

Office: 405

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Drop-In Hours: MTWTh 10:40-11:40

Class Text: *A Community of Writers*, 3rd Edition, Peter Elbow and Pat Belanoff
The Best American Science and Nature Writing: 2014, Ed. Deborah Blum

Course Objectives: Welcome to English 110. The overall objective for this course is to help each student to improve as a writer of college-level expository prose. No matter where you are as such a writer, no matter what your beliefs about yourself as such a writer, you do have strengths and abilities to work from. We shall be working on a number of exercises to help you to build on your strengths, to help you to see and find ways to continue your improvement in your future as a writer, both in college and beyond.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will demonstrate mastery of pre-writing strategies, including brainstorming and outlining.
- Students will develop an essay of multiple pages that effectively presents and strongly supports a clear thesis.

Main Assignments: Throughout the session, you will be required to turn in revised and well-edited main assignments developed from various writing exercises. Each of these assignments will be evaluated by minimum standards for that assignment and then returned with comments. If a paper does not meet the minimum requirements for that assignment, you will be required to rewrite the paper, according to instructions, within three class meetings of its being returned to you. **Failure to do so will lead to a direct reduction in your final grade percentage.** Additionally you will be responsible for all exercises leading up to the main assignment.

Portfolios: Near the end of the session, you will be required to turn in a portfolio of your work. This portfolio should include what you consider to be your best or most representative work, representing as wide a range of work for this course as is possible, exhibiting various types of writing practiced during the semester and at least one well-developed, polished essay (typed). Further, more detailed, instructions for this portfolio will be given at a more appropriate time.

Reading Assignments: There will be a reading quiz for each assigned reading. *There will be no make-up quizzes.* The lowest quiz score for each student will be dropped, however, at the end of the semester. At that point, the highest overall quiz score will be considered 100%, with all other quiz score percentages calculated using the highest quiz score as the base. You will also be required to write response papers for all of the assigned readings (details later).

Classwork and Homework: You are responsible for doing all classwork and homework assigned. If a classwork or homework is returned with the indication for work needed in order for that assignment to receive maximum credit, you will have three class meetings from the date when the work is returned in which to redo the work. If you fail to redo the work in that time,

there will be a reduction in your classwork/homework percentage. **At the end of the session, I will multiply the percentage of classwork and homework by your quiz score percentage. The resultant percentage will be your actual grade for these three parts of the course.** All handwritten classwork and homework must be submitted on 8 1/2" by 11" college-ruled paper, or it will not receive full credit.

Late Work: Late work is accepted, but it suffers a half-life. That is, every time that you are in class and fail to turn in an assignment that is due, it loses half of whatever credit which it could receive at that time. So a work turned in one class meeting late receives 1/2 of the credit it would have otherwise received; two class meetings late, 1/4 credit; three class meetings late, 1/8 credit, and so on. However, an assignment is considered late only if you are present and fail to turn the work in when it is asked for. Thus, if you miss class, at the beginning of the next class meeting be certain to turn in any assignments that were due on the day that you missed.

Research Paper: Details on what is required of you for this part of the course will be given at a more appropriate time. For now, keep in mind that if you keep up with the work throughout the semester, this assignment should not present as much difficulty for you as it otherwise will.

Final Exam: Details much later. Don't even worry about it for now. You are better off focusing on the more immediate tasks of the class. Suffice it to say that it should allow you an opportunity to make use of any or all of what you have learned during the semester.

Attendance: If you miss class more than two consecutive classes, you may be dropped. Every time that you are late counts as one-third of a time missed. **Any student who is dropped for poor attendance will not be readmitted.** If you are dropped after the last day to drop with a "W," you will receive an "F" as your semester grade.

Electronics: All electronic devices, such as cell phones, tape recorders, pagers, cameras, and so on must be turned off and put away at all times during class unless authorized by the instructor. If you receive a call on your cell phone and answer that call during class time, you will be required to leave the class for the remainder of that class period.

Plagiarism: Unless otherwise stated, all written work for this class must be your own original writing. You may receive assistance in the form of tutoring (such as with editing). However, no one may do any actual writing for you. If you turn in work, in part or in whole, that is not your own original writing, you will probably be guilty of plagiarism (a form of cheating). **The penalty for plagiarism will be complete failure, either for the assignment or for the class.**

Disabled Student Programs and Services: Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible.

DSP&S
Room 2117
Health Sciences Building
(760) 355-6312

Grading:

Portfolios and Main Assignments: 50%
Quizzes, Classwork, and Homework: 25%
Research Paper: 15%
Final: 10%