

Course: ENGL 125 - Writing Skills for College, Fall 2016

Instructor: Daniel Rice (daniel.rice@reedleycollege.edu)

Class: CRN 55873 TTh 12pm-1:50pm (Soc 35)

Required Texts

Graff, Gerald and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say, I Say*

Ehrenreich, Barbara. *Nickel and Dimed*

Other Materials

Regular access to a computer (with Microsoft Word and a Google.com account) and printer.

Alternate Format Accommodations

Disabled Students Programs & Services (DSP&S) is designed to provide specialized services and accommodations that assist students with documented physical, psychological and learning disabilities reach their maximum potential while achieving their educational goals. Disabled Students Programs & Services takes a personal interest in meeting the special needs of students with disabilities. Phone (559) 638-0332

Course Description

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 coursework to receive credit.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Write multiple papers of at least 1200 words, which include an introduction, multiple body paragraphs, and conclusion of some sophistication. These essays will include:
 - a) a clearly defined thesis statement
 - b) unified supporting paragraphs which begin with topic sentences
 - c) quotations that support the topic sentences and thesis
 - d) supporting material and ideas which exhibit critical thinking
 - e) complete sentences which include a variety of sentence types
 - f) descriptive vocabulary
 - g) Avoidance of basic skills errors
 - h) Use of MLA guidelines
 - i) Freedom from plagiarism
 - j) 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

Course Objectives

Learn about the components of an expository essay (intro w/ thesis; body para w/ topic sent, support det, transitions; conclusion)

Learn about the writing process (prewriting, outlining, drafting, revising, editing)

Learn how to critically analyze and express ideas

Learn how to express ideas clearly and concisely (focus, organization, unification, effective sentences)

Learn about purpose, audience, and voice

Learn about MLA guidelines

Class Expectations

COME TO CLASS: Attendance is mandatory and impacts approximately 50% of a student's overall grade due to reading checks at the beginning of each class and in-class peer review (group) work.

More than 6 absences per semester will result in an automatic drop from the course.

BRING ALL BOOKS: We will be using these resources daily.

BRING NECESSARY MATERIALS: College rule paper + pens/pencils are a must in college, even if you have a laptop or tablet with you.

ATTEMPT **AND** TURN IN **ALL** ASSIGNMENTS: Effort matters, especially if I have to decide a borderline grade!

RESPECT EVERYONE: Disrespectful behavior will result in removal from the course.

Assignments

Reading – students are expected to take notes for all readings - most of these readings will also include a reading check (quiz on the reading) at the subsequent class meeting.

Peer Work – students are expected to collaborate daily; students are also expected to actively participate in peer review as a significant component of their grade - this means that you must read other students' work and provide constructive feedback.

Notes – all PowerPoint, lecture, and reading information is to be recorded in a bound notebook for student reference. This is a daily activity for the purpose of gathering and recalling information. This is NOT a graded assignment, but an essential study skill that must be practiced diligently.

Essays - proper spelling and grammar are a must as these are graded on a college level. Expectations for quality will increase as the course progresses.

In-class essays and other assessments - including, but not limited to, short answer, multiple choice, matching, and paper markup demonstrations (reading checks, etc.).

Grading

Students' grades are based on accumulated points weighted in the following manner:

25% Reading Checks - Students are expected to read 10-20 pages between each lecture. Reading checks will count toward assessment in this area - poor attendance will affect these grades dramatically!

50% 1200 Word Papers - MLA Format, proper citation mandatory

25% Essay Group Work – Students are expected to engage with class discussions and participate in all group projects and peer reviews - poor attendance will affect these grades dramatically

Assessment of student work and final grades are based on the following scale: "A" = 90-100%, "B" = 80-89%, "C" = 70-79%, "D" = 60-69%

Due Dates and Absences

- Please contact me via my email if you are unable to attend class so that arrangements can be made for the work that you miss. Late assignments are not accepted (see next bullet).
- **ALL COMPLETED WORK must be turned in at the subsequent class meeting or due date otherwise specified.** If you cannot attend class on that date, please find a way to get the assignment to me on that date (electronic submission, my mailbox, or other means).
- All attendance will be calculated and added to your final grade at the end of the semester. Two incidences of +15 minutes late to class/leaving +15 minutes early will be an absence.

Paper Submission

Unless otherwise specified:

- Typed hard copy
- Times New Roman, 12-point font
- 1-inch margins on all sides, double spaced
- MLA heading, header, and citation
- ADDITIONAL TurnItIn.com digital submission

Class Communication

Remind.com - Text "81010" with message "@eab8bk" and follow subsequent instructions for enrollment

TurnItIn.com - Enroll in class "13134910" with code "iloveenglish"

Important Dates and Approximate Schedule

August: COMPONENTS OF AN ESSAY: What are human rights and where do they come from? (**Mentor Text** + Articles)

Drop with single absence - 8/15-8/24

September: THE WRITING PROCESS: What are human rights and where do they come from? (Mentor Text + Paper #1)

October: RESEARCH METHODS/RHETORIC: Do all individuals have the same human rights? (Articles + Paper #2)

Drop with "W" - 10/21

November: CONTROLLING FOR BIAS/RHETORIC: What are some current human rights issues? (Articles + Paper #3)

December: ANALYZING LITERATURE: What are economic rights? (Articles + *Nickel and Dimed* + FINAL PAPER)

Final - 12/12