

English 101, Writing Seminar

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"How do I know what I think until hear what' say?" W. H. Auden

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Experience and instruction in college level writing with an emphasis on personal essay. Writing and reading assignments, class discussions, conversation with instructor, and other course activities focus on the development of thinking and communication through writing.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Pocket Style Manual, Elements of Style

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course is designed to provide an interesting and challenging way to explore learning how to write. This learning is adaptable to a range of writing situations, academic, personal and professional. We strive for quality, clarity and focus. For many students it can be deep fun. Students learn to expand their thinking through writing. First we remove internal obstacles to getting words on paper. We make a mess, then rearrange, cut, add and clean it up for presentation. Refinement follows free flowing exploration and discovery. Through experience, the student will learn a personalized writing process:

- to put words on paper fluidly
- to edit ruthlessly
- to cope with writer's block
- to learn the formal requirements of an academic paper

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Students will learn to use the texts as writing tools
- Students will hand in an initial, ungraded paper to set a personal benchmark
- Students have the option to write five days a week throughout the term in a freewriting journal as a threshold assignment. Completion of the freewriting assignment raises the ceiling for the semester grade from B to A.

Evaluation will be based on

- completion of optional freewriting journal, which raises potential grade ceiling from B to A
- completion of ungraded first paper
- two four page essays, each worth 25% of grade
- final 8-10 page paper, worth 50% of grade

Attendance at all classes is important. Absences affect your final grade and learning. First absence deducts three points from semester grade. Second absence deducts seven points. Third absence prevents student from passing the course without applying for incomplete.