



ENGLISH 103 Composition and Critical Thinking, Fall 2015

Course Prerequisite: Grade of C or higher in English 101

Instructor: H. Bailey-Hofmann	Section: 1021 (TTH 11:10-12:35)	Email: baileyhh@wlaac.edu
Office: GC 280E	Office Hours: TTH 10-11, W 10-1	Phone: 310-287-4547
Online Site: http://myetudes.org	and by appointment	

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. **Recommended.**

Davis, Angela. *Are Prisons Obsolete?* New York: Seven Stories Press, 2003. **Available 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

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.

- No late papers are accepted. **1 Exception per student, per semester.** 10 point penalty applies per class, not to exceed 4 classes.
- Missed exams/quizzes cannot be made up.

- You must obtain the books and do all the work for the class or you cannot pass. Missing even one essay is enough to fail you.
- If you disappear for three classes in a row, I will drop you. Consider this fair warning.
- The college classroom is not a place to eat food or take cell phone calls.

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

As a supplement to this class, an online ETUDES-NG site will be available to 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.

Reports

Before we start our first class text, you will learn how to write a report in the first week of class. You will often have a report assigned for your homework reading. Each report must be three paragraphs typed double spaced, Times New Roman font, 12 pt.

Final Group Project, or Cultural Analysis Project

The cultural analysis project is an opportunity for you to conduct primary research on a topic of interest. This is the capstone of our course and incorporates all the course concepts. You should take it very seriously, but I promise that you will enjoy it very much. You will be working in groups but receive an individual grade. Having had bad experiences myself with group work, I am aware of its disadvantages. I feel the possible advantages outweigh the risks, but as a safeguard against slackers or deserters, all grades assessed to group work will be to individuals. Your affiliation as a group is simply a mechanism for dividing areas of interest and scheduling presentations. Each individual student will get a grade on the work he/she submits. **Every semester I survey students at the end of the course, and every time I ask them if the next class should have to do the project, they always say YES. Guidelines for every step of the project are in *The West Guide*. I may also invite some former students to speak with you about their own projects.**

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.

The following guidelines apply to REVISIONS.

- 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 four take-home essays, plus a written midterm and final. 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.

Grading

- Essays and Final Exam = 65% of your grade.
- Quizzes, Reports and other small credit assignments =20%
- Your (Individual) Written Portion of the Group Project=10%
- Participation, Attendance=5%

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!

Final Grade is based on instructor evaluation of **all** written work (exams, quizzes, essays, etc.) as well as meaningful participation in class; therefore, it is important not only to attend as often as possible but to come prepared to discuss the readings and to write in class. Each essay assignment through the semester earns increasingly more points, based on the assumption that, over the semester and with practice, your writing/thinking/research will sharpen and improve. Research from credible sources and in-text citations, with correct MLA Style, are incorporated into/required of all writing assignments as this is expected and required at 4-year institutions. *Quizzes and other assignments as specified also earn points toward your final grade, and, in general, cannot be made up.

Honors Requirements

Students who wish to take the class for Honors credit must do the following:

- Earn an A or B on every assignment.
- Submit NO late papers.
- Create a PowerPoint for your group project.
- Lead one of the Singer or Davis homework discussions (you may claim it now)

How to Succeed in this Class

- Attend all class sessions, do the required reading, thinking, rereading and writing. DO look up vocabulary words you're not sure of. Observe due dates. Listen carefully and follow all instructions. Seek help as needed. Challenge yourself to do the very best work that you can.
- Be sure to do the assigned readings on the syllabus *before* coming to class, preferably more than once. There may be unannounced quizzes to check on your comprehension of the readings. *Quizzes cannot be made up*. Look up words you are unfamiliar with or unsure about to ensure accuracy in your understanding/comprehension.
- You are also welcome to visit the instructor during office hours to share your concerns and/or get extra help. **Office hours are the hours that the instructor is available to you**. Often you might catch me in early afternoons during "unposted" times as well. Ring my phone and see if I'm there.

****All the handouts that you need for the class are available in the Etudes shell.****

English Student FAQ

Q: The professor must hate me since my essay is all marked up, with writing all over it.

A: Every mark and/or comment on an essay is a sign of good will. These marks and comments are for your edification, to help you improve. The more marks there are, the more time she spent trying to help you improve your writing. If she hated you, she wouldn't take the time.

