

**ENGL 1010: INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC WRITING**  
**Fall 2009 Course Syllabus**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is a disciplined approach to the rhetoric of English composition with emphasis on organization and development in the whole composition, on coherence and effectiveness in paragraphs, and on maturity and flexibility in sentence style. While grammar and usage are not neglected, they are treated as means to achieving rhetorical objectives. Students with ACT English scores lower than 17 must concurrently enroll in ENGL 1000: Introduction to Academic Writing Workshop.

**MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS:**

ENGL 1010 Section 1  
MWF 9:00–9:50 a.m.  
GC 303

ENGL 1010 Section 8  
MWF 11:00–11:50 a.m.  
TEB 203

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Kyle Bishop	Office:	BC 304A
	Office Hours:	MTWRF 10–11, MW 2–3, TR 3–4, or by appointment
	Telephone:	586-7804
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**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The goal of this course is to increase students' abilities to write lucid, well-organized essays for an academic audience; to increase students' abilities to read and write critically and creatively; to acquaint students with the necessary steps for academic writing; and to help prepare students to write essays in other classes or for audiences outside the boundaries of the classroom. These objectives will be achieved through reading, writing, and revision both inside and outside the classroom.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Aaron, Jane E. *40 Model Essays: A Portable Anthology*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2005. ISBN: 978-0312438296

Modern Language Association. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2009. ISBN: 978-1603290241

Morrow, Eric, Charles Cuthbertson, Alice Kane, and Ruth Scovill. *SUU Guide to English Composition*. Southlake, TX: Fountainhead Press, 2008. ISBN: 978-1598712261

**SUPPLIES:**

A notebook or three-ring binder with ruled paper for in-class writing and note taking  
Simple manila folders (**not** pocket folders, envelopes, or binders) for essay submissions  
Possible photocopying and printing expenses for research, drafts, and assignments  
A jump drive for backing up all essays and other homework.

## COURSE STANDARDS AND POLICIES:

**Attendance:** Because this course emphasizes discussion and workshops, punctuality and regular attendance are required at all class meetings. Pass/fail grades will be assigned for participating in class exercises, activities, and workshops. Due to the nature of these assignments, **these participation points cannot be made up, even if an absence is excused.** Roll will be taken at the beginning of class every day, with four tardy days equaling one unexcused absence. **Students are allowed two weeks' worth of unexcused absences without penalty; thereafter, each absence will lower the student's participation grade by one tenth (i.e., 2 percent of the student's final grade).**

**Class Decorum and Behavior:** Students are expected to be in class on time and to remain for the duration of the scheduled period. During class, students should listen attentively, engage respectfully in discussions, and **take notes.** They are also expected to come to class prepared and to participate in all in-class assignments and activities. Although water will be permitted, **food of any kind is not tolerated in the classroom, and cell phones must be turned off for the duration of class—this includes text messaging.** Students need to stay in their seats until class has been properly dismissed.

**MLA Manuscript Format:** All assignments must be word processed and comply with MLA formatting guidelines; that is, papers **must** have 1" margins; be typed in a 12-point, Times New Roman font; and be double spaced throughout. Students may **not** use cover pages; instead, the first page of all assignments must contain the student's name, the instructor's name, the course title, and the date (with the month spelled out) on separate lines against the left margin. All assignments must also have a descriptive title, centered and just below the date line. Each page must then have a page number, preceded by the student's last name, in the upper right corner ( $\frac{1}{2}$ " below the margin).

**Essay Length:** All assignments are given minimum page-length requirements, and these are references to **full pages**, not sheets. For example, a 3-5 page essay must be **at least** 3 full pages long, not just  $2\frac{1}{4}$  pages. Works cited pages do not count towards the minimum requirement.

**Late Work:** All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day indicated in the course schedule. Furthermore, all assignments must be submitted as hard copies; **e-mails or other electronic submissions will not be accepted.** Short assignments, analysis papers, essay drafts, and workshop feedback will be used in class the day they are due; therefore, **these assignments cannot be submitted late.** Late revised essays will be docked a **full letter grade** for each day they are late (down to an F grade, which is still preferable to a zero). If students know they are going to miss class, assignments **must** be handed in early, not late. In extenuating circumstances, exceptions may be made **in advance** and at the instructor's discretion (often requiring proper documentation).

**Grades:** All students' grades are recorded, managed, and calculated on an Excel spreadsheet, which is updated regularly. For privacy issues, these grades are not available on the Internet; however, students may ask via e-mail or in person at any time about their grade and current class standing.

## ASSIGNMENTS:

**Participation:** (20 percent of final grade) During the semester, students will complete short assignments both in and outside of class, submit drafts of longer essays, participate in in-class activities and workshops, provide written feedback to group members, write an audience analysis page, draft a formal outline, and read a brief in-class presentation. All such short assignments are graded on a pass/fail basis. Most importantly, **students are expected to come to class prepared—**they should not expect the rest of the class to bear the weight of participation; quizzes will be employed, especially if the instructor notes rampant lack of preparation. For students concurrently enrolled in English 1000, the grade earned in that course will constitute 25 percent of a student's English 1010 participation score (i.e., 5 percent of a student's final English 1010 grade).

**Analysis Papers:** (10 percent of final grade) Students will write five 2-page papers that critically analyze the example essays read, studied, and discussed in class. The first two papers will present largely personal, yet persuasive, analyses; the third and fourth will use correctly cited quotes and paraphrases to support specific evaluative arguments; and the fifth will also use cited quotes and paraphrases, but add a properly formatted, MLA-style works cited page.

