



Semester and Year – Fall 2009
CRN (Course Reference Number), Course Prefix, Number and Title – CRN 11910: ENGL 1301 Composition 1
Course Meeting Days, Times and Location (Campus, Building, Room number) – 9:25 am – 10:40 am TTh WCJC/UH Sugar Land Complex room 277
Instructor's Name – Glen Smith
Instructor's Telephone number(s) – dna Instructor's email address – smithd@wcjc.edu Instructor's webpage – davidglensmith.com/wcjc
Instructor's Office Hours and Office Location – By appointment
Course Catalog Description – Study of English to improve students' ability to think objectively and to communicate effectively. Stress on clarity and effectiveness in the sentence, paragraph, and whole composition. The composition is chiefly expository and assigned material is designed to increase students' ability to read objectively, to develop skills in critical analysis, and to improve style. Prerequisites: THEA reading and writing requirements met. [Offered Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. Also offered as an Internet course.]
Instructor's Grading System – A 90 -100 B 80 - 89 C 70 - 79 D 60 - 69 F 0 - 59
Instructor's Attendance Policy – Due to the nature of the course and the in-class exercises, after more than 3 absences, negative consequences will result to student's grade. Communication with instructor is paramount.
Last day to "Drop" course with grade of "W" – November 20, 2009

** Any student with a disability or other special circumstance requiring academic accommodations or other consideration in order to successfully complete the requirements of this course should identify himself or herself individually to the instructor to discuss the matter in a private and confidential manner.*

*** Misconduct for which discipline may be administered at WCJC includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the college (plagiarism and cheating refer to the use of unauthorized books, notes, or otherwise securing help in a test, copying tests, assignments, reports, or term papers).*

(syllabus subject to change with advance notice)

TEXTBOOKS:

Hacker, Diana. *The Bedford Handbook*. 7th ed.

Kirszner, Laurie G. and Stephen G. Mandell. *Patterns for College Writing: A Rhetorical Reader and Guide*. 11th ed.

Recommended: College dictionary, access to a computer for typing essays.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The WCJC English Department values student attendance because it:

- establishes basic classroom expectations
- promotes active learning
- encourages student engagement with a diverse campus population
- verbally reinforces written materials
- efficiently uses instructor time

Due to the nature of the course and the in-class exercises, after more than 3 absences, negative consequences will result to student's grade. Communication with instructor is paramount.

Missing 9 days, or 20% of course, results in a student failing the course.

Emergency situations do happen, but keep in mind: an absence is an absence. For any medical or legal emergency that occur the student will need to provide documentation.

ASSIGNMENTS

Students will write a minimum of six full essays, some of which will be started in class.

Likewise, students will compose an eight-page research paper as a final project.

There will be in-class assignments and occasional homework. We will have several reading quizzes as well. Completing these assignments earn you points. Since these are based on specific lectures, you must be present on the day the in-class assignment is given and collected. *No late work will be accepted for this category.*

LATE PAPER POLICY

Since the progress of this class depends on essays turned in on time, late essays will be penalized ten points for each course day that they are late. If you miss class when an essay is due, your grade will show accordingly. *After a week (2 class days) late papers will not be accepted.*

MISSED EXAMS POLICY

Depending on circumstances, missed examinations will be given within a week of scheduled test during a scheduled appointment.

CELL PHONE / TEXT MESSENGER/ LAPTOP POLICY

Cell phones must be silent in class. If an important call arrives, take it into the hall. On the other hand, *no text messengers in the classroom.* *You will be asked to leave.* Laptops are permitted of course, so long as they are used without distractions.

PLAGIARISM POLICY

If clear evidence of academic dishonesty is found for any assignment, a 0 (0 points) for the assignment will be recorded and the English Department Chair will be notified of the incident and the grade. If a second incident of academic dishonesty occurs, an F for the course grade will be recorded and the English Department Chair notified of the incident and the grade.

GRADE PERCENTAGES

In Class Exercises/Free-Writes/HW	5%
Informal/Formal Exercise	
Narrative Pattern	
Description Pattern	
Process Pattern <i>or</i> Exemplification Pattern	10%
Cause/Effect Pattern	10%
Midterm	10%
Comparison/Contrast Pattern	10%
Classification/Division Pattern <i>or</i> Definition	10%
Final Research Paper	25%
Departmental Final	20%

GRADING STANDARDS

Essays will be graded based on a variety of skills. Content and organization are most important. All written work should show evidence of logical thought and strong concepts. Points will be deducted for errors on your essays.

