



ENGLISH 103 Composition and Critical Thinking, Summer 2015

Course Prerequisite: Grade of C or higher in English 101

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Course Description

This course, which meets the transfer critical thinking requirement, is designed to develop critical thinking, reading, and writing skills beyond the level achieved in English 101. The course will focus on the development of logical reasoning and analytical and argumentative writing skills. There is an online component to this section for which you will need access to a computer and the internet. (Both are available in the library.)

Course Texts

Boutry, Katherine, Clare Norris-Bell and Holly Bailey-Hofmann. *The West Guide to Writing: Success from Community College to University*. Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall Hunt, 2013. **Required.**

Davis, Angela Y. *Are Prisons Obsolete?* New York: Seven Stories Press, 2003. **Available in bookstore or free online.**

Student Learning Outcome

At the end of the course, the successful student will be able to research, evaluate and cite outside sources for use in the student's own writing.

CLASS POLICIES

Summer Session Advisory

Because summer session is so compressed, I strongly recommend that you take this class during intersession only if you earned an A or a B in English 101. Otherwise, I recommend that you take English 103 in a full 16 week semester.

Instructor Response Policy

You can expect me to respond to your emails and Private Message

s within 48 hours. It's easier for me if you send your messages through the Private Messaging tool than if you email me. Sometimes you can take a very general question into the Chat area and one of your classmates can help you.

Disabilities

If you have any learning or physical disabilities, please contact the Disabled Student Programs and Services Office in HLRC 121 at (310) 287-4450. The DSPS will then contact your instructors to notify them of needed

accommodations, such as additional testing time, note taker, etc. Do not be embarrassed to seek help. Disabilities are not a reflection of who you are, but of how your brain works. Understanding how you learn is to the first step to success.

Standards

You are responsible to buy your books, do your own work, read your syllabus, and complete the assignments. It is not my responsibility to inform you what assignments are late or missing. You have the wonderful opportunity to take a class, learn things, expand your mind, and get my feedback to help you improve your writing. Don't waste it.

- Summer class is a kind of boot camp! It might be a little painful. We will survive it together. Everything you need is online. Email me before you start to panic.
- Work is due on the due date whether you are sick or not. If you can't submit the work online, prepare to show a doctor's note or court document.
- **Late work is not accepted in the 6-week session.**

But what if there are extenuating circumstances?

There always are! Nearly every WLAC student works 40 hours a week. We all have personal responsibilities: bodies that get sick, cars and computers/printers that break down, loved ones that get sick and (heaven forbid) die. Some have families and children to attend to. This is a given. That's what makes it necessary to manage time and plan ahead in order to succeed!

We all go through tough times, myself included, which is why I can sympathize with your troubles, but I cannot make exceptions. There's nothing that feels as good as a grade that you earned, despite difficulties. If your 'extenuating circumstances' become too overwhelming, withdraw and take the course at a more convenient time (if you can find one!)

Dropping the course

According to college policy, you may be excluded for excessive absences or for not following the Standards of Student Conduct (printed in the Schedule of Classes). If you drop the course, be sure to do so at the Admissions and Business Offices. Otherwise, the grade drops to a "D" or "F" and cannot be removed. Pay attention to drop dates in the Schedule of Classes.

ASSIGNMENTS

ETUDES

ETUDES site is a required component for enrolled students. (Students adding the class will have a delay in access.) This site will feature lecture content, handouts, etc. and is a helpful resource for the class. You can access our class Etudes site at: <http://myetudes.org/portal> For help logging in, contact the Distance Learning Office at 310-287-4306. You must submit this work online, so learn how to use Etudes right away and call Distance Learning if you have a problem.

Essays

Unlike in 101, I do not CORRECT essays. English 103 students should be able to find their own grammatical errors. This means that students are responsible for proofreading their own papers. Your instructor "evaluates" essays and makes suggestions for improvements in organization, use of evidence, critical thinking, and style. With the exception of the first essay, there will be no corrective remarks on a proofreading level; only general remarks. **Spell Check can be turned on in Microsoft Word at Tools>>Options>>Spelling and Grammar.** You are welcome to visit me in my office for a line by line correction of your essay.

The following guidelines apply to REVISIONS.

- Only 1 revision is possible in summer session.
- In order to be revisable, the essay grade must be lower than an 80 B-.
- The maximum amount of points possible for revision is 6.
- The revised essay must be stapled to the original, graded essay.
- You must bring the revision (with attached original) to my office and explain to me what you revised.
- Each student is limited to two revisions per semester.

Essay Format

There will be three essays, as well as other written assignments. All essays must be typed. Format is standard MLA: 12 point Times New Roman double-spaced, 1 inch margins. Other fonts will not be accepted. Please teach yourself how to use headers and footers and number your pages with your last name and the page number. Title pages/binders are not necessary; just head the first page in the upper left corner as follows:

Student Name
Date
Course
Professor's Last Name

...and remember to give each essay a title!

There are many valuable resources for essay formatting, including sample student essays, in *The West Guide*, for your convenience.

MLA Format

Your essays must follow MLA format, which was introduced to you in English 101, and which we will review together. **Essays without a Works Cited page will automatically have 10 points subtracted.**

Plagiarism

Understand and avoid plagiarism – you can also refer to this website re. plagiarism:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism/htm> You must turn in your own work (not a “modified” paper submitted for another class) and cite your sources appropriately, using MLA Style. We will go over MLA Style, but you are also expected to refer to your handbook for details relating to in-text citations and Works Cited. **Plagiarism is unacceptable and will result in a failing grade for the assignment.**

Why Shouldn't You Plagiarize?

1. *An Educational Reason*

You cheat yourself out of the opportunity to develop your skills and become a better writer.

2. *A Philosophical Reason*

Cheating is stealing. Would it be ok if someone took your car, put his/her name on the song you wrote, or took credit for your project at work? What goes around comes around. Don't tempt fate. It's much more satisfying to take satisfaction in what you fairly accomplish. This might mean taking a C that you earn instead of an A that you steal.

3. *A Practical Reason*

There are teachers out there who don't look closely at student work, but unfortunately for my social life, I'm not one of them. I read every essay, and I will catch you. And fail you.

Guidelines for Discussion

Complete discussion forum entries usually consist of a well-rounded paragraph of at least five sentences. Discussion forum entries (including responses) should include at least one piece of evidence taken from the reading or another classmate's post. Examples might include a quotation from another classmate's post or a summary of the passage in the text.

Please feel free to disagree with each other, but base those disagreements on the argument presented and the evidence at hand. Racist, sexist, or other hate language is not appropriate, no matter what someone says to you. If you attack someone in this forum, your posting will be deleted by the professor and you will be reprimanded.

When in doubt about whether or not something is appropriate, don't post it. If something you read here makes you angry, message the professor about it. If you need to write an angry response to something, write it offline and let it sit for a day or so while you cool down; then edit it to appropriate posting content and post.

Please feel free to write your discussion forum entries in word and paste them in this forum so they can be grammar and spellchecked. As this is an English course, all discussion postings should be mostly free from grammar and spelling errors.

Please check the forum once or twice a week.

Grading

- 3 Formal Essays = 50% of your grade.
- Other assignments =25%
- Discussion Thread= 20 total points possible for 6 discussion threads... worth 25% of your grade.

Essay grading gets stricter as the semester progresses. Take care to apply the instructor's suggestions and remarks in essay feedback to your work in subsequent essays. If you continue to make the same mistakes, it will cost you more each time. This is not to frighten you, but simply to motivate you!

Honors Requirements

You may not take my summer 103 for Honors credit.

College Resources

Need a tutor?

WLAC Tutoring Center (in person) 310-287-4324

WLAC Online Tutoring: <http://www.wlac.edu/online/tutoring.asp>

Need to use a computer or printer, or check out a book?

WLAC Library: 310-287-4269

Need a Scantron, a class text, or other supplies?

WLAC Bookstore: 310-287-4560

Not feeling good? Or need to talk about a (non-academic) problem?
WLAC Healthcare Center 310-287-4478 Building A-9

Want someone to read over your writing before you hand it in?
WLAC Writing Center (first floor library, behind language computers): 310-287-4420

Need accommodations for your learning difference or physical/medical disability?
WLAC DSPS (Disabled Students Programs and Services): 310- 287-4450

Need career/academic advice?
WLAC Counseling Center: 310-287-4450
WLAC Online Counseling: <http://www.wlac.edu/online/counselingonline.asp>

English 103 Summer 2015 Schedule of Assignments!

Feel free to work ahead if you like.

Week 1: 6/15 – 6/20

1. Review syllabus.
2. Look around our Etudes shell and familiarize yourself with it. Complete the Etudes Scavenger Hunt.
3. Buy your books. Locate the other readings in Resources.
4. Introduce yourself in the Discussion Thread.
5. Read “On the Sociology of Deviance” by Kai Erikson
6. Participate in the weekly discussion thread (20 points) in Discussion Area. This week’s prompt is: COMMUNITY VALUES

Week 2: 6/21-6/27

1. Read *West Guide* Chs. 11,12 13, 14 as needed.
2. Read Essay Prep Modules in Modules tab
3. Read sample student essay on pages 332-336 (there are many other sample student essays to guide you as you prepare your essay; check the Table of Contents)
4. Read *Are Prisons Obsolete?* Chapters 1 and 2
6. Participate in the weekly discussion thread (20 points) in Discussion Area. This week’s prompt is: TBA
7. Write Essay 1. Use *West Guide* Ch. 16 Rubric to help you review/revise your work before you submit it.

Essay 1 due online by Sunday night 11:45pm.

Week 3: 6/28 – 7/4

1. Read *West Guide* pages 311-320 (Intro to Logic and Reasoning and Argument Fallacies)
2. Read *Are Prisons Obsolete?* Chapters 3 and 4
3. Participate in Fallacies Assignment thread in Discussion Area (10 points)
4. Participate in the weekly discussion thread (20 points) in Discussion Area. This week’s prompt is: THE PANOPTICON

Week 4: 7/5-7/11

1. Read *West Guide* Chs. 21 and 22
2. Read Research modules in Modules tab
3. Read *Are Prisons Obsolete?* Chapters 5 and 6
4. Participate in the weekly discussion thread (20 points) in Discussion Area. This week's prompt is: PRISON ALTERNATIVES
5. Write Essay 2. Use *West Guide* Ch. 16 Rubric, as well as instructor feedback from Essay 1, to help you review/revise your work before you submit it.

Essay 2 due online by Sunday night 11:45pm.

Week 5: 7/12 – 7/18

1. *West Guide* pages 325-331
2. Read Toulmin and Rogerian modules in Modules area
3. Read *Are Prisons Obsolete?* Chapters 5 and 6
4. Participate in the weekly discussion thread (20 points) in Discussion Area. This week's prompt is: ONE IDEA THAT MUST DIE

Week 6: 7/19 – 7/26

1. Read *Are Prisons Obsolete?* Chapters 5 and 6
2. Participate in the weekly discussion thread (20 points) in Discussion Area. This week's prompt is: MUTALITY
3. Write Essay 3. Use *West Guide* Ch. 16 Rubric and instructor feedback from Essays 1 and 2 to help you review/revise your work before you submit it.

Essay 3 due online by Sunday night 11:45pm.