



Fall 2008
English 101:
Composition and Reading

Course Information

Jenny Tashjian Netto (209) 575-7822 nettoj@mjc.edu Sierra 253
Section #3100: 8:30-9:55 am Mondays and Wednesdays, Sierra 203

Student Learning Objectives

Students successfully completing ENGL 101 will:

1. Demonstrate the ability to read and think critically;
2. Demonstrate the ability to evaluate and articulate the credibility of print and online sources;
3. Demonstrate the legitimate use of scholarly sources by: summarizing and paraphrasing sources; synthesizing multiple sources; integrating source ideas with their own ideas; and avoiding plagiarism by documenting sources according to MLA conventions.
4. Write papers that: demonstrate the use of expository and argumentative or persuasive forms of writing; are correctly formatted according to MLA conventions; demonstrate competent control over written language, including syntax, punctuation, grammar, and spelling; and show evidence of drafting, revising, and editing to reflect an academic style and tone.

Required Texts and Materials

For this course, you will need one textbook, four large blue books, and a binder.

The required text, *From Idea to Essay* (isbn 0-321-35561-X), is available in the student bookstore. If you have difficulty obtaining this text in the student bookstore, it is your responsibility to acquire it by other means. This book covers organization, rhetoric, research, MLA style citation, and grammar. You must bring it to class each meeting. You will also need four large blue books for writing essays in class. Lastly, you will need a three-ring binder that you will use exclusively for our class. It will be collected and scored as your “notebook.”

You are ultimately responsible for holding on to any materials I distribute in class; **I will not provide duplicate copies of course materials.** You will also be responsible for keeping track of your own progress in this course by referring to graded assignments.

Coursework

Your grade in this course will be determined by the points you earn on the following assignments. All homework and assignments, including the research paper, will be collected at the beginning of class on the due date. Any work that is not promptly turned in at these times will be considered late.

Notebook (80 assignments for 20% of your final grade): you will complete a series of assignments designed to help you achieve your course objectives. These include two drafts each of six 800 word practice essays, in-class writing activities, reading comprehension quizzes, and vocabulary tests. They will be kept in your notebook (a three ring binder) which will be collected and scored. Each assignment will be checked in when it is due. Late assignments will not be scored. Lost assignments will not be scored. It is your responsibility to keep your course-work bound in a binder as described above.

Essays (6,000 words total for 45% of your final grade): you will write two versions of three 1,000 word essays (for 15% each) employing an assigned rhetorical strategy. The first version of these essays will be written in class in large blue books. The dates of these essays are published on the course outline; a make-up date has been scheduled for the end of the semester for students who miss an in-class writing day. Students who require alternative testing accommodations must obtain a copy of their learning contract and make arrangements to meet with me in the first week of the semester.

Research Paper (4,000 words total for 25% of final grade): you will complete a research project demonstrating your mastery of collecting research materials, properly incorporating and citing said materials, and employing the rhetorical strategies we cover in class. This will include a research proposal, works cited pages, research outline, and two drafts of the 2,000 word paper. You will also make an oral presentation on your research.

Final (800 words total for 10% of final grade): you will take a final during the scheduled final exam session for your section.

Class Procedures

Attendance is crucial. Any student who misses more than four class meetings may be dropped from the course; however, **it is the responsibility of the student to complete the course or to officially withdraw from the class.** Although your grade will not be docked for absences, make-ups will not be given and late work will not be accepted. Excessive absence will therefore adversely affect your grade.

Participation is essential. Students are expected to participate in all classroom exercises and activities. Non-academic and/or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Per college policy, cell phones and pagers must be turned off during class time.

Deadlines are absolute. All assignments are due on the date designated by the course outline. No late homework will be accepted and no make-ups will be given on any quiz or activity. Everything distributed in class, hand-outs and returned work, will only be distributed once. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to acquire distributed materials from a classmate or returned work from my office. If you are absent on the day of an in-class essay, you may make-up one essay during the scheduled make-up on the date below.

Plagiarism is illegal. A word about plagiarism: don't do it. Students are regularly caught and punished for it. If caught, students will fail this course and their cases will be reported for appropriate discipline. Again, if you plagiarize—at any time and on any assignment—you will get an F in this class. If you are at all unsure about what constitutes plagiarism, you must ask me *before* you submit an assignment.

Your instructor is available. If you run into a problem with a particular reading or writing assignment, please take the time to talk to me about it.

Important Dates

Please see our course outline for our daily assignments.

September 24: In-Class Essay #1

October 22: In-Class Essay #3

December 1: Notebook Due

December 8: final exam at 7:00 am

October 6: In-Class Essay #2

November 24: Research Papers Due

December 3: In-Class Essay Make-up