Q: My essay has a grade and some comments, but only the first paragraph is marked for mistakes. How am I supposed to figure out what I got wrong if she doesn't mark my mistakes?

A: Microsoft Word will mark your grammar mistakes before you ever hand in your essay. If you can't be bothered to proofread your own essay, be sure that the professor cannot. By English 103 you should have a command of grammar and mechanics and if you do not, it's your responsibility to seek help from the Writing Lab (HLRC first floor) or by taking a grammar class such as English 94. You can also seek me out for more help during my office hour!

Q: The professor didn't say anything to me about my frequent tardiness, so it's probably no big deal. Maybe she didn't even notice.

A: The professor is not going to stop class to rebuke you; your wasted time is your business. But she does see latecomers and mark them tardy, whether or not she says so. This will be reflected in attendance and participation points. If you want to know what your status is, come to office hours and find out.

Q: When I asked the professor what my grade is, she said she didn't know. How can she not know?

A: The professor has hundreds of students. Unless she is looking directly at your scores, and averaging them together (which she will do at the end of the semester to compute your final grade) it is unreasonable to expect that she would be able to remember the approximate grade of hundreds of people at once.

Q: The professor refused to talk to me at the beginning of class. Is this fair?

A: The professor's responsibility is to teach students during the lecture hour, and to do her job effectively, she must do this in a punctual and consistent manner. She has provided a weekly 'office hour' during which you are free to stop in, and you can also email her to arrange an alternate time. Since she has hundreds of students, it is your responsibility to accommodate her, not vice versa.

Q: My printer stopped working on the morning the essay was due, and the professor refused to accept it on disk.

A: Plan to print your essay a day ahead of time, to prepare for such contingencies. Furthermore, there are computers and printers available in the campus library, and at local businesses such as Staples and Kinko's. Remember that the prof. herself once went to school, and she had to hand in her work on time, too.

Q: I have a full-time job and kids and a spouse and the professor should understand that and make exceptions for me.

A: The professor treats all students equally. When you sign up for a class, make sure the work is clear to you so you can assess the level of your commitment, given your personal and professional responsibilities. When life is too complicated, sometimes a student may decide to drop a class and retake it another time.

English 103 TTH Tentative Course Schedule

Items subject to change with advance notice

Advisory: Some homework does not appear on this schedule, and will be announced in class.

Please always have the assigned reading with you in class, whether it is a paper copy or on a device.

Week 1

T 9/1 In Class: Syllabus and Question Activity

Homework: Read bell hooks dialogue and answer hooks questions.

Th 9/3 In Class: Discuss hooks dialogue.

Homework: Read Jensen chapter (the scan is in Resources) and write one paragraph reflection. Complete Learning Inventory.

Week 2

T 9/8 In Class: Discuss Jensen and Learning Inventories.

Homework: Read Paolo Friere, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* Ch. 3 and complete 1 paragraph reflection.

Th 9/10 In Class: Discuss Friere Ch. 3

Homework: Read Paolo Friere, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* Ch. 2 and complete 1 paragraph reflection.

Week 3

T 9/15 In Class: Discuss Friere, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* Ch. 2

Homework: Read "Brainology" article.

Th 9/17 In Class: Discuss "Brainology" article. Essay 1 Workshop.

Homework: Finish Essay 2 for Thurs. Use self-grading rubric in *West Guide* Ch. 16 to help you proofread your essay.

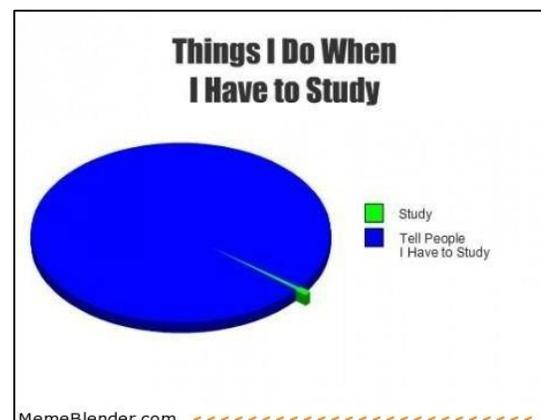
Week 4

T 9/22 In Class: **Essay 1 Due.**

Homework: Read *The Sexual Politics of Meat* Ch. 2.

Th 9/24 In Class: Discuss SPM Ch. 2.

Homework: Read *The Sexual Politics of Meat* Ch. 3.



