English 125

Section # 56300

MW 80:00-9:50 HUM 62

Spring 2016

Syllabus

Instructor: Anastasia Stanberry-Jones

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Office Hours: By appointment only

**Final Exam: Monday, May 16, 8:00-9:50 in HUM 62. No early finals or make-ups will be given.**

**Catalog 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 course work to receive credit.

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

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

*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. This essay will include:
  + a clearly defined thesis statement
  + unified supporting paragraphs, which begin with topic sentences
  + quotations that support the topic sentences and the thesis
  + supporting material and ideas,which exhibit critical thinking
  + complete sentences which include a variety of sentence types (simple, compound, complex, and compound/complex sentence)
  + descriptive vocabulary that exhibits growth and sophisticated word choice
  + avoidance of fragments, comma splices, sentence fuses and other basic skills errors, such as capitalization, spelling, homophone issues, verb tense issues, subject-verb agreement, pronoun agreement, word choice issues, confused syntax, etc.
  + use of MLA guidelines to set up essays, correctly use in-text citations for at least one source, and complete a works cited page
  + writing that is free from plagiarism
  + demonstrated awareness of how to write from the 3rd person point of view for a specific audience
* Plan and revise independently, employing all stages of the writing process as necessary and appropriate.
* Complete a multi-paragraph in-class essay with a thesis and support.
* **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

**Classroom Etiquette:** Come to class prepared, having read the assigned materials and taken notes. You will be expected to be an active participant in all class discussions and small-group work. Failure to participate will negatively affect your grade. Cell phone use is never allowed in class, and all computers are only to be used as directed. Failure to comply with this will result in my asking you to leave class.

If you are disruptive in anyway, **you will receive a verbal warning from me the first time. The second time (and any time thereafter), you will be dismissed from the class with an absence**. I will also file a report with the Vice President of Students.

Disruptive behavior includes (but is not limited to)

* Talking
* Passing notes
* Arguing with me or a fellow student
* Giving me attitude
* Eating food in a loud and disruptive manner
* Sleeping during class
* Working on other assignments other than the one being covered in class at the time
* Receiving cell phone calls during class, text messaging during class
* Having your cell phone on your desk
* Not having the materials needed for class
* Coming into class late in a disruptive manner
* Walking out in the middle of a lecture/whole class discussion for whatever reason
* Having your head on your desk

# Required Texts and Materials

*Patterns for College Writing* 13th Edition, Laurie Kirszner and Stephen Mandell

*The Smartest Kids in the World: And How They Got That Way,* Amanda Ripley

Composition notebook

Pens/Pencils

Flash drive

Computer/printer/printing materials (paper, ink, etc.)

Stapler

**You MUST obtain the required texts and materials by the second week of class, or you will be dropped.**

# Late Work Policy

ALL assignments are due at the beginning of class. If work is not turned in to me by the beginning of class, as determined by the classroom clock, it is considered late. I do not accept any late homework assignments or preliminary drafts of essays, no exceptions, don’t even ask. I do accept essays up to one week after they are due, but I deduct 10 points every class period they are late (starting at 8:01 on the due date). I make no exceptions for this – not even if your printer isn’t working, or if your car broke down. Don’t even ask. You may, however, always turn work in earlier than it is due.

# Feedback and Revision Policy

Preliminary drafts of essays are not graded, but rather they are used for group workshopping. I strongly encourage you to participate in all workshops, as they make you both a better reader and a better writer, both in the role of feedback provider and recipient. To that end, if you do not participate in group workshops, I will assume that you do not take your writing seriously and will not provide written comments on your final draft, and your essay will not be eligible for revision should the opportunity be given to the class to revise that assignment.

**Attendance Policy:**

1. If you miss any of the first week of class, you will be dropped.
2. If you miss more than three classes in the first three weeks, you will be dropped.
3. If you miss more than four classes before the final drop deadline, you MAY be dropped, but it is your responsibility to make sure that you have dropped the class if you no longer plan to attend. Failure to drop may result in an “F” for a final grade.
4. Tardies count as absences! Be ON TIME. If you arrive after I’ve called your name for attendance, you are absent.
5. If you leave early, you will be counted absent.
6. There are no make-ups for quizzes, tests, or other in-class assignments. See late work policy

# Grading

This class is based on a points system. As this is a writing class, your grade is based on the writing that you do, which will either be essays or other writing assignments. There will be significant in-class writing and out-of-class drafts that will not count towards your final grade, but that will significantly impact your overall success in the course. You are strongly encouraged to participate in all writing, whether for credit or not. Furthermore, failure to participate or to turn in work that has been assigned will result in my asking you to leave the class and you will be counted as absent for the day.

I use the following weighted scale for grading:

Essays = 90%  
Homework/Journals = 10%

Point breakdown:

Essay #1 = 100 pts

Essay #2 = 150 pts

Essay #3 = 200 pts

Essay #4 = 200 pts

Final in-class essay = 50 pts

Journals = 10 pts each x 16

Homework = 10 pts each, assigned throughout the semester

I use a traditional grading scale for determining your success in the class:

90-100%=A

80-89%=B

70-79%=C

60-69%=D

0-59%=F

\*A grading rubric will be posted for each assignment

\*Percentages do not round up! 69.9% is a D.

\*A C is passing, and a D is failing. To pass the class, you must have a 70% or better

**\*You must complete all the essays, including in-class essays, in order to pass the class**

**PLAGIARISM:**

Use of another’s work as though it were your own will not be tolerated. In the current Reedley College Catalogue, plagiarism is defined as follows:

Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating: the use of another’s words or ideas without identifying them as such or giving credit to the source. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, or failing to observe computer security systems and software copyrights. Having another student write your essay or taking pieces from another student’s essay also counts as plagiarism. Incidents of cheating and plagiarism may result in any of a variety of sanctions and penalties, which may range from a failing grade on the particular examination, paper, project, or assignment in question to a failing grade in the course, at the discretion of the instructor and depending on the severity and frequency of the incidents.

If you plagiarize in my class, I will give you a zero on the assignment even if the assignment has already been graded, and I find out that you plagiarized after the fact. You also run the risk of failing the class. I will also turn in a plagiarism report.

Please be careful with getting help on an assignment from people other than me. Often times, we get help from well-meaning friends, family members, or even tutors who rewrite your sentences for you, correcting all of the grammar, making the essay their work and not your work. When this happens, I cannot accurately access the work that you can do, and you will get a zero on an assignment. I need to see YOUR WORK.

# ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

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. I will work with the DSPS office to make sure that you get the help that you require. **In order to get accommodations, you must be signed up with DSPS.**

**Important Dates:**

January 18 – MLK Day, no classes

January 22 – Last day to request refund

January 29 – Last day to add a full-term class or drop a class to avoid a “W” in person

January 31 – Last day to drop a full-term class to avoid a “W” on Web Advisor.

February 12 – Lincoln Day, no classes

February 15 – Washington Day, no classes

March 11 – Last day to drop a class to avoid a letter grade

March 21-25 – Spring Recess, no classes

May 16 – Class Final, 10:00-11:50

\*\*Instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as necessary to facilitate the learning process.