

SYLLABUS
ENG 301:04 Expository Writing
T 6:00-9:00, Kethley 138
Fall 2009

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Office Hours: MWF 9:00-10:00, TR 3:00-5:00 and by appointment
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Writing Center: Kethley 201

ENG 301 is designed to be a review of and practice in the writing process, including application to various disciplines. Students will write three fully developed essays using documented information from multiple outside sources. This course does not apply to the major or minor in English and has a prerequisite of ENG 102 or 103.

On-Line Information About DSU's Library Resources

The Roberts-LaForge Library has created a web page to help familiarize students with what our library has to offer. Several links are available from the main web page to help you learn more about the library and effective research strategies. I encourage you to visit the guide to circulation page at the following URL address:

http://www.deltastate.edu/docs/library/Circulation_Services.pdf

Library personnel are always ready to help with any questions you might have about library use. Stop by the Information/Reference Desk with your questions or concerns.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS AND MATERIALS

- Current Issues and Enduring Questions: A Guide to Critical Thinking and Argument. 8th edition. Sylvan Barnet and Hugo Bedau. New York: Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2008.
- The Elements of Style. 4th edition. William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White. New York: Longman, 2000.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Essays

You will write three fully developed and revised essays this semester. All rough drafts and final copies of essays must be typed or printed from a computer. Please follow this format for all of your essay rough drafts and final copies:

- Final drafts should follow the MLA format. An example of a paper in MLA format can be found on page 117 in the MLA Handbook.
- Essays must be typed, double-spaced, on one side of the paper, and with standard one-inch margins on all sides of the page.
- The font used for all drafts should be **12-point Times New Roman**.
- Pages must be numbered with your last name and page number in the upper right-hand corner.
- Your essays must have a title, but please do not make a separate title page.
- When you submit a final copy of an essay, please include with it a rubric, the assignment sheet, all of your drafts, and your prewriting.

Readings and Reading-Response Assignments

We will be reading many essays and articles along with various selections from our course books. You will often be required to prepare a reading-response assignment in addition to our regular essay work. These assignments are designed to reinforce what you are learning in class and to help you understand the writing process.

Attendance

Daily attendance is required for this course. If you miss classes on a regular basis and therefore are not present to work with your peers, I will not be able to evaluate the essay on which you are currently working. More than three absences will result in your final grade being lowered by one letter. More than five absences is cause for failing the course. Please notify me immediately if you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from coming to class on a regular basis.

Late Work

All work – rough drafts and final copies – must be turned in on time and during class. I will not accept late work unless you have made a personal arrangement with me; essays turned in to my mailbox will not be accepted. If you are unable to turn in an assignment for emergency reasons, please inform me personally and as soon as possible. Please make use of my email if you are unable to contact me by phone. The decision of whether or not I accept late work, regardless of excuse, is solely mine.

Turnitin

In this course you may be asked to submit some or all of your assignments for review by an on-line plagiarism service. This service will compare the content of your work to content found on the internet and several proprietary databases. Any work submitted to this service may become part of the service's permanent collection of submitted papers. After your work is submitted, the service will generate an originality report which will be sent to your instructor. Any student who submits plagiarized work will be subject to the penalties outlined in DSU's Academic Honesty Policy found in the Student Handbook.

Plagiarism

Please consult DSU's Student Handbook (<http://www.deltastate.edu/pages/304.asp>) for policies concerning plagiarism and academic honesty. All policies and penalties for violations stated in these materials apply to our class. Please visit <http://www.deltastate.edu/pages/1268.asp> for information on what constitutes plagiarism.

Disabilities Services

Delta State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992. If you have a physical, medical, psychological, or learning disability that is going to impact your attendance or require accommodation, please let me know. In order to ensure that your learning needs are appropriately met, you will need to provide documentation of your disability or medical condition to the ADA Coordinator of Disability Services in O.W. Reily Student Health Center, 846-4690. The Office of Disability Services will then provide a letter of verification of disability that describes the accommodations needed for this class. For more information, please visit <http://www.deltastate.edu/pages/978.asp>

THE GRADING SYSTEM

Essay Grades

- **The A essay** demonstrates a superior command of the subject matter and presents that information so effectively that the reader enjoys reading the essay and learns from it. The A essay shows a clear pattern of organization which captivates the audience and keeps readers

involved through all stages of the essay. Moreover, the A essay reveals a sophistication in style and an original voice; sentences are appropriately varied in length and construction; transitions and metadiscourse are used to produce a smooth flow for the reader; connections between sentences and ideas are clear. In addition, individual sentences are concise, clear, and highly specific. The A essay is the work of a writer who is able to deal comfortably with complex material and can present that material effectively for others. As a result of its careful organizational structure and development by example, all factors, both in content and style, combine to form a unified whole.

- **The B essay** contains few mechanical errors (none of which impede communication), and it effectively delivers a substantial amount of interesting information. The specific points are logically ordered, well-developed, and unified according to a clear organizing principle. The introduction and conclusion are effective, but not as engaging as in the A essay. The essay exhibits an understanding of metadiscourse, and transitions are adequately smooth and logical. Sentence structure is sufficiently varied in both length and construction, and the choice of words has been made selectively. The writing in a B essay is organized, clear, coherent, and correct.
- **The C essay** is generally competent and reasonably well-developed and organized. The C essay demonstrates an average knowledge of the subject matter, but the presentation of that information is often vaguely stated and superficially connected. The essay may lack adequate transitions and use of metadiscourse. The sentence structure is often not varied in either length or construction. It may contain some mechanical or grammatical errors, but they do not interfere significantly with meaning. Though the C essay fulfills the assignment, it is not especially engaging or enlightening.
- **The D or F essay** shows a serious weakness in at least one area, and other areas may need attention, too. The overall quality of the essay is significantly hindered because of these weaknesses. It has serious flaws in organization, development, syntax, word choice, and/or mechanics and grammar.

The Course Grades

It is possible to receive a “WF” (**Withdraw Fail**) in this course. If you should stop attending this class for any reason without going through the university’s official procedure for dropping a class, you will receive a “WF” for this course, the grade will appear on your transcript, and an “F” will be calculated into your grade point average.

Letter Grade/Point Scale for English 301

Your final grade in English 301 will be based on the following weighted scale.

Assignment	Weighted Percentage
Quizzes	15
Essay #1	20
Essay #2	25
Essay #3	30
Participation/Attendance	10

Once all points have been awarded, add the total together and use the following scale to determine your final grade for the course:

100-90 points = A
89-80 points = B

79-70 points = C
69-60 points = D

59 and below = F

IMPORTANT DATES

- Tuesday, August 18 First day of class
- Tuesday, September 29 Essay One Due
- October 14 – October 16 Fall Break
- Tuesday, October 27 Essay Two Due
- November 23 – November 27 Thanksgiving Break
- Tuesday, December 1 Essay Three Due

ES = The Elements of Style

CI = Current Issues and Enduring Questions

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1

Tