

## **English 05201: Introduction to College Writing\***

Fall 2011, Monday and Tuesday 6:30-9, GASSON 203

Professor Elisabeth Panttaja Brink, PhD

Email: epbrink@comcast.net

Office hours: Mon 5:30-6:30 in McGuinn 100.

\*Class requires simultaneous registration in EN 12901: Informing Writers: Text and Tech

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### **Course description:**

This course and its companion course, EN 12901, provide students with all the skills necessary for successful college writing. EN 05201 strengthens critical reading and thinking abilities while providing the essential tools for clear, organized, effective analytical expression. Teacher/student conferences, a focus on revision, and instruction in basic composition heighten self-confidence. In EN 12901 students learn how to retrieve and assess information in the library and through on-line sources and how to use that research in college writing assignments.

### **Required texts:**

Barnet & Bedau, *Current Issues and Enduring Questions*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed., Bedford/St. Martin's, 2010. ISBN: 0312547323.

Hacker, *A Writer's Reference*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Bedford/St. Martin's, 2009. ISBN: 0312664761.

Hacker, *Exercises to Accompany a Writer's Reference*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007. ISBN: 0312452357.

### **Course requirements:**

We'll write four papers in this class.

1. Autobiographical essay, 3-5 pages
2. Happiness essay, 3-5 pages
3. Short argument, with sources, 3-5 pages
4. Long argument, with sources, 5-7 pages

Other assignments include the following: one-page reaction papers to assigned readings, short answer quizzes on assigned readings, quizzes on basic skills, and a final exam on basic skills.

### **Grade distribution:**

Essay 1, autobiographical essay (prep work and final draft): 10%

Essay 2, happiness essay (prep work and final draft): 10%

Essay 3, short argument (prep work and final draft): 20%

Essay 4, long argument (prep work and final draft): 25%

Reaction papers and short-answer quizzes on assigned readings: 10%

Exercises, editing assignments, and final test on basic skills: 10%

Class participation: 15%

**Conference:** At mid-semester, you will be given a specific time to come and see me in McGuinn 100 for an individual conference. This will be a time for us to review your first two papers, to discuss an early draft of your short argument paper, and to assess your writing skills. You should bring all the work you have done so far in a folder. During conference week, we will not have class.

**Office hours:** I will also be able to talk with you individually on Mondays from 5:30-6:30 in McGuinn 100. You do not need an appointment. At the end of the semester, I will hold extended office hours for students who want help with their final papers or who want to talk about their progress in the course.

**Attendance policy:** We will be writing your essays in stages, so it is important that you do not miss class or get behind in the assignments. And because we will be critiquing our own and others' essays, your participation is valuable. You are expected to attend every class. If you have an emergency or you are sick, please contact me by email to let me know that you will not be in class. You will be allowed two absences without penalty; each additional absence will reduce your grade by one-third.

**Late assignments:** If you are absent because of an emergency or illness on a day that an assignment or paper is due, you may email me the assignment or paper. If you do not have the paper or assignment ready on the day it is due, you may hand it in up to one week late, but the grade will be reduced by one-third for every class it is not submitted. Papers later than that will not be accepted.

**Academic integrity:** All the work you submit in this class must be your own. When you integrate sources from other writers' work into your own papers, you must use formal citations in the MLA style. Plagiarism, whether intentional or not, is subject to penalty. For more information about the MLA citation system and using sources correctly, see *A Writer's Reference*, sections MLA-2-4.

**Format:** Each paper and assignment you hand in, whether a first or second draft of an essay or a short reaction paper, should be written in the MLA format described in *A Writer's Reference*, section MLA-5.

**Email:** Every email you send me should be introduced by an appropriate salutation (Dear Professor Brink) and written in grammatical sentences with correct punctuation. The tone should be fitting to a professional communication. If your email is inappropriate or error-ridden, I will return it unanswered with the words *not acceptable* in the subject line.

**Writing center:** The Connors Learning Center in the O'Neill Library offers excellent one-on-one tutoring for writing students. Fifty-minute sessions are intended to help with structure and flow of a paper and are not a proofreading service. You should bring two copies of the paper you want help with. Call ahead to make an appointment (617-552-0611).

**ESL students:** The Connors Learning Center also offers specialized tutoring to ESL students. These sessions include help with grammar and punctuation, as well as structure and flow of ideas. Book up to three appointments a week with an ESL Designated Tutor. ESL conversation appointments are also available.

**Students with learning disabilities:** The Connors Learning Center also offers special services and support to learning-disabled students.

**Library sessions:** EN 12901, "Informing Writers: Text and Tech," is comprised of four "library sessions" which will take place in a different room (to be announced) with Professor Nina Bogdanovsky. The grade for that course is completely separate from the grade for EN 05201. On the nights that you have library sessions, EN 05201 will not meet.