

English 1301.25476
Freshman Composition I
With
Professor Williams-Ferguson

Fall 2014-
August 25 – December 10
SanJack Building Room 172

Welcome to Our Course

Please take this time to acquaint yourself with the expectations of our course. The most successful student is a prepared student. I am here if you need me and will support you in any way I can. Maintain communication. Participate. Ask questions. Give your best even when you aren't sure that it is your best, and you'll do well. I promise!

Course Description

Intensive study of and practice in writing processes, from invention and researching to drafting, revising, and editing, both individually and collaboratively. Emphasis on effective rhetorical choices, including audience, purpose, arrangement, and style. Focus on writing the academic essay as a vehicle for learning, communicating, and critical analysis.

Prerequisite: Satisfactory score on the CLEP Exam - Credit: 3 (3 lecture) or successful completion of developmental courses.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate knowledge of writing as process.
2. Apply basic principles of critical thinking in analyzing reading selections, developing expository essays, and writing argumentative essays.
3. Analyze elements such as purpose, audience, tone, style, strategy in essays and/or literature by professional writers.
4. Write essays in appropriate academic writing style using varied rhetorical strategies.
5. Synthesize concepts from and use references to assigned readings in their own academic writing.

Required Text

Patterson, Linda, et al. *The Norton Reader*. New York, NY: Norton. 13th Ed. (you may use a newer version if you have one)

Students are responsible for reading the *HCCS Student Handbook* (online) to acquaint themselves with HCCS's policies and procedures. Students are also responsible for understanding MLA guidelines (HCCS Library online) for the appropriate format of academic writing.

Communication

I prefer text or phone calls. Please text or call me at 832-202-9416. You can also contact me by email at: c.williamsferguson@hccs.edu

Attendance:

Students must attend regularly and can be dropped by the instructor after missing four or more classes. In the event that you miss a class, I encourage you to ask a classmate for a review of what was covered during your absence.

Food and Beverage in Class

No food or beverages are allowed inside of class.

Instructor Evaluations

At Houston Community College, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and division chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Look for the survey as part of the Houston Community College Student System online near the end of the term.

Sexual Harassment

HCC is committed to providing a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination on the basis of sex which includes all forms of sexual misconduct. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 requires that when a complaint is filed, a prompt and thorough investigation is initiated. Complaints may be filed with the HCC Title IX Coordinator available at 713-718-8271 or email at oi@hccs.edu.

Group Work:

Occasionally, when specified, students are required to participate in group projects or peer evaluations. There will be more discussion and directions regarding group assignments as we progress through the course. Please understand that participation in the group assignment and or peer review is not optional and is a part of the overall grade.

Grammar:

Due to the nature of our course, mastery of grammatical concepts should be achieved prior to beginning this course. To fully achieve the desired results of our studies, students should take as much time as individually necessary to self-assess mastery of their own grammatical concepts. A course rubric is

available to all students and demonstrates how vital mastery of grammar is to the essay writing process and assignment grading.

Statistically, student receiving low scores on written essays could have done much better had they mastered grammar, structure, mechanics, and practices in essay unity.

Late and Missing Assignments:

The nature of our course demands at least a modest attempt at organizational skills. To reinforce the importance of work submitted in a timely manner, late Assignments will incur a ten point deduction per day late. Points will be deducted on weekend days as well.

All assignments not received will receive a zero without the possibility of a make-up opportunity once the assignment is 6 days late. It is imperative that students understand how important organization and pacing is in the online environment. Students are encouraged to implement proper study skills, efficient organizational skills, and effective modes of communication to ensure a productive and successful semester.

Submitting Assignments

On rare occasions, students will be asked to email essays to the instructor, but for the most part, students in our course will submit all out-of-class assignments to our Turnitin.com account.

The code for our Turnitin account will be given during class on August 27, 2014. Please write them below.

Turnitin Class Code: _____

Turnitin Password: _____

Grading Turn-around Time

Generally, all assignments will be graded and returned within one week.

