

NOTE: READ *THE PEN COMMANDMENTS* (1&2) FOR FIRST CLASS!

Doane College

## English 101: Writing Seminar

M 6:00-10:30PM 3 Credits

Instructor: Lee Tasey

Office Hours: TBA

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Martin Luther shook apart the Christian world.

Nietzsche proclaimed the death of God.

Steinbeck told us the plight of "the Okies."

And Salinger gave us *The Catcher in the Rye*.

How did they do it?

You got it—writing.

Do you want to be a better writer? Is keeping a journal your ultimate goal or do you want to be a Revolutionary? Whether your goal is big or small, English 101 can help you reach your writing goals.

Over the next eight weeks, you can learn to

- \* write well-crafted essays
- \* write articles for *Rolling Stone*
- \* write hard-hitting letters to the *Journal Star*
- \* write novels
- \* start up a blog so you can roast your political opponents—and blacken every side
- \* trick out your *Myspace* or *Facebook* page
- \* write better emails and thank-you cards

In the twenty-first century, attention spans are short and Americans are hard-pressed for time. So what you say, both in speech and in writing, had better be important and to the point.

**Course Description:** A writing intensive course designed to enhance the quality of critical thinking and the knowledge of writing. A variety of texts are interpreted, and critical responses are written using one or more literary forms. The student increases breadth and depth of critical thinking and knowledge of writing.

**Required Texts:**

The Pen Commandments: A Guide for the Beginning Writer by Steven Frank

In Brief: Short Takes on the Personal by Judith Kitchen and Mary Paumier Jones

A Pocket Style Manual (4<sup>th</sup> Spiral Edition) by Diana Hacker

**Course Requirements:** There are four requirements in this class. They are 1) attendance, participation and attentiveness 2) short writing exercise 3) a personal essay and 4) a research/persuasive paper. Late work will be accepted at the consent of the instructor.

**Course Policies:** Attendance is key to learning. If you will miss more than two classes, do not enroll in this class. More than two absences will result in the grade of 'F.' In addition, disruptive behavior such as talking while the instructor is talking, text messaging, flirting, or leaving class early will result in a lower grade.

**Methods of Evaluation:**

- 1) attendance, participation, & attentiveness (APA) (20%)
- 2) writing exercises (10%)
- 3) a personal essay (2-4 pages) (20%)
- 4) a research/persuasive paper (4-6 pages) (50%)

**Grading Scale:**

A+ = 97-100  
A = 93-96  
A- = 90-92  
B+ = 87-89  
B = 83-86  
B- = 80-82  
C+ = 77-79  
C = 73-76  
C- = 70-72  
D+ = 67-69  
D = 63-66  
D- = 60-62  
F = 59 and below

**Academic Integrity Policy:** All writing assignments must be in your own words. Using another writer's words, sentences or ideas, without citing the source, is a crime. If I suspect you of plagiarism, not only will you fail that assignment, you may also fail the course. Play it safe—don't steal.

## Class Schedule

- Session I      *The Pen Commandments* (1 & 2)
- Session II     *The Pen Commandments* (3 & 4)  
*In Brief* (TBA)  
**Writing Exercises Due**
- Session III    *The Pen Commandments*(6)  
*In Brief* (TBA)  
**Personal Essay Draft Due**
- Session IV     *The Pen Commandments* (9)  
*In Brief* (TBA)  
Writer's Workshop (in class critique)  
**Writing Exercises Due**
- Session V      *The Pen Commandments* (5)  
**Personal Essay Due**
- Session VI     *A Pocket Style Manual* (101-111)  
**Research Paper Thesis Due**
- Session VII    *A Pocket Style Manual* (113-127)  
**Research Paper Draft Due**
- Session VII    *The Pen Commandments* (10)  
Writer's Workshop (in class critique)

NOTE: **RESEARCH PAPER** IS DUE THE FOLLOWING WEEK

Send papers unattached to [ltasey@yahoo.com](mailto:ltasey@yahoo.com)

