

ENGLISH 052 02

Intro to College Writing

Lecturer Kristine Rodriguez

Summer 2009

M and W 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 6th 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.

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 read short essays that are models of good writing and will practice using various communication technologies to collaborate with one another. Exploring different communication technologies will allow students to work more with changing voice and style to target different readers and practice important communication skills needed for academic success.

I have structured the course so that the emphasis is on revision and re-doing of academic papers. Students will learn to be effective editors of their own work through multiple opportunities to peer edit in class. 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) 20% each
- MLA exam 10%
- Final in-class writing assignment 10%
- Workshop participation, including
bringing drafts to class 10%
- Online collaborations & Blog 10%

Attendance and Participation:

Class attendance is vital to your success in this class. You may miss one of my classes without jeopardizing your final grade for my course. **After ONE absence, 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 copies must be submitted in hardcopy and include a cover page and formatted work cited.

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 final 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. You will be using email to communicate with me as well as other classmates.

Blogs

You are required to create and maintain a blog dedicated to this course using Blogger. You are responsible to make a minimum of 5 entries to this blog. Guidelines and assignments will be given during the course.

Course Calendar

Week One

M 29 June

First class meeting— distribution of syllabus, discussion of course format and expectations; introduction to Blogger and **first paper topic**. What is college writing? What is revision? Discuss objects essays (handout) and online resources. Writing sample. Grammar assessment. Submit blog to instructor by next class.

W 1 July

Murray chp. 1, 2, Hacker pp. 1-24. **Object draft due**. Sample paper sharing session. Review and return grammar assessment. Blog assignment— thesis statements. Optional skills workshop—after class.

Week Two

M 6 July

Group revision sessions. **Second object draft due** Discuss sample essays (handouts) and Murray chp. 3, 4. MLA Documentation style (bring handbook to class). Optional skills workshop—after class.

W 8 July

Global revision strategies and grammar hotspots. Murray chp. 5. **Bring draft and scissors to class**. Blog assignment— outline and sources.

Week Three

M 13 July

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

W 15 July

Paper One (graded) due Discussion of summarizing assignment and sample paper. Introduce virtual theater. Paper 2 assigned. Grammar and word choice session. **Email me article by Friday for approval**. Once your topic is approved, post it to your blog.

Week Four

M 20 July

(only draft due) Group revision sessions. Murray chp. 8-9. Blog assignment— grammar question and answer.

W 22 July

Paper two (graded) due. Discussion of paper three. Grammar hotspots. Sign-up for a time slot. Murray chs.10, 11. **Email me articles by Friday for approval**. You will be assigned to groups over the weekend—check my blog for groupings.

Week Five

M 27 July

draft due. Individual revision sessions. Discussion of research writing strategies.

W 29 July

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

Week Six

M 3 August

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

W 5 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, double-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). MLA documentation required for this paper. 500 words.

Paper Two: Select one of the documentaries offered in the virtual theater (check my blog). Decide on a research strand that stems from the documentary and find an appropriate article to support your new focus (newspaper or news magazine articles must be submitted for approval by me). Write a summary of the article with additional research on your new topic. Include a copy of your source with the final version. 500 words. MLA documentation required for this paper.

Paper Three: Compare and contrast the arguments offered in two articles or essays on the same topic. I must approve all topics and sources. You will be assigned to groups and are required to collaborate via email by responding to at least one draft. 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. Transcripts of collaboration are also required with the paper. MLA documentation required for this paper. 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 29 July. You must hand in the grade sheet and original graded paper with new version. You must also come to class with a draft for workshop or your revision will not be accepted.