Serious Grammatical Error: (lower grade point for each / 3 or more, revise)

- i. fused sentence
- ii. sentence fragment
- iii. comma splice
- iv. run-on sentence

Serious Grammatical Flaw: (point by point for each occurrence)

- i. subject-verb agreement
- ii. pronoun antecedent agreement
- iii. indefinite pronoun reference
- iv. case error
- v. tense inconsistency
- vi. dangling or misplaced modifier
- vii. non-parallelism

Improper Essay Format (point by point for each occurrence)

- i. lack of introduction or weak introduction
- ii. less than 5 sentences per paragraph
- iii. lack of topic sentence or weak topic sentence
- iv. lack of unity within individual paragraphs
- v. lack of logical sequence between paragraphs
- vi. lack of conclusion or weak conclusion

Improper spelling (5 or more misspelled words, failed assignment)

ESSAY FORMAT

Essays should be typed double-spaced and have a standard one-inch margin. Always use Times New Roman, 12 point size. No title page is necessary. For all essays, follow the template provided. Put your last name and the page number in the upper right hand corner of each page using the "header" feature in Word 2003, Word 2007. Staple your essay before coming to class. When making corrections, be neat and use ink.

Your grade will be lowered a full letter-point if your paper does not follow MLA standards.

TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR

(subject to change with notice)

Week One || **09.01**

Tues: Go over syllabus

Journal writing; Reading journals; Freewriting introduced

Prewriting / Brainstorming: Mapping, Outlines, Listing

Thurs: Essay writing modes

Free-write: First Impressions & Opinions: Frida Kahlo's *Las Dos Fridas*

Week Two || **09.08**

Tues: Formal / Informal Audience and tone

Points of view expressed with first, second, third person

Basic essay guidelines

Thurs: Introductory paragraphs

Informal vs. Formal Voice

Kinky Friedman, "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes" / Texas Monthly *handout*

"Smoking Ban" / Wikipedia.org

Assignment 1: Formal letter due 09.15

Week Three || **09.15**

Tues: Assignment 1: Letters due

Narration Essay Pattern

Types of conflict; How to read an essay

Autobiographical Paragraphs

John Updike, "Beer Can" example of the perfect paragraph *handout*

Thurs: Narration Essay Pattern

Sandra Cisneros, "Only Daughter" p 97

E. B. White, "Once More to the Lake" p 186

Assignment 2: Autobiographical Narrative due 09.24

Week Four || **09.22**

Tues: Assignment 2: Description Essay Pattern

Metaphor, simile, personification: Sylvia Plath "Metaphors" *handout*

Isabel Allende, "The Amazon Queen" *handout*

In-class Assignment

Thurs: Autobiographical Narrative due
Description Essay Pattern; Organizing information
N. Scott Momaday, “The Way to Rainy Mountain” *handout*
Assignment 3: Description Essay Pattern, due 10.01

Week Five || **09.29**

Tues: Exemplification (Illustration) Essay Pattern
Brent Staples, “Just Walk on By: A Black Man Ponders His Power to Alter Public Space”
p 236

Thurs: Assignment 3: Description Essay Pattern, due
Process Essay Pattern
Assignment 4: Process or Exemplification Essay Pattern, part one due 10.08

Week Six || **10.06**

Tues: Exemplification & Process Essay Patterns
“Breadmaking” *handout*
Arthur Miller, “Get it Right: Privatize Executions” p 299

Thurs: Common Grammar Issues
Bring *Bedford Handbook* to class.
Assignment 4: Process or Exemplification Essay Pattern, part two due 10.15

Week Seven || **10.13**

Tues: Cause / Effect Essay Pattern
Different ways to Analyze material
Yahoo News Article “ ‘Degrading’ Lyrics Linked to Teen Sex” *handout*

Thurs: Assignment 4: Process or Exemplification Essay Pattern due
Cause / Effect Essay Pattern
Robin Lakoff, “The Power of Words in Wartime” p 377
Assignment 5: Cause / Effect Essay, part 1 due 10.20

Week Eight || **10.20**

Tues: Midterm week / Review
Assignment 5: Cause / Effect Essay, part 1 due
Assignment 5: Cause / Effect Essay, part 2 due 10.29

Thurs: Midterm

Week Nine || **10.27**

Tues: Creating a Thesis Statement Based on Supportive Evidence

Thurs: Cause / Effect Essay Pattern, part 2, 800 words, due.

