English 101 Writing Seminar  
(3 Credit Hours)  
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Required Text:  
No text required.

Official 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. **Prerequisite: All students must demonstrate adequate basic skills before enrolling in ENG 101.**

Unofficial Course Description:  
This term we are going to do a lot of reading, thinking, and writing about the notion of writing. For decades (if not centuries) the academic world has committed a great injustice by convincing high school and college students that writing is difficult and best left to those born with superior literary skills. I suspect many, if not all of you, have probably felt that writing is simply not your forte. That's okay. If you stick with the class, you'll find that even you can learn to write in a manner that is not excruciatingly painful for others to read. We are going to approach the subject of writing in this class as an attempt to see how reading, thinking and writing can help us as we search out truth, understanding and/or awareness in our own lives. The particular emphasis will be on understanding that we each have a story to tell, or information to share, and that we can be successful in the telling and sharing through the written word.

One of the most important factors in student learning and success in college is a student’s willingness to step out in faith and make the effort, even if they aren’t certain that they know what they are doing. Don’t be afraid of putting pen to paper (or perhaps I should say “finger to keyboard.”) For the balance of your academic, professional, and personal life you will find yourself forced to express yourself in writing. The purpose of this course is to provide you with the skills and confidence to do so in a clear, articulate, and (when called upon) humorous or moving manner.

This is a writing intensive, participatory class. You will need the ability to create time to get your work done, a willingness to learn, and a sense of humor. You **don’t** need an inherent writing talent. Just be willing to try.

Course Objectives:  
Upon completion of English 101, students should be able to:  
- Express thoughts logically, clearly and coherently in a variety of rhetorical modes;  
- Demonstrate mastery of the stages of the writing process;  
- Avoid mechanical, grammatical and spelling errors;
• Critically revise and edit their own compositions;
• Critically evaluate and respond to selected essays;
• Understand and practice writing as a recursive process of prewriting, organizing, and revising;
• Be able to write a variety of essays, each of which fulfills a specific purpose, either expository or argumentative;
• Select content and a style appropriate to a specific audience;
• Write effective introductions, body paragraphs, and conclusions;
• Use specific techniques to produce coherent and unified essays;
• Use strategies for effective revising and editing;

Grading:
• Writing Assessment – No points, but must be completed
• Four Essays - 100 points (25 points each)

Grading: Four written essays @ 25 points each.
Grading Scale: 100-90 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; <60 = F.

Academic Integrity Policy: All individual work will be the student’s own. The use of others’ work is plagiarism, which will result in penalties to be determined by the professor.

Course Mechanics: This course lasts eight weeks. It will be divided into 7 classroom work sessions. Between the classroom sessions you will complete assigned readings and assigned essays. The reading assignments will serve two purposes; (1) to show you that someone who doesn’t think of herself as a writer can actually make a living at it, and (2) to serve as a guide to avoiding common writing mistakes. You will start with a brief essay that will serve as a writing assessment benchmark. Thereafter, you will be asked to write an essay of a different sort with each classroom assignment. Your scores on these essays will determine your grade. Typically, these essays will average 2-3 pages in length, double-spaced. Each assignment will be given to you by the instructor and completed prior to the start of the following class. In class we will work together on small writing assignments intended to improve your writing skills. While these in-class assignments will not be graded, they will be expected to be completed, which means that you will need to be in class. It is difficult to improve your writing skills without attending class and working on the pitfalls that can cause each of us to stumble as writers.

Plan on having fun with the course. Let’s assume that you know absolutely nothing about how to write properly. By the end of the course, we will see what kind of progress we have made.