

English 101, Section E
Freshman Composition
3 credit hours
Fall 2013
MW 12:00-1:15pm, Jennings 308

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Course Catalog Description: The study of the elements of composition through writing and analysis of expository prose with emphasis on short essays.

Text: Axelrod, Rise B. and Charles R. Cooper. *Axelrod & Cooper's Concise Guide to Writing*. 6th ed. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2011.

Other Course Materials:

- Email log-in ID and password for Mississippi College email account
- Three-ring binder for Semester Notebook Project
- Large manila envelope for submission of Revision Portfolio

Service-Learning: Service-Learning is an “educational experience in which students participate in an organized service activity that meets identified community needs and reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility” (Bringle & Hatcher 222).

We will be acting as after-school tutors at a local apartment complex, Hunter Oaks, throughout the semester. Therefore, you will need time in your schedule to tutor for 1 hour once a week. You will also need transportation to and from Hunter Oaks, which is approximately 5 minutes from campus. Carpooling is a great way to build accountability and to conserve gas money. You must complete all required hours (10-1 hour sessions) to pass this class.

You will not be graded on your service since this is a writing class, but you will be graded on how you make meaning of your service through reflections, both group-led and a reflection journal portfolio counted as a part of the Semester Notebook Project. However, any unsatisfactory reports from your service-learning site supervisor, including absences or uncooperativeness, will seriously affect these grades. The end-of-the-semester Student Assessment, completed by your site supervisor, will also be taken into consideration.

Our writing assignments will focus on themes within the field of intercultural communication to both better prepare us for our service work and to allow us to use our firsthand service experiences in our essays.

Course Rationale: English 101 is designed to help you understand what is required of a beginning college-level writer and thinker—and how college-level writing and thinking differ from that done in high school. The course promotes your critical thinking skills, and it helps you recognize and engage in the decision-making processes college writers must make in order to develop, control, and revise rhetorically effective texts.

Course Methods: The course consists of discussions/lectures about writing, readings from the text (both explanatory and exemplary), in- and out-of-class writing exercises, conferences with the instructor, writing workshops/peer critiques, and the composition and revision of multiple formal essays in a variety of genres.

Course Objectives: Students in ENG 101 will:

- write college-level texts that reflect critical thinking and that demonstrate intentional control of:
 - content and development
 - organization and progression
 - style and polish consistent with Standard Edited English
- shape writing through a process that includes deep revision
- adapt writing to various genre conventions and assignment specifications

In addition, students will:

- develop interpersonal skills that facilitate group work
- understand the ethical dimensions of writing
- explore their own cultures and cultures of others

Assignments: The following major assignments are required in English 101:

- Diagnostic Essay
- Three Major Essays (Narrative Essay, Advertisement Analysis Essay, and Speculation Essay)
- Semester Notebook Project (including Intercultural Communication Packet and Reflection Journal Portfolio)
- Revision Portfolio (including two graded essays and their revisions) and In-class Final Essay Exam (to accompany Revision Portfolio)

Evaluation:

The Placement Exam Essay is required on the first day of the class but does not contribute to the final course grade.

The Semester Notebook will be graded on completion with the highest points given for particularly effective writing. (We will discuss in detail what *effective* writing means for this course.)

The Major Essays will be graded based on content and development, organization and progression, style and polish—and on how effectively each essay meets the specific requirements of the assignment. See the “Department of English Writing Standards” handout for more information.

The Revision Portfolio and its accompanying in-class Final Essay Exam count as 30% of your semester grade. In addition to the qualities described above, evaluation of the Revision Portfolio is strongly based on how substantially and effectively you engage in “deep” revision of your selected essays. Note that a Revision Portfolio that evidences only minor, surface-level revision will earn a grade lower than “C.”

Semester Notebook (ICP: 10% & RJP: 10%).....	20%
Narrative Essay.....	10%
Advertisement Analysis Essay.....	15%
Speculation Essay.....	15%
Homework, Class Participation, and In-class Writing.....	10%
Revision Portfolio and In-class Final Essay Exam.....	30%

*Complete unit plans will be provided for each major essay/project.

Grading Scale: 90-100 pts=A, 80-89 pts=B, 70-79 pts=C, 60-69 pts=D, 59 pts and below=F

Undergraduate Grading System: For final semester grades, the English Department adheres to the University's Undergraduate Grading System as described in the current catalog. According to that system:

- **A** is reserved for work which is definitely superior in quality.
- **B** is given for work which is consistently good and which manifests sufficient interest, effort, or originality to lift it above average work.
- **C** is given for average work and shows that basic requirements in class assignments have been met.
- **D** earns credit but is below the standard required for graduation.
- **F** indicates failure and naturally carries no credit.

Writing Center Tutoring: The MC Writing Center offers sessions by appointment and on a walk-in basis. Students can also sign up for standing, weekly appointments with a specific tutor. Forms to schedule weekly appointments are available from your professor or in the Writing Center.

