

**English 1121: College Writing and Critical Reading
Spring 2001 / Section 3**

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Office Hours:

- 9:00-10:00 a.m. / M, W, Th, F
- 10:00-11:00 a.m. / Th
- Other times by appointment

Class Meetings:

- 8:00-8:50 a.m. / M, Th, F in T 228 / W in T 207

Course Description:

English 1121 is an introduction to “academic writing.” More specifically, this course will help you to (1) read carefully and think critically, (2) respond intelligently to another text, (3) analyze and synthesize the ideas of several texts, (4) compare and evaluate arguments, (5) construct effective arguments, and (6) incorporate researched sources into your own writing. To accomplish these goals, we will write four “academic” essays this semester, with each successive essay building on the skills learned during the previous essays. For the first three essays, we will all write from texts we will discuss in class; for the last essay, we will conduct our own research to support our arguments.

Textbooks and Materials:

- *The Mercury Reader*
- *The New Century Handbook* (brief edition, 2000)
- Access to the course website: <www.ar.cc.mn.us/stankey>
- Access to the textbook website: <www.abacon.com/hult>
- Loose-leaf paper
- Two two-pocket folders
- A 3 ½” HD computer disk

Requirements:

- Attendance at all class sessions. Each class session is designed to introduce and/or practice writing concepts and processes related to the current writing project. If you do not attend, you cannot learn from and participate in the class discussions and group work.
- Completion of all assigned readings and informal writing assignments. All reading assignments will serve either as subjects or as models for your own arguments and will be discussed in class. The

informal writing assignments may include reading quizzes, responses, exercises, and group work; in-class writings and group work cannot be made up if you are absent.

- Participation in class discussions and peer review groups. This class will be more meaningful and enjoyable if we all participate in class discussions and other activities. Participation includes active listening, note taking, and contributing to group work and class discussions. Be prepared and willing to discuss your own writing and the writing of others. If you miss more than eight (8) class meetings, the participation portion of your final grade will be an "F." If you bring an incomplete draft to a peer review or do not participate actively in a peer review, your essay grade will be lowered one letter.
- Attendance at all one-to-one conferences with me. If you miss a conference, your essay grade will be lowered one letter.
- Portfolio #1: a summary-response essay of 3-4 pages (900-1200 words).
- Portfolio #2: an analysis or synthesis essay of 3-4 pages (900-1200 words).
- Portfolio #3: a comparative-evaluation essay of 3-4 pages (900-1200 words).
- A final portfolio consisting of a cover letter (one page), a research proposal (one page), a working bibliography (one page), an annotated bibliography (3-4 pages), research notes (10 pages), the argument essay (4-6 pages, 1200-1800 words), and an in-class essay. **Note:** A committee of other English 1121 professors will evaluate your final portfolio; more details can be found on the final portfolio cover.
- Completion of all in-class essays. If you miss an in-class essay, you may make it up, but the essay grade will be lowered one letter.

Evaluation:

- Portfolio #1 = 15%
- Portfolio #2 = 15%
- Portfolio #3 = 20%
- Final Portfolio = 30%
- In-class Writing and Participation = 20%

Policies and Information

Attendance: Please notify me immediately if you must miss more than one class due to a medical or family emergency; we can then keep you current with the class or determine if an incomplete is warranted. Note that excessive absences will adversely affect your final grade.

Incompletes: Incompletes will only be granted to students who have a documented medical or family emergency in the last two weeks of the semester. These students must have completed all the other work for the course with an average grade of “C” or better, must not have more than eight (8) absences, and must demonstrate the ability and willingness to complete the work before the third week of the following semester or summer session.

Plagiarism: Knowingly presenting another person’s ideas or writing as your own without clear, correct, and accurate citation and documentation will result in an “F” for that assignment and notification of the appropriate college officials—see the Code of Student Conduct in the Student Handbook.

Class Disruptions: Any disruptive behavior—including arriving late, leaving early, or having private conversations—which adversely affects the teaching and learning in this class will be handled on an individual basis and, if serious enough, may involve the dean of educational services—see the Code of Student Conduct in the Student Handbook.

Paper Trails: For each essay you submit, you must also submit all the work you did in the process of writing the essay—all your prewriting, in-class writing, photocopies and/or printouts of research sources, notes, outlines, drafts, peer review comments, and a reflection letter. If you do not submit these things for each essay, I might assume the essay is not your own work, and the essay will fail.

Paper Format: All rough drafts should be double-spaced, word-processed or legibly handwritten; all final drafts must be double-spaced, word-processed, and conform to the formatting directions given in class, including instructions for in-text and end-of-text citation and documentation conventions.

Late Papers: Due dates are listed on the course schedule. Late rough drafts will not receive written comments and will receive reduced credit. Late final drafts will not receive written comments and the grade will be lowered one letter; after one week, the grade will be an “F.” However, all required drafts and revisions must be completed to pass the course.

Record Keeping: Please make back-up copies of all your work, and keep all essays returned to you. If questions about grades arise, you will need to produce the original documents.

Conferences: Please see me during my office hours or schedule an appointment with me if you have questions or problems at any time during the semester.

Computer Lab: We will meet in the computer lab once each week to work on the current writing project; we may also use this time for individual conferences and/or writing groups. Please do not abuse this time by working on assignments for other classes, writing e-mail to friends, or downloading non-research-related information from the Internet.

Academic Support Center: The Academic Support Center (ASC), located on the second floor of the College Services (CS) building, offers free, trained writing tutors who work with student writers at any stage in the writing process to improve their writing. Please meet with a writing tutor early in the term so that you can discover how helpful the tutors can be to you.

Note: The course syllabus and schedule are subject to change, and changes will be announced in class. You are responsible for any changes in deadlines or assignments announced during any class you miss.