Week 5

T 9/29 In Class: Discuss *The Sexual Politics of Meat* Ch. 3.
Homework:

Th 10/1 In Class: Research Presentation
Homework: Read Edward Said excerpt

Week 6

T 10/6 In Class: Discuss Edward Said excerpt
Homework: TBA

Th 10/8 In Class: Argument Fallacies?
Homework: Read "Wayward Puritans" (the scan is in Resources).

Week 7

T 10/13 In Class: Discuss "Wayward Puritans"
Homework: Finish Essay 2 for Thurs. Use self-grading rubric in *West Guide* Ch. 16 to help you proofread your essay. Remember to double-check instructor feedback from Essay 1 so you don't lose more points for the same issues.

Th 10/15 **Essay 2 due.** Laws Activity.
Homework: Read Ch.1 &2 of Davis book and write report. Book is online free in Etudes menu.

Week 8

T 10/20 In Class: Discuss Davis Ch. 1 & 2.
Homework: Read Chs. 3 & 4 of Davis book and write report for next class.

Th 10/22 In Class: Discuss Davis Chs. 3 & 4
Homework: Read Ch. 5 & 6 and write report for next class.

Week 9

T 10/27 In Class: Discuss Davis Chs. 5 & 6. Essay 3 Workshop.
Homework: Read "Jail Pedagogy" article by Prof. Flores and generate questions for Prof. Flores.

Th 10/29 In Class: Discuss Flores article. Professor Flores video.
Homework: TBA

Week 10:

T 11/3 In Class: TBA
Homework: Write Essay 3. Use self-grading rubric in *West Guide* Ch. 16 to help you proofread your essay.

Th 11/5 In Class: Essay 3 Due.
Homework: TBA

Week 11

T 11/10 In Class: Intro Cultural Analysis Project.

Homework: Read *West Guide* p. 363-top p.268. Touch base with possible group partners.

Th 11/12 In Class: How to Create a Survey

Homework: Conduct research and meet with group all this week outside class. Read *West Guide* p.375 – top 381. Bring group data to class Thurs. as applicable.

Week 12

T 11/17 In Class: **Guest Speaker TBA**

Homework: Conduct research and meet with group all this week outside class. Read *West Guide* p.375 - top 381. Bring group data to class Thurs. as applicable.

Th 11/19 In Class: Data Analysis Activity.

Homework: Read *West Guide* p.381-382. Conduct research/meet with group all this week outside class.

Week 13

T 11/24 In Class: Essay 4 (Group Document) Workshop.

Homework: Conduct research and meet with group all this week outside class.

Th 11/26 No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 14

T 12/1 In Class: Group Presentations * Observing your classmates' presentations is a part of your grade.

Th 12/3 In Class: Group Presentations * Observing your classmates' presentations is a part of your grade.

Week 15

T 12/8 In Class: Group Presentations * Observing your classmates' presentations is a part of your grade.

Th 12/10 Last Day of Class: Review for final

Homework: Please bring to the final: blue book, a Scantron (882-E) pens and pencils. The final exam will have two parts: objective, and writing reflection.

FINALS WEEK

Our final will be: Dec. 17: 11:30-1:30 in our classroom.

Bring a Scantron, 882 E, #2 pencils, and a blue book.

Helpful *West Guide* Chapters for Writing an Essay

Location of Items	2013 Edition
Fragments	Ch. 6 p.121
Prewriting& Brainstorming	Ch. 10, p.183
Writing the Draft Thesis Statements Topic Sentences Transitions	Ch. 11 p. 191 Ch. 11 p. 191 Ch 11 p.197 Ch. 11 p. 201
Introductions	Ch. 13 p. 223
Evidence	Ch 12 p. 207
Conclusion	Ch. 14 p. 233
Documenting Your Sources using MLA format <small>(This chapter includes sample Works Cited page and sample MLA-formatted student essay.)</small>	Ch. 22 p. 385
Essay Format (how it should look)	p. 260
Sample Student essays	p. 300, p.305, p.332. p.459, p.463
List of Signal Verbs “The author argues... ”	p. 361
Integrating Quotations	p. 359-363
In-text or parenthetical citation and attribution <small>(when you attribute a quote to an author)</small>	p. 387-391
Summarizing and Paraphrasing	Ch. 8 and p. 386
Revising and Polishing	p. 251
Rubric for Self-grading	p.255
Sample Transfer Application Essays	p.477
Sample Resume	p.481
Writing about Literature	Ch. 25