Boston College Mission Statement
Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Course Description
With instant communication, delivering the message fast sometimes seems to trump getting it right. Yet, whether communicating in business, disseminating information online or blogging for pleasure, writing clearly, with precision, economy and style, is more important than ever. Course expands powers of expression, develops a large and vital vocabulary and enables learners to write and speak with precision. Sharpens writing skills through exercises and brief assignments, with special attention being paid to writing for the web.

Course Objectives
In this course it is expected that students will:
Students will learn to apply core material to develop proficient writing and communication skills.
Students will strengthen and increase their vocabulary.
The students will demonstrate their progress of clear, concise writing through writing assignments and class participation.

Grading
Grades will be based on writing assignments, on classroom exercises and your attendance and participation in class.

Class Attendance and Class Participation 60%
Written Work and Vocabulary Quizzes: 40%

WCAS Grading System
The undergraduate grading system consists of twelve categories: A (4.00), A- (3.67), excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67), good; C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67), satisfactory; D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (.67), passing but unsatisfactory; F (.00), failure; I (.00), incomplete; F (.00), course dropped without notifying office; W (.00), official withdrawal from course.
Grade Reports
All students are required to log into the web through Agora to access their semester grades. Students must utilize their BC username and password to log on. If your username or password is not known, the Student Learning and Support Center in the O’Neill Library Computer Center will issue a new one. The SLSC requires a valid picture ID (a BC ID, driver’s license or passport) to obtain your password.

Text(s)/Readings (Required)
Language Awareness by Eschholz,  11th edition
The Elements of Style,  4th edition by Strunk and White

Important Policies
http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advstudies/guide/academicinteg.html

Written Work
Graduate and undergraduate students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough, yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA, CLA format per instructor’s decision. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. You are encouraged to make use of campus resources for refining writing skills as needed
[http://www.bc.edu/libraries/help/tutoring.html].

Scholarship and Academic Integrity
It is expected that students will produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to reference properly is plagiarism. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on examinations or assignments, and submitting the same paper or substantially similar papers to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work.

Request for Accommodation
Classroom accommodations will be provided for qualified students with documented disabilities. Students are invited to contact the Connors Family Learning Center office about accommodations for this course. Telephone appointments are available to students as needed. Appointments can be made by calling, 617-552-8903. You may also make an appointment in person. For further information, you can locate the disability resources on the web at http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/libraries/help/tutoring/specialservices.html.

Attendance
Class attendance is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive by the beginning of and remain for the entire class period. When an occasion occurs that prevents a student from attending class, it is the student’s obligation to inform the instructor of the conflict before the class meets. The student is still expected to meet all assignment deadlines. If a student knows that he or she will be absent on a particular day, the student is responsible for seeing the instructor beforehand to obtain the assignments for that day. If a student misses a class, he or she is responsible for making up the work by obtaining a classmate's notes and handouts and turning in any assignments due. Furthermore, many instructors give points for participation in class. If you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Types of absences that are not typically excused include weddings, showers, vacations, birthday parties, graduations, etc. Additional assignments, penalties and correctives are at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive
absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. In all cases, students are expected to accept the decision of the instructor regarding attendance policies specific to the class.

Consistent with our commitment of creating an academic community that is respectful of and welcoming to persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing the fulfillment of their academic obligations. It is the responsibility of students to review course syllabi as soon as they are distributed and to consult the faculty member promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. If asked, the student should provide accurate information about the obligations entailed in the observance of that particular holiday. However, it is the responsibility of the student to complete any and all class requirements for days that are missed due to conflicts due to religious holidays.

There may be circumstances that necessitate a departure from this policy. Feel free to contact the WCAS at 617-552-3900 for consultation.

Deadlines
Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the specified dates. Late assignments will be graded accordingly. They will be marked down half a grade for each day it is late.

Course Assignments
Date Topic Reading/Assignments Due Date

September 2: Introductions and Overview of course.

September 9: Advanced Word Power, read chapters 1 and 2, complete exercises.
Language Awareness, read and be prepared to discuss Chapter 1
Watch Ted Talks: www.ted.com Amy Cuddy: Your body language shapes who you are.
Write a one paragraph synopsis of Amy’s talk, must be passed in at beginning of class.

