOT use your cell phone to talk, text, or take pictures during class and please turn off your ringers. MP3 players, iPods, and cell phones are strictly prohibited in the classroom. Do not disrupt the class. If I feel that you are affecting the class in a negative way by being disrespectful to me or another student, disruptive, damaging the environment, and or interrupting someone’s ability to learn, I will ask you to leave the class.

Equally important, some discussions/readings/topics may contain sensitive issues or themes that may resonate with very personal or emotional experiences. It is my policy that all students be respectful of one another. We have much to learn from one another and I will not tolerate any form of bullying or mean-spirited behavior in the process. My classroom is open to an exchange of dialogue from all sides, but if I hear comments coming through in a malicious way, I will ask you to leave the class. Remember, all good reading and most good writing comes from controversial, emotionally charged subjects. Keeping this in mind, our class discussions will remain composed and collegiate. Personal attacks, judgmental remarks aimed at specific groups or individuals, and/or discriminatory statements are not only inappropriate, they will not be tolerated.

**SCCCD Policies**

**DSPS**

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 or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible.

**Plagiarism**

Cheating is the practice of fraudulent and deceptive acts for the purpose of improving a grade or obtaining course credit. Plagiarism is defined as a specific form of cheating that consists of the misuse of others’ published or unpublished language, ideas, or other original material by misrepresenting the material (i.e. another’s intellectual property) through not acknowledging it correctly- that is, passing it off as if it were one’s own work.

Neither cheating nor plagiarism will be tolerated in this course “because cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the integrity of the college, each student is expected to exert an entirely honest effort in all academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty in any form is a very serious offense and will incur serious consequences” (RC Catalog 44).

The issue of cheating/plagiarism goes deeper than “copying” to an issue of academic dishonesty. In your English 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 tech, and you will do lots of different activities to guide your learning. Help from any source must be acknowledged, and there are accepted ways to do this. If in doubt, 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.

Depending upon the severity of the act, cheating, or plagiarism will lead to disciplinary and academic sanctions ranging from loss of credit in the class, to placement of a letter in the student’s permanent file, or even to expulsion from the college as defined in the Code of Student Conduct.

**Changes to the Syllabus**

As the instructor, I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus as needed throughout the semester.