Comparison / Contrast Essay Pattern

Deborah Tannen, "Sex, Lies, and Conversation" p 436

Gwendolyn Brooks, "Sadie and Maud" p 443

Assignment 6: Comparison / Contrast Essay Pattern, part 1 due 11.03

Week Ten || **11.03**

Tues: Comparison / Contrast Essay Pattern

Assignment 6: Comparison / Contrast Essay Pattern, part 1 due.

Thursday: Classification / Division Essay Pattern

Week Eleven || **11.10**

Tues: Final project outlined: Five (or more) page essay, with MLA Bibliography

Choose topic of interest for final essay.

Thurs: Library Database Orientation

Week Twelve || **11.17**

Tues: Definition Essay Pattern

Jose Antonio Burciaga, "Tortillas" p 524

Thurs: No Class—School Holiday

Friday: 11.20.09: Last day to drop a class and receive a 'W'.

Week Thirteen || **11.24**

Tues: Gathering Evidence: Summary, Paraphrase, Quotations

Thesis Statement due. Introduction page / draft due.

Thurs: Thanksgiving Holidays

Week Fourteen || **12.01**

Tues: Combining patterns

Thurs: Combining patterns / Virginia Woolf, "The Death of the Moth" *handout*
Preliminary Work Cited due.

Week Fifteen || 12.08

Tues: Combining patterns

Three pages of research paper due.

Thurs: Review Pattern for Departmental Final
Final project due with formal Work Cited Page.

Departmental Finals Week || 12.12.09

Your full name

English 1301: Composition 1

David Glen Smith, Instructor

Due Date of Paper

Assignment Number: Title of Work

All work must follow the standard MLA standards outlined in this document. Even if using another program other than Microsoft Word 2007, or MS Word 2003, all students must use the same page layout restrictions.

Be sure an extra space does not appear between paragraphs. The reading format should appear as a standard book publication. The assignments are *not* using a block paragraph format used by a majority of internet sites. In addition, notice the opening sentence is indented, once. The font selection should be set in Times or Times New Roman, 12 pt. size. The page margins should be 1” on all four sides. This document is correctly formatted. Any other setting results in an immediate ‘F’ and counts as a late paper once reformatted and re-submitted.

A heading has been established for this example document. The heading must appear in the right hand corner of the page, with a ½ inch margin from the top. Even though the papers will be stapled together, sometimes pages get separated in transition from the classroom to my desk. The header is preserving your identity and your work as a unit. Whatever program you use, the end result must be the same for all projects.

Another important aspect of your research paper— correctly crediting sources used for background material. There are three different methods for using references: paraphrasing, short quotations, and long quotations. All three methods defend your topic sentences and give proper credit to the original author. Any material not of your own creation needs to be credited.

The first method, paraphrasing, requires you to express an author's work in your own words. *The MLA Handbook* affirms students should feel free to use outside materials in their own work, but need to be cautious when borrowing another author's concepts (69). To ensure your work is not unintentionally considered plagiarism, cite your reference within the sentence, and place author, and page number in parentheses.

Short quotations are used when you need to show the exact wording of a source, in order to make an effective point in your paper. These situations particularly need to be given proper credit. *The MLA Handbook* also mentions that most circumstances of plagiarism are unintentional, "as when an elementary school pupil, assigned to do a report on a certain topic, goes home and copies down, word for word, everything on the subject in an encyclopedia" (70). In these cases, author and source should be identified in the sentence with the page number appearing in parentheses. Notice the final period appears outside the parentheses.

Finally, there are situations which will require long quotations. If quoting material longer than four lines of text, the material needs to appear set off from the text. As an example:

When you believe that some... passage in its original wording might make an effective addition to your paper, transcribe the material exactly as it appears, word for word, comma for comma.

Whenever you quote verbatim from a work, be sure to use quotation marks scrupulously in your notes to distinguish the quotation from summary and paraphrase (46).

Notice in these cases the quoted passage is still double spaced, the page number still appears in parentheses, but quotation marks *are not* needed. In the future we will discuss other MLA standards and variations on these regulations.