September 16: Advanced Word Power, read chapters 3 and 4, complete exercises.
Language Awareness, read and be prepared to discuss Chapter 2
Watch Ted Talks: www.ted.com Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: The danger of a single story
Write a one paragraph synopsis of Chimamanda’s talk, must be passed in at beginning of class.

September 23: Advanced Word Power, read chapter 5, complete exercises.
Elements of Style, Read Chapter I, “Elementary Rules of Usage”
Be prepared to discuss and give examples of the eleven rules in class.
Write a one paragraph synopsis of the talk, must be passed in at beginning of class

September 30: Advanced Word Power, read chapters 6 and 7, complete exercises
Language Awareness, read “On Being 17, Bright, and Unable to Read” by David Raymond pg. 77
Answer questions 1-6 on pages 79-80.
Watch Ted Talks: www.tedtalks.com Andrew Stanton: The clues to a great story
Write a one paragraph synopsis of the talk, must be passed in at beginning of class.

October 7: Advanced Word Power, read chapters 10 and 11, complete exercises
Elements of Style, read Chapter II, “Elementary Principles of Composition”
Be prepared to discuss the chapter.
Watch Ted Talks: www.tedtalks.com Lisa Bu: How books can open your mind
Write a one paragraph synopsis of the talk, must be passed in at beginning of class.
October 14: Advanced Word Power, chapters 12 and 13, complete exercises
Language Awareness, read “Shitty First Drafts” by Anne Lamott pg. 189
Answer questions #4 and #7 on page 92.
Watch Ted Talks: www.tedtalks.com  Juan Enriquez: Your online life, permanent as a tattoo
Write a one paragraph synopsis of the talk, must be passed in at beginning of class.

October 21: Advanced Word Power, Chapters 14 and 15, complete exercises
Language Awareness, read “What’s So Bad About Hate” pg. 307 and “The Meanings of a Word” pg. 336. Be prepared to discuss both essays.
Watch Ted Talks: www.tedtalks.com John McWhorter: Txtng is killing language. JK!!!
Write a one paragraph synopsis of the talk, must be passed in at beginning of class.

October 28: Advanced Word Power, Chapters 16 and 17, complete exercises
Elements of Style, read Chapter III “A Few Matters of Form” and Chapter IV “Words and Expressions Commonly Misused”
Watch Ted Talks: www.tedtalks.com Patricia Ryan: Don't insist on English!
Write a one paragraph synopsis of the talk, must be passed in at beginning of class.

November 4: Advanced Word Power, Chapters 18 and 19, complete exercises
Language Awareness, read “Weasel Words: The Art of Saying Nothing at All” by William Lutz pg 415
Complete Writing Suggestion #1 Page 425.
Watch Ted Talks: www.tedtalks.com Felix Dennis: Odes to vice and consequences
Write a one paragraph synopsis of the talk, must be passed in at beginning of class.

November 11: Advanced Word Power, Chapters 20 and 21, complete exercises
Language Awareness, read “Reading to Write” by Stephen King pg. 178
Answer question #1 on pg. 182.
Bring in examples of “bad writing” Can be from a novel, newspaper, magazine or online article.
Watch Ted Talks: www.tedtalks.com Ken Robinson: How schools kill creativity
Write a one paragraph synopsis of the talk, must be passed in at beginning of class.

November 25: No Class - Happy Thanksgiving!

December 2: Advanced Word Power, Chapters 22 and 23, complete exercises
Elements of Style, read Chapter V, “An Approach to Style”
Write a one paragraph synopsis of the talk, must be passed in at beginning of class.

December 9: Advanced Word Power, Chapters 27 and 28, complete exercises
Language Awareness, Read “Writing to Change the World” by Mary Pipher and “Letter from Birmingham Jail” by Martin Luther King, Jr.  Complete Language in Action on pg. 101.
Watch Ted Talks: www.tedtalks.com Billy Collins: Everyday moments, caught in time
Write a one paragraph synopsis of the talk, must be passed in at beginning of class.

December 16: Advanced Word Power, Chapters 29 and 30, complete exercises
Final paper due. Topic will be assigned in class Dec 2nd.