The Research Paper

The successful completion of a research paper is required for this course. While students are allowed to choose which work they will analyze, students will be given a topic to explore and will receive adequate support as they progress through the assignment.

Cell Phone Policy

Cell phones for texting outside of class, making phone calls, or checking email is not permitted during class time. There are times that students will be allowed to use their cell phones to respond to survey/poll questions, conduct impromptu research, or text a response to the instructor for extra credit points.

Instructor Evaluations

HCC Email

All communications regarding our course, assignments, assessments, and important dates will be communicated through HCC email. **It is the student's responsibility to ensure he or she has access to the assigned HCC student account. No other emails will be used to communicate information to students.** Please call HCC technical support at, 713-718-8800 or email them, <http://www.hccs.edu/hccs/faculty-staff/customer-support/technical-support> from an accessible account to get support in establishing or accessing your HCC email account.

In-Class Essays and Assignments

In-class papers must be written on college ruled paper; spiral paper, note paper, or stationary will not be accepted. Essays can only be written using blue or black ink; colored ink will not be accepted.

Out-of-Class Essays

All out-of-class essays must be typed and written according to MLA format. Resources for understanding MLA format will be distributed throughout the semester. It is a student's responsibility to review the information given regarding MLA format. While we will discuss components of MLA format during class, it is nearly impossible to address all learning needs as they pertain to MLA format and guidelines. Therefore it is imperative that students utilize and study the resources provided to them. Instructions specific to each written assignment will be posted at least two weeks prior to the assignment due date.

Locating Resources:

Acceptable resources for your research paper are such sources as newspaper articles from established publishers, books, approved blogs and or websites, and

magazine or journal articles from reputable, established publishers. In addition to resources you may already use, HCC's library link offers a database of academic resources that are available online 24 hours a day.

Scholastic Honesty

Scholarly standards are those established in the course but universally followed in college-level scholarship. One purpose of course lectures, presentations, and discussions is to demonstrate college-level academics. These standards are learned well in-class, but online as well, as research argues that online learning appeals multiple learning styles and accommodates the diverse learner of today who usually has demands outside of the class as well.

The college writing standard out to be well known and specifically employs several texts that demonstrate correct and appropriate English expository style. The English department further authorizes students to use the MLA parenthetical citation method for scholarly form. **Any work that fall beneath the college, departmental, and course standards is unacceptable.**

The college has a code that regulates academic ethics. While the code is self-evident, there is one ethical question that needs to be addressed here.

Plagiarism is epidemic in higher education. It is a serious academic offense to plagiarize, i.e., to commit academic theft by presenting the ideas or words of another as though they were one's own. Therefore, pains must be taken to indicate borrowed ideas by utilizing endnotes, and borrowed phraseology by endnotes and quotation marks. Again, it is the student's responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism.

If questions about plagiarism remain, it would be best to consult the instructor before submitting any assignment for evaluation. Any work deemed plagiarized will result in a zero on the assignment and the assignment may not be redone or made up in any way. I stress my belief that plagiarism not only violates the rules of the college, but also injures the integrity of higher education at large and is immoral!

Students are expected to behave with honesty and integrity in the writing of papers and in class discussions. Plagiarism –unacknowledged use of another person's words or ideas – earns a ZERO for the assignment (no make-up opportunity will be given); whether plagiarism is intentional or unintentional, the resulting grade of zero will be issued to any student submitting a paper found to be plagiarized.

Pop Quiz

A "Pop quiz" falls under the 10% in-class grading category. All "Pop quizzes" will cover previously introduced, discussed, or mastered topics and material. They can be given **at any time** during our sessions and cannot be made up in the event of an absence. Your first "pop-quiz" will be given during the second class session.

Extra Credit

Your only extra credit opportunity will be given during Wednesday, August 25, 2014 through Wednesday, September 3, 2014. During those days, you can earn extra credit by bringing in a copy of the course syllabus that has been emailed to you.

