



ENGLISH 103 Composition and Critical Thinking, Fall 2013

Course Prerequisite: Grade of C or higher in English 101

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Online Site: http://myetudes.org	and by apt.	

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.)

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.

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. *Are Prisons Obsolete?* New York: Seven Stories Press, 2003. **Required.**

Available free online or in book form in bookstore.

Singer, Peter. *The Life You Can Save*. New York: Random House, 2010. **Required.** Any edition okay.

Technical Requirements

Please carefully review the ETUDES system requirements located at: <https://etudes-ng.fhda.edu/portal/site/!gateway/page/4243c7b4-9b68-45fc-0016-148ad08653aa>. Make sure you have configured your computer correctly before the course starts.

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.

Course Requirements and Expectations

Online "Attendance"

There are no set times that you need to log in online, as long as all your work is completed and submitted by the due dates. Check the due dates very carefully, as sometimes the distinction between 11:59 on a Sunday night and 12:01 on a Monday morning can be confusing. There is no time that you have to be on campus; this is an online class.

I expect you to read your syllabus and complete your assigned homework and reading without my having to remind you. Online participation, especially in discussion, is worth 5% of your grade. In order to get the 5%, you must post to the discussion topic every week and also respond to one classmate's post.

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 intellectual 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 write 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.

Class Policies

I do not accept late papers, so plan ahead.

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!)

Instructor Response Policy

You can expect me to respond to your emails and Private Messages within 48 hours (it usually takes less than 24). It's easier for me if you send your messages through the Private Messaging tool than if you email me.

Drop Policy

If you choose to drop a course, it is your responsibility to do so by the end of the second week of class if you wish to receive a tuition refund. For compressed eight week semesters, you must drop by the end of the first week to receive a tuition refund. You will not be automatically dropped from your class for lack of participation.

If you drop a class after the fourth week of the semester has passed, you will receive a "W" grade for that class. If you drop a class after the tenth week has passed, you will receive an "F" grade for that class. If you drop a class after the second week has passed in a compressed eight week semester, you will receive a "W" grade for that class. If you drop a class after the fifth week has passed in a compressed eight week semester, you will receive an "F" grade in that class.

Online Student Resources

Online Student Helpdesk: <http://usdegreeonline.wlac.edu/helpdesk>

Course Login: <http://usdegreeonline.wlac.edu/pages/168.asp>

Technical Requirements: <https://etudes-ng.fhda.edu/portal/site/!gateway/page/4243c7b4-9b68-45fc-0016-148ad08653aa>

ETUDES FAQ: <http://www.wlac.edu/online/etudesfaq.asp>

WLAC Online Homepage: <http://usdegreeonline.wlac.edu/pages/104.asp>

WLAC Online Counseling: <http://www.wlac.edu/online/counselingonline.asp>

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

Netiquette: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

Strategies for Online Learners: <http://www.uidaho.edu/eo/dist8.html>

Be a Successful Online Student: <http://www.ion.uillinois.edu/resources/tutorials/pedagogy/StudentProfile.asp>

Tips for Online Success: <http://www.ion.uillinois.edu/resources/tutorials/pedagogy/tips.asp>

ASSIGNMENTS

ETUDES

This class meets online using ETUDES-NG. 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.

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 82 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. 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, worksheets, and other small credit assignments =30%
- 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!

English 103.8339 Tentative Schedule of Assignments

Week 1: 10/21 -10/26

Read Ch. 15 in book, Seven Rules, do end-of-chapter exercises.

Read Ch. 21 and complete Ch. 21 worksheet.

Read Dr. King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" in *West Guide*.

Join the weekly discussion in the Discussion Area.

Week 2: 10/27 – 11/2

Read Singer book Preface and Chs. 1+2. You may find it helpful to complete a Memory Matrix for your reading (*West Guide* p. 159).

Read Ch. 22 and complete Ch. 22/MLA worksheet.

Complete Research worksheet.

Join the weekly discussion in the Discussion Area.

Week 3: 11/3-11/9

Read Singer Chs.3-4. You may find it helpful to complete a Memory Matrix for your reading (*West Guide* p. 159).

Read *West Guide* Chs. 10,11, 12 and read the parts you need to prepare to write Essay 1. Use Ch. 16 Self-Grading Rubric to "grade" your own essay and make sure it's ready! Be sure to reference the essay format guidelines on your syllabus. See attached sheet "Helpful *West Guide* Chapters for Writing an Essay."

Join the weekly discussion in the Discussion Area.

Submit Essay 1.

Week 4: 11/10-11/16

Read Singer Chs.5-7. You may find it helpful to complete a Memory Matrix for your reading (*West Guide* p. 159).

Join the weekly discussion in the Discussion Area.

Week 5: 11/17- 11/23

Read *West Guide* Chs. 10,11, 12 and read the parts you need to prepare to write Essay 2. Use Ch. 16 Self-Grading Rubric to “grade” your own essay and make sure it’s ready! Be sure to reference the essay format guidelines on your syllabus. See attached sheet “Helpful *West Guide* Chapters for Writing an Essay.”

Join the weekly discussion in the Discussion Area.

Submit Essay 2.

Week 6: 11/24 – 11/30

Read Davis book Chapters 1-3. You may find it helpful to complete a Memory Matrix for your reading (*West Guide* p. 159).

Join the weekly discussion in the Discussion Area.

Week 7: 12/1- 12/7

Read Davis book Chapters 4-6. You may find it helpful to complete a Memory Matrix for your reading (*West Guide* p. 159).

Join the weekly discussion in the Discussion Area.

Begin drafting Essay 3.

Week 8: 12/8-12/15

Finish all work.

Join final discussion.

Submit Essay 3.

Complete Final Course Evaluation.