

English 49

Basic Composition

(From a Classical Perspective)

Instructor Bert Dill
Section 07867 Tues 6:35-9:40 LRC 229
Section 07829 Thurs 6:35-9:40 LRC 229

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(I prefer email)

Prerequisite:

English for Speakers of Other Languages 40 or English 43 with a grade of 'C' or better, or equivalent, or Assessment Skill Level W4.

Course Description:

This course is designed to prepare students to write successfully at the transfer level. In this course students practice the writing process in the production of essays. Students also review grammatical and mechanical structures as needed to support the successful expression of meaning. In addition, students read and think critically using a variety of texts which are the basis for writing and class discussion. Each student will compile and submit a portfolio of his/her writing near the end of the semester.

Texts and materials:

Raimes. Keys for Writers, 5th ed. New York: Pearson Longman,,
A college level dictionary.
A three-ring binder, 1¹/₂" – 2"
A three-ring portfolio with dividers

Class Format:

This 3-unit class will consist primarily of lecture/discussion, reading, and writing—lots of writing. Often class will begin with collection of homework, a short exercise, or quiz involving assigned material. New material will be introduced and assignments made. In many classes, the entire session may be devoted to in-class writing

Attendance:

- **It is the student's responsibility to drop all classes in which he/she is no longer attending.**
- **It is the instructor's discretion to withdraw a student after the add/drop deadline due to excessive absence.**
- **Students who remain enrolled in a class beyond the published withdrawal deadline, as stated in the class schedule will receive an evaluative letter grade in this class.**

Add/drop deadline with no "W" - 2/6; Drop/refund - 2/9;

Credit/No Credit deadline - 3/2; Withdrawal deadline - 4/3

Please note that this means your failure to drop the class officially may well result in your receiving a grade of F for the course.

Excessive tardiness will be treated as absence.

Prompt, consistence is important. You need it. Writing is a skill rather than a collection of knowledge. You can't just read a book and master writing anymore than you can master basketball or ballet dancing by just reading a book. You must show up for practice and participate. If missing class is unavoidable,

you can still get assignments from the syllabus so that you don't fall behind. Please consider making contact with another student to exchange information

Grading:

Essays	55%
Portfolio	25%
Notebook	7%
Quizzes, peer Reviews and Misc.	8%
Instructor's evaluation of effort and progress	5%

A = 100% to 90%.

B = 89% to 80%.

C = 79% to 70%.

D = 69% to 60%.

F = less than 60%.

Late assignments may not be given full credit, depending on the reason for the delay and the degree of lateness. Where possible, you must make arrangements for late work in advance, giving acceptable reasons and making up the work within the shortest possible time. Missing assignments will be given a grade of zero. Please consider what averaging a zero into your grade will do.

Class policies

- You are expected to respect and obey standards of student conduct while in class and on the campus. The student Code of Conduct, disciplinary procedure, and student due process (Policy 3100, 3100.1 and 3100.2) can be found in the current college catalog in the section Academic Information and Regulations pages 39-51 and at the office of the Dean of Student Affairs (H-500). Charges of misconduct and disciplinary sanctions may be imposed upon students who violate these standards of conduct or provisions of college regulations. As your instructor, I have the following expectation of your behavior in this class:
- Promote a courteous learning environment by exhibiting mutual respect for others, and demonstrate respect for the subject, instructor, and the work of others. Since this is to a large degree a class on argumentation, it is expected (and even desirable) that people will disagree about important subjects. However, disagreements are to be handled through proper argumentation, not name calling or hostility.
- Respect the equipment in this classroom
- Avoid bringing coffee, soda, and other liquids into the classroom
- Turn off all pagers, beepers, cell phones, etc. If you must answer an emergency call, please leave the room, take care of your emergency, and return for the next class session.
- Abide by all college standards of academic honesty, cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty are not acceptable. Violations will be reported to the school dean for appropriate action.
- We live in an age in which terms such as commitment and responsibility seem to have very little meaning. Please note that your instructor, being about half the age of water, was raised in a different era and clings to outmoded concepts and values. I support the policies set forth by the college regarding attendance. Excessive absences may result in your being dropped from the course. The college sets this level at 6% of the total hours that a class meets during a term. A little simple math will show that as few as two unexcused absences can get you into difficulty quickly. At three unexcused absences you have passed the 12% level, which the college sets as the "inactive" level, meaning if you miss this much before the withdrawal deadline, you are supposed to be dropped from the roster; if you miss that much after the drop deadline, you are supposed to receive a failing grade. Also, please note that your official enrollment status is your own responsibility. If you decide, for

**Attack the argument
Not the person!**



whatever reason, that you no longer wish to attend this class, you are responsible for officially withdrawing. Your failure to drop the class officially may well result in your receiving an F for the course.

