English 125

Section # 54360

Online

Fall 2018

Syllabus

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**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

**Required Texts:**

*They Say, I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*, by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein (third or fourth edition is fine)

*Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other*, by Sherry Turkle

**Other Resources:**

The Purdue Online Writing Lab is a great MLA resource. It is free and very thorough. I highly recommend you use this website when citing works in your writing. The website is **<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource>.**

**Note**: It is vital that you have the course materials ASAP, as you will not be able to complete assignments or engage in class-discussion without them. If course materials are not obtained by the second week of the semester, you will be dropped from this class.

**Attendance Policy:**

Attendance is mandatory online as it is in-class. I determine your "attendance" by your participation and completion of assignments. There are multiple assignments each week, which ought to be completed in order, and each by its specific deadline. Failure to complete **ANY** assignment in the **FIRST THREE WEEKS**will result in your being dropped from the class. Furthermore, failure to complete **MORE THAN THREE (3)** assignments before the end of **WEEK 9** (the drop deadline), will result in your being dropped.

**Late work policy:**

ALL assignments are due by 11:59 PM on the due date. NO late work is accepted, except for essays, which will be accepted up to ONE WEEK late, with a 10 point deduction for each DAY they are late.

# 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.

**Plagiarism/Cheating:** Plagiarism is the act of using another person’s words OR IDEAS as your own with no citation for their work. Cheating includes having anyone else complete your work for you or turning in a paper you have written for another class. You will be caught, receive no credit on the assignment, reported to the administration, and may be dropped from the course. If plagiarism and/or cheating are suspected, you may be asked to provide drafts of your written work and submit your paper to turnitin.com, a plagiarism-checking service. Keep all drafts of your writing assignments for these purposes. If you cannot provide drafts when asked, you may receive a zero on the assignment.

The following is taken from page 44 of the Reedley College Catalog:

***Academic Dishonesty***

*Students at Reedley College are entitled to the best education that the college can make available to them, and they, their instructors, and their fellow students share the responsibility to ensure that this education is honestly attained. 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.*

***Cheating***

*Cheating is the act or attempted act of taking an examination or performing an assigned, evaluated task in a fraudulent or deceptive manner, such as having improper access to answers, in an attempt to gain an unearned academic advantage. Cheating may include, but is not limited to, copying from another’s work, supplying one’s work to another, giving or receiving copies of examinations without an instructor’s permission, using or displaying notes or devices inappropriate to the conditions of the examination, allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent the student, or failing to disclose research results completely.*

***Plagiarism***

*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. 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.*

**Classroom Etiquette:** Our classroom is virtual, but etiquette still applies. In discussion boards in particular, please be courteous and professional, remember that this is an academic environment not social media. Profanity, other offensive or derogatory language, or personal attacks will not be tolerated.

**Writing Center (HUM 58):** You are STRONGLY encouraged to enroll in the Writing Center’s English 272 course, a ½ unit tutorial class.

**Accommodations:**Please inform me of any special circumstances you might have. If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), including alternate media requests, please notify me immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your needs.

**Grading:** You will be graded on a point scale system. These points will vary on the assignment and weight of the assignment.

Weighted percentages are as follows:

Essays = 80%

Everything else = 20%

Essay #1 = 100 pts

Essay #2 = 100 pts

Essay #3 = 150 pts

Essay #4 = 200 pts

Final timed essay = 50 pts

Weekly Discussion Board = 10 pts each

Reading Quizzes = 10 pts each

Grading scale:

100% - 90% = A, 89% - 80% = B, 79% - 70% = C, 69% - 60% = D, 59%-50% = 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**

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

**Important Dates:**

August 13 – First day of class

August 24 – Last day to drop for a full refund

September 2 – Last day to drop to avoid a “W”

September 13 – Instructor’s baby due

October 12 – Last day to drop to avoid a letter grade

December 14 – Timed final due