Special Needs/ Reasonable Accommodation

Any student with a documented disability (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must Contact the Disability Support Services Office at the beginning of each semester. Members of HCC faculty are authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Counselor. Please visit the Disability Support Services Office on the first floor of the LHSB, Room 202; or call them at 713-718-6164.

Receiving Feedback through Tutoring

Students are encouraged to schedule tutoring time with the instructor on an as needed basis. Also, student are encouraged to attend the HCC library or their local public library, which often offers free online tutoring, for supplemental instruction and assistance.

Online: <http://hccs.askonline.net/>

In person: <http://central.hccs.edu/central/academic-departments/english/resources/writing-centers/central-writing-center-free-tutoring>

Important Notices

- Students who repeat a course face significant tuition/fee increases at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities. **If you are considering course withdrawal, confer with me or your counselor about your study habits, homework, attendance, course participation, and possible opportunities for tutoring or other assistance that might be available.**
- **If you intend to withdraw from this course you must do so by October 31, 2014 no later than 4:30pm.** If you stop attending (logging in if you are an online student) I will be forced to withdraw you or assign you an F for the course. **This policy is mandated by the Texas State Legislature.**

English 1301 – Grading Scale	Due Date	Percentage of grade
Essay One – Reflective	8/31/2014	
Essay Two – Literary Analysis	9/6/2014	10%
Essay Three – Reflective	9/19/2014	
Essay Four – Reflective	10/04/2014	

Essay Five – Literary Analysis	10/28/2014	20%
Essay Six – Literary Analysis	11/23/2014	25%
Essay Seven – FINAL ESSAY – Literary Analysis	12/8/2014	30%
Quizzes	Varies	10%
Midterm	10/13/2014	5%

English 1301 – Reading Assignment Schedule	Discussion Dates
“The Story of an Hour”	8/31/2014
“I Stand Here Ironing” by Tillie Olsen	9/3/2014
“From a Vindication of the Rights of Woman” by Mary Wollstonecraft	9/8/2014
“Spunk” by Zora Neale Hurston	9/10/2014
“Advice to Youth” by Mark Twain	9/15/2014
“Letter to My Son” by Lord Chesterfield	9/17/2014
“In Defense of Prejudice” by Jonathan Rauch	9/22/2014
“The Slogan: ‘Well Behaved Women Seldom Make History’” by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich	9/24/2014
“The Battle of the Ants” by Henry David Thoreau	9/29/2014
“A Modest Proposal” by Jonathan Swift	10/01/2014
“Shooting and Elephant” by George Orwell	10/06/2014
“In Search of a Room of One’s Own” by Virginia Woolf	10/08/2014
“How We Listen” by Aaron Copland	10/13/2014
“Where I Lived and What I Lived for” by Henry David Thoreau	10/15/2014
“The Worst Sort of Husband” by Daniel Defoe	10/20/2014
“The Death of the Moth” by Virginia Woolf	10/22/2014
“How it Feels to be Colored Me” by Zora Neale Hurston	10/27/2014
“Sweat” by Zora Neale Hurston	10/29/2014
“Sweat” by Zora Neale Hurston	11/03/2014
“Sweat” by Zora Neale Hurston	11/05/2014
“The Allegory of the Cave” by Plato	11/10/2014
“One Writer’s Beginnings” by Eudora Welty	11/12/2014
“When Doctors Make Mistakes” by Atul Gawande	11/17/2014
“From ‘Take the F’” by Ian Frazier	11/19/2014
“A Farewell to Arms” by Ernest Hemingway	11/24/2014
“from On Going Home” by Joan Didion	12/01/2014
“from Yeager” by Tom Wolfe	12/03/2014
LAST DAY OF INSTRUCTION	12/04/2014
FINALS	12/10/2014
NO CLASS ON 12/08/2014 PLEASE REPORT TO YOUR DESIGNATED FINAL	12/08/2014