

Writing 121: College Composition I

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CRN:

Fall 2007

PLC 182

MWF 9-9:50am

Course Objective

Writing 121 provides an introduction to written reasoning. In this class, we will develop your abilities in critical reading and argumentative writing, investigate and analyze these issues through critical reading, engaged discussion, and informal writing, and propose solutions to meaningful questions at issue through the development and thorough revision of formal essays.

Prerequisites

A satisfactory SAT-verbal or TSWE score is required for placement in WR 121. International students may receive placement from the American English Institute (AEI). Students who enroll in a course for which they have not met the prerequisites will be notified and dropped by the English Department. Academic advisors can assist students if they have questions about WR 121 placement. See also University of Oregon General Bulletin.

Access

If you have a disability (physical or learning), which you think may affect your performance in this class, please see me during the first week of the term so we can make arrangements, if necessary, for your full access to classroom activities.

Required Texts and Materials

The Shape of Reason, Fourth Edition, John T. Gage

Rules for Writers, Fifth Edition, Ed. Diana Hacker

Writing About the World, Third Edition, Ed. Susan McLeod, John Jarvis, and Shelly Spear

Course Work

Essay One	15%
Essay Two	25%
Essay Three	30%

Reading Responses	10%
Journals	10%
In class writing and participation	10%

Essays

You will write three formal essays (4-5 pages in length) in response to questions at issue we develop as a class. All three essays will undergo extensive revisions. Before submitting the final version of the essay, you are also responsible for turning in an introduction and first version. The first version of the essay should be approached not as a “draft” but as a reflection of your best effort to provide a conclusion in response to a question at issue. While the first versions of each essay will not receive a grade, the failure to write a first draft and revise extensively will impact your final grade. When you turn in your final essays, you will be expected to turn in earlier versions of the essay as well.

Reading Responses

Students are required to write six, typed double-spaced reading responses (1-2 pgs) over the course of the term. Requirements for reading responses will be discussed prior to each assignment. They are designed to help you think about the readings, formulate your own opinions about the issues being discussed in class, develop possible essay ideas, and learn study strategies that will be useful in any class.

Journals

You will maintain a journal of observations, thoughts, questions, and explorations. Sometimes I provide prompt for entries but otherwise you will have to generate your own topics to discuss. You will be expected to write 2-3 substantial entries per week. A substantial entry engages and plays with an idea, observation, or question and should at least be a full paragraph in length (150-200 words). The journal will be collected three times during the term.

In class writing

There will occasionally be in class free writing assignments that will be collected. The idea of the free-write is to brainstorm questions at issue based on you reactions to the readings. The free-write is a chance for you to get out as many thoughts as you can in a short period of time and facilitate discussion.

Format Guidelines

All written work should be typed and double-spaced, using 11 or 12 point font and 1” margins (MLA format).

Policies

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Four absences will lower your final grade by 1/3. This would mean that an A- would become a B+, five absences will reduce a B to a C+. You will be held responsible for all missed work.

Late work

All assigned work is due at the beginning of class. Late work will be docked 1/3 of a grade.

Academic Honesty

All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented and refer to the summary of the Code of Student Conduct in the Schedule of Classes. In cases where plagiarism has been clearly established, the award of an F for the final course is the standard practice of the Composition Program. Please see me if you have any questions about your use of sources.

Course Schedule

Week One

- M: Course Introduction
W: Reading one: SOR (xi-xii) Machiavelli, "The Prince" (WAW 43-51)
Jefferson, "The Declaration of Independence" (WAW 52-7)
Reading response due
F: Ethical Argumentation and the Enthymeme SOR 12-29, 42-54

Week Two:

- M: Discussion on Readings: King "Letter from Birmingham Jail" (including statement by Alabama clergymen) (WAW 212-27) Reading response due
W: Discussion of Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant" (WAW 188-94)
F: Thesis Statements SOR 56-78 Reading Response

Week Three:

- M: Discussion on Readings Hall, "The Anthropology of Manners" (WAW 410-17)
W: Essay Examples SOR 156-166 Practice Enthymeme due
F: Peer Review Essay 1 due

Week Four:

- M: Identifying Good Reasons SOR 79-100 1st Journal due
W: Russell, "Religion and Science" (WAW 456-61)