Other Concerns:

- Academic Accommodation—Students who need special accommodations should discuss options with their professors during the first two weeks of class. To contact D.S.P.S. call 619-388-2974 or visit them in Room H-202.
- Behavioral/discipline—While the majority of students are serious and polite, occasionally problems occur. The student Code of Conduct, disciplinary procedure, and student due process (Policy 3100, 3100.1 and 3100.2) can be found in the current college catalog in the section Academic Information and Regulations pages 39-51 and at the office of the Dean of Student Affairs (H-500). Charges of misconduct and disciplinary sanctions may be imposed upon students who violate these standards of conduct or provisions of college regulations. Misconduct includes, among other things, plagiarism and other forms of cheating, disruption or classes, and physical or verbal intimidation. Please refer to your current college catalog for details.
- Incompletes—incompletes will be given only in special cases involving students who for certain understandable reasons are unable to complete a specific assignment. For example, one student recently missed my final examination because she was in the hospital, busy delivering her new daughter during the test. Another student was arrested and missed the last two days of class. In such cases, I might be persuaded to grant you an incomplete. I have little compassion for students who have missed work throughout the semester and suddenly realize that they cannot pass.

A word of warning about plagiarism

Don't Do it!

*“One of the unintended effects of new technology is to force new moral decisions upon us”
Lawrence Hinman, UCSD*

Yes, the massive availability of information through the Internet has provided those who lack academic integrity a wealth of opportunity to cheat. Completely finished research papers may be purchased and downloaded in a few minutes. Others are posted on personal web pages and may be copied for nothing. It is very easy to lift major sections from web sites and to incorporate them into your paper without giving credit to the author. (Study your textbook for legal ways of using such information.) It is also very difficult for your teacher (especially at a freshman composition level) to catch all the offenders. Studies also indicate that about 80% of today's students seem to believe there is no problem with cheating. For those of you who tend to sacrifice integrity for expediency, I have two points, one philosophical the other pragmatic: first, as both the ancient stoics and the modern existentialists have pointed out, we become what we have chosen to be--we are what we do (I laugh at those who try to tell me they are really honest people after they have cheated--get a clue!); second, if I catch you, you get a zero--not an F--and you can go take the course again with someone else.

Don't Do it!

Essays	Possible	Grade
1. Retelling (either):	100	_____
Fable.		
Narrative.		
2. Explaining/amplifying (either):	100	_____
Anecdote/Cheria.		
Proverb/Maxim.		
3. Visualizing: Description	100	_____
4. Structuring: Comparison	100	_____
5. Epideictic argument—praise or blame? (One of the these):	100	_____
Commonplace.		
Encomium/Panegyric.		
Vituperation/Invective.		
6. Forensic argument—what happened?	100	_____
(Either of these):		
Refutation.		
Confirmation.		
7. Political argument—what to do?	100	_____
(Either of these):		
Theme/Thesis.		
Propose/defend/attack a law.		
8. In-class essay	100	_____
Essay total divided by 8 and multiplied by .55 (equivalent to multiply by .06875)	800	_____
	800	55
	x .06875	=
	=	_____
	x .06875	=
	=	0
Portfolio	100	25
	x .25	=
	=	_____
	x .25	=
	=	0
Notebook	100	7
	x .07	=
	=	_____
	x .07	=
	=	0
Quizzes/Peer reviews/misc. (avg.)	100	8
	x .08	=
	=	_____
	x .08	=
	=	0
Instructor's eval	100	5
	x .05	=
	=	_____
	x .05	=
	=	0
Total	100	0

The Writing Portfolio

The writing portfolio should be a representative collection of the work you have done and the progress you have made this semester in English 49. It will be assessed using the rubric that you have received and will only be evaluated if it is complete.