Course Policies:

Attendance & Participation: Attendance is crucial to the success of this class, as the class will be based on student discussion. Participation in such discussion and your ability to take and to offer constructive feedback will be recorded and will contribute to the student's grade. Presence without completion of homework will result in receiving half Attendance & Participation credit only.

The English Department adheres to Mississippi College's attendance policy as outlined in the current Undergraduate Catalog:

Class attendance is an essential part of university education, and students are expected to attend regularly and punctually all classes and laboratories for which they are registered. Cumulative absences may result in a lowered grade or loss of credit for the course. Tardiness is also subject to penalty, as is any failure to complete required class work on time. Although some specific requirements may vary according to the nature and structure of the course, the following guidelines summarize university policy:

1. Class attendance is required, and accurate records are kept.
2. Students must not accumulate excessive absences. A student receives a grade of F in a course immediately upon accumulating the following number of absences, whether **excused or unexcused**:
8 in semester classes meeting 2 times per week.

For lesser numbers of absences, the student should expect a lowered grade in the course, with the maximum penalty of one letter grade for each week of **unexcused** absences (in a semester) or the equivalent.

Absence Appeal. If a student misses more than the number of class periods specified in university policy and believes that there are reasonable explanations for the absences, he/she may appeal the absences to the dean of the school in which the course is being taught. Students may obtain a Student Absence Appeal Form from the office of the appropriate dean.

Late Papers Policy: Assignments that are due in class (such as reading responses, in-class writing, reviews, drafts, and homework) will not be accepted after the class's regular meeting time unless a student has written documentation of an excused absence or has notified the teacher beforehand.

The English Department has established the following policy for late work submitted in core English courses:

Grades for papers as assigned on syllabus will be reduced according to the following schedule:

- after time due and up to 24 hours late: one letter grade;
- after 24 hours and up to 48 hours late: two letter grades;
- after 48 hours and up to 72 hours late: three letter grades;
- after 72 hours, any paper turned in will be given an "F."

Failure to turn in an assignment will result in a grade of zero on that assignment.

Academic Integrity & Civility: The English Department adheres to Mississippi College's academic integrity policy as outlined in the current Undergraduate Catalog:

Mississippi College students are expected to be scrupulously honest. Dishonesty, such as cheating or plagiarism, or furnishing false information, including forgery, alteration or misuse of University documents, records or identification, will be regarded as a serious offense subject to severe penalty, including, but not limited to, loss of credit and possible dismissal. See the current Mississippi College Student Handbook or University Policy 2.19 for specific information regarding penalties associated with dishonest behavior at Mississippi College.

Academic civility will be required, as students must show respect for their classmates during discussions. All cell phones, I-pods, and other electronic devices should be turned off or silenced during class. There will be no texting or eating in the class. If students are caught using these electronic devices during class, they will not receive any participation points for that day.

Services for Students with Disabilities: In order for a student to receive disability accommodations under Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act, he or she must schedule an individual meeting with the Director of Student Counseling Services (SCS) immediately upon recognition of their disability (if their disability is known they must come in before the semester begins or make an appointment immediately upon receipt of their syllabi for the new semester). The student must bring with them written documentation from a medical physician and/or licensed clinician that verifies their disability. If the student has received prior accommodations, they must bring written documentation of those accommodations (example Individualized Education Plan from the school system). Documentation must be current (within 3 years).

The student must meet with SCS face-to face and also attend two (2) additional follow up meetings (one mid semester before or after midterm examinations and the last one at the end of the semester). Please note that the student may also schedule additional meetings as needed for support through SCS as they work with their professor throughout the semester. Note: Students must come in each semester to complete their Individualized Accommodation Plan (example: MC student completes fall semester IAP plan and even if student is a continuing student for the spring semester they must come in again to complete their spring semester IAP plan).

Course Schedule: Tentative due dates for all major writing assignments are included below. Complete unit plans will be provided for each major essay.

September 18: Semester Notebook (Intercultural Communication Packet #1)

September 25: Narrative Essay Working Draft for Peer Review

September 30: Semester Notebook (Reflection Journal Portfolio #1)

October 2: Narrative Essay Final Draft

October 9: Semester Notebook (Intercultural Communication Packet #2)

October 21: Semester Notebook (Intercultural Communication Packet #3)

October 23: Ad Analysis Essay Working Draft for Peer Review

October 28: Semester Notebook (Reflection Journal Portfolio #2)

October 30: Ad Analysis Essay Final Draft

November 6: Semester Notebook (Intercultural Communication Packet #4)

November 13: Speculation Essay Working Draft

November 18: Speculation Essay Final Draft

November 20: Semester Notebook (Intercultural Communication Packet #5)

November 25: Semester Notebook (Reflection Journal Portfolio #3)

December 2-4: Both Working Drafts for the Revision Portfolio are due at the conference

December 11: Semester Notebook & Revision Portfolio

December 13: In-class Final Exam: 12-3 PM