

ENGLISH 052 01

Intro to College Writing

Visiting Associate Prof. Kristine Rodriguez

Summer 2008

T and R 8:30-11:30am

Office Hours: If you would like to meet with me before/after class, please e-mail me ahead of time to schedule an appt.

Phone: 552-3900 (the CAS office. Leave a message with them and I will get back to you.)

Required Texts:

Diana Hacker, Rules for Writers 5th edition

Don Murray, The Craft of Revision 5th edition

Recommended:

A good hardcover dictionary and thesaurus

Course Statement:

Effective writing for college requires solid research skills, as well as a mastery of grammar and stylistic basics. This course provides students with practice in the process of retrieving and assessing information either in the library or through on-line sources and then using that research as the basis for writing assignments. Several classes are devoted to learning how to navigate the rich resources of the BC library system.

In addition to learning effective research strategies, students will also learn how to narrow topics, construct effective thesis statements, marshal persuasive evidence and present ideas in an organized, coherent, and grammatically correct fashion. Students will also read short essays that are models of good writing. I have structured the course so that the emphasis is on revision and re-doing of papers. There will be ample opportunities to write the kinds of papers that are required in future college courses.

Final grades for ENGL 052 are based on the following:

- 3 revised papers (2 pages each) 25% each
- MLA exam 10%
- Final in-class writing assignment 05%
- Any quizzes, homework,
paper drafts 10%

Attendance and Participation:

Class attendance is vital to your success in this class. You may miss two of my classes (Ken Liss's classes count toward his grade, which is separate from this class) without jeopardizing your final grade for my course. **After two absences, I will dock your final grade by one-half a grade (i.e a B+ becomes a B) for each successive absence, regardless of reason. So use your absences sparingly and for good reason.** If you miss too many classes, it is likely I will advise you to withdraw from the course. **Please realize that I am very serious about this policy. Missing a scheduled conference or tutorial session counts as an absence.** There is no such thing as extra credit in this course.

Due Dates

Unless I indicate otherwise, all assignments are due on the dates indicated. I will record all drafts of papers that are turned in late. I reserve the right to penalize by ½ grade any final revision that is turned in late. **However, if that late paper is not turned in by the next class after the due date, I will not accept it and you will receive a zero for the assignment.** I am generally agreeable about granting extensions for legitimate reasons as long as you ask before the class when the paper is due.

Paper Format

All drafts and papers must be typed, double-space, Times New Roman, 12 point font. Final papers must be submitted with a formatted title page. Papers must be stapled with source material in back (articles).

Feedback

Many of our sessions are reserved for small group discussion of your paper drafts, so it is important that you come to the sessions prepared to discuss your draft. **Failure to bring a draft to a session means you will be marked absent for that session, even if you attend and participate in the conversation.** It is important that you email me during the week if you have any questions about assignments or readings.

Conferences

If you cannot make your appointment, please contact me to reschedule. Conferences count as class, so missing one is the equivalent of one absence.

Paper Presentations

Students will spend a good portion of some classes in small groups working on assignments for class. Be sure to bring copies of your drafts when indicated on the course calendar.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the copying of materials from other sources without documentation. Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional. It is a serious academic offense with serious repercussions. If you are caught plagiarizing, I will automatically fail you for that assignment.

E-mail

Unless you have cleared it with me beforehand, I will not accept any assignments via e-mail. I will delete any files received without my permission, unread. **If you are handing in a late paper outside of class, it is your responsibility to drop it off at the CAS Office.** Under certain circumstances I will allow you to e-mail your paper, but you must first ask permission. I am not responsible for the fate of any papers not turned in during class.

Course Calendar

Week One

T 1 July

First class meeting—distribution of syllabus, discussion of course format and expectations; writing sample and **first paper topic**. What is college writing? What is revision? Discussion of first paper assignment. Discuss objects essays (handout) discuss on-line resources.

R 3 July

Murray chp. 1, 2, Hacker pp. 1-24, Sample paper sharing session. **Object draft due.**

Week Two

T 8 July

Group revision sessions. **Second object draft due** Discuss Pencil and Oranges essays (handouts) and Murray chp. 3, 4. MLA Documentation style (bring handbook to class)

R 10 July

Global revision strategies and grammar hotspots. Murray chp. 5. **Bring draft and scissors to class.**

Week Three

T 15 July

Close reading strategies. Grammar hotspots, Murray chp. 6, 7. MLA Documentation Exam. Bring handbook for open book exam.

R 17 July

Paper One (graded) due Discussion of summarizing assignment and sample paper. Topic 2 assigned. Grammar and word choice session. **Email me article by Friday for approval.**

Week Four

T 22 July

(only draft due) Group revision sessions. Murray chp. 8-9.

R 24 July

Paper two (graded) due. Discussion of paper three. Grammar hotspots. Murray chs.10, 11.

Week Five

T 29 July

draft due. Group revision strategies. Discussion of research writing strategies

R 31 July

draft due. Group revision sessions. **Second revision of either paper 1 or 2 (optional) due by today.**

Week Six

T 5 August

Discussion of final writing assignment. **Paper three (graded) due. Late papers are not accepted, so plan accordingly.**

R 7 August

In-class writing assignment. Materials left at the CAS Office after tonight's class will **NOT** be picked up or graded.

Paper Assignments

All papers are 2-3 pages, typed, dbl.spaced. The general topics are below—we will discuss each assignment at length in class. All sources must be located using the resources presented in the library sessions for the class and are subject to approval by the instructor.

Paper One: A detailed description of an ordinary object, with discussion of its significance (research required). 250-500 words.

Paper Two: a summary of a recent article in the newspaper or news magazine (articles must be submitted for approval by me). Include a copy of your source with the final version. 250-500 words.

Paper Three: Compare and contrast the arguments offered in two articles or essays on the same topic. Topics will be given in class and all sources must be approved by me. Summarize the main thesis of each article and compare/contrast the information offered in each article. Offer your own “take” on the topic as a result of reading these articles. Include all original sources with the final paper. MLA documentation required for this paper. 500-750 words.

Optional Second Revision of Paper 1 or 2: Students will be allowed to revise EITHER paper 1 or 2 one more time after it has been graded in order to improve the grade. The two grades will be averaged together at semester’s end. This second revision, which is optional, is due on 31 July. Hand in earlier graded paper with new version.