This assignment is worth **25%** of your grade for this course. It will be collected no later than **Thursday, December 10**. No late portfolios will be accepted.

It should include the following:

1. **Prologue:**

This will serve as an introduction to the portfolio and a universal prompt will be given to all English 51 students for this piece of writing. The prologue should be completed during the first two weeks of the semester in an in-class session of 45 minutes to 1 hour. With the prologue, you are asked to provide some information on your past writing experience. This will help the reader can gain an understanding of your background and history with writing. The prologue is not a graded piece of writing. It is instead, a beginning benchmark that offers your perspective as the semester begins. The paper will be collected, but not graded. I will return the prologue to you the day you submit your portfolio.

2. **A Revised Argumentative Essay (3-5 pages):**

This will be your choice of one of the three main argumentative essays (#5, #6, or #7). Include both your original copy (with no teacher comments) and your final, revised copy. On the revised copy, please highlight the changes you have made.

3. **Writer's Choice:**

Choose a piece of writing that you did this semester that you feel good about and are proud of. You may revise it as many times as you like. **Include only** your final, revised draft.

4. **An Unrevised In-Class Essay:**

Include the district essay that you wrote this semester. Do not make any changes to your original draft and only include this original draft. Your in-class essay should not have any teacher comments on it.

5. **A Writing Reflection (1-2 pages):**

This is a concluding letter that should explain the contents of your portfolio.

Consider the following questions:

- Why did you choose to include the writing assignments that you have?
- How do they show the improvement you have made over this semester?
- How can you compare the various pieces of writing?
- How do they reflect your strengths and challenges as a writer?

Be sure to include a clear explanation of your choices, an evaluation of your strengths and weaknesses as a writer, and a reflection of your progress as a writer this semester. This letter should be typed and double-spaced.

	This calendar is <u>subject to changes</u>, additions, deletions, etc. It is not intended to cover all class activities. Put this calendar (and the syllabus, handouts, etc.) in your <u>notebook</u> and bring it to every class session. Keep track of all modifications.	
	Text Reading Assignments	What's due
1 Aug 25/27		Portfolio Prologue (in class)
2 Sept 1/3	Keys: Chapters. 1-2 (1-39) Progymnasmata and handouts as assigned.	Essay #1 (retelling) for grade
3 Sept 8/10	Keys: Chapter 66 (543-554) Progymnasmata and handouts as assigned	Essay #2 (amplifying) for grade
4 Sept 15/17	Keys: Chapters 3-4 (39-78) Progymnasmata and handouts as assigned	Essay #3 (visualizing) for review
5 Sept 22/24	Keys: Chapter 5 (78-94) Progymnasmata and handouts as assigned	Essay #3 (visualizing) for grade
6 Sept 29 Oct 1	Keys: Chapters 37-39 (353-369) Progymnasmata and handouts as assigned	Essay #4 (structuring) for review
7 Oct 6/8	Keys: Chapters 40-42 (369-398) Progymnasmata and handouts as assigned	Essay #4 (structuring) for grade
8 Oct 13/15	Keys: Chapter 43-44 (398-421) Progymnasmata and handouts as assigned	Essay #5 (epideictic argument) for review
9 Oct 20/22	Keys: Chapter 45-46 (421-434) Progymnasmata and handouts as assigned	Essay #5 (epideictic argument) for grade

10 Oct 27/29	Keys: Chapter 47 (439-450) Progymnasmata and handouts as assigned	Essay #6 (forensic argument) for review
11 Nov 3/5	Keys: Chapter 49 (454-458) Progymnasmata and handouts as assigned	Essay #6 (forensic argument)
12 Nov 10/12	Keys: Chapter 65 (529--542) Progymnasmata and handouts as assigned	Essay #7 (political argument) for review
13 Nov 17/19	Progymnasmata and handouts as assigned	Essay #7 (political argument) for grade
Nov 24/26	No classes	
14 Dec 1/3		In class essays notebooks
15 Dec 8/10		Assemble Portfolios —bring all items. notebooks
16 Dec 15/17		