**Entertaining Essay:** (20 percent of final grade) Students will write a 3-5 page essay that describes a particular item, object, place, or person who has significance to them. The essay will also narrate a specific experience or event associated with the chosen subject. Students will write in the first-person, focusing on narrative structure and vivid descriptions. Students will bring a first draft to class, participate in an in-class writing workshop, and submit a final revision to be graded. **This essay is required to pass the course.**

**Informative Essay:** (20 percent of final grade) Students will write a 3-5 page essay that either explains how to perform a task or action at which the student is proficient **or** define and justify the need for a unique and original vocabulary word. This essay must conform to formal academic writing standards, and if any secondary material is employed, proper MLA documentation conventions must be used, including a works cited page (not part of the 3-5 page requirement). Students will bring a first draft to class, participate in an in-class writing workshop, and submit a final revision to be graded. **This essay is required to pass the course.**

**Persuasive Essay:** (20 percent of final grade) Students will compose a 6-8 page essay designed to convince a specific individual to change his or her thinking or behavior. The essay should first establish, define, and explain a problem fully, and it should employ personal writing and/or narration to demonstrate a personal connection to the issue. Students will use at least **four** of the secondary sources provided in class to make their case more convincing, and the use of additional research is encouraged. Despite the familiar audience, this essay must conform to formal academic writing standards, and proper MLA documentation conventions must be used, including a works cited page (not part of the 6-8 page requirement). An audience analysis page must also be provided. Students will bring a first draft to class, participate in an in-class writing workshop, and submit a final revision to be graded. **This essay is required to pass the course.**

**Media Revision:** (10 percent of final grade) Instead of taking a final exam, students will convert one of their three major papers into a dramatically different medium. Possibilities include a tri-fold brochure or tract, a PowerPoint presentation, an advertisement for use on television or the radio, a political cartoon, a song, a work of art, or a viral YouTube video or flash movie. This assignment will not be drafted or workshopped in class, but will simply be due by the end of the scheduled final (as indicated on the course schedule). **The Media Revision project may not be handed in late.**

## **GRADING POLICY:**

In-class activities and exercises, essay drafts, peer review workshops, the oral presentation, and other assignments will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Quizzes will be graded objectively. Analysis Papers will be assigned full-letter grades, with possible penalties for failing to follow MLA format, writing less than the required two pages, and/or neglecting to staple/paperclip the pages together.

Revised, final-draft essays and the final Media Revision project will be evaluated based on precise grading rubrics (to be discussed in detail later in class) and given an average grade score. **Failure to submit all generation materials; provide all required drafts as outlined in the syllabus; participate in workshops and conferences; and conform to requirements of essay length, research, or content will result in a full letter-grade penalty per deficiency.** The average score, less any outstanding penalties, will then be converted to a letter grade.

**GRADING CHARTS:**

Grades will be averaged and weighted according to the following weights for individual assignments and the following grading scale (based on the University's 4.0/4.0 grading system):

Grading Weights		Grading Scale			
Participation .....	x2 (20%)	3.8–4.0	A	1.8–2.0	C
Analysis Papers .....	x1 (10%)	3.4–3.7	A-	1.4–1.7	C-
Entertaining Essay .....	x2 (20%)	3.1–3.3	B+	1.1–1.3	D+
Informative Essay .....	x2 (20%)	2.8–3.0	B	0.8–1.0	D
Persuasive Essay .....	x2 (20%)	2.4–2.7	B-	0.4–0.7	D-
Media Revision .....	x1 (10%)	2.1–2.3	C+	0.0–0.3	F

**STUDENT FEES:**

This course carries a \$20 Writing Center fee, which allows students to use the Writing Center lab. Because all writers need readers, the BC 204 Writing Center is open 8-5 Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and 1-5 Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students should take advantage of the Center since the \$20 composition course fee pays for this service. Students can simply visit the center or e-mail them at [writingcenter@suu.edu](mailto:writingcenter@suu.edu). They accommodate walk-in appointments when their schedule board is not filled. Students might also try the Writing Center's weekday electronic tutor—if they can wait for the 48 hour weekday response time—by following the Writing Center link on the English Department website or by using this address: <http://www.suu.edu/hss/english/writingcenter/>. Although students may sign up for three appointments each week (except at the end of the semester), they are limited to one appointment per day. Because so many students want appointments the two weeks before finals, they are limited to just one appointment per week starting April 14. Hour-long appointments start on the hour. Students must also be aware that the Writing Center does close early—at noon on days that fall before school holidays—and that they are closed during finals week.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:**

Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. **Any student caught deliberately plagiarizing a paper will immediately fail that assignment and possibly the entire course.** Students are expected to have read and understood the current issue of the student handbook (published by Student Services) regarding student responsibilities and rights, and the intellectual property policy, for information about procedures and about what constitutes acceptable on-campus behavior.

**ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Students with medical, psychological, learning, or other disabilities desiring academic adjustments, accommodations, or auxiliary aids must contact the Office for Students with Disabilities, located in room 206F of the Sharwan Smith Center or (435) 865-8022. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of these services and aids.

**DISCLAIMER:**

Information contained in this syllabus—other than the grading, late assignments, makeup work, and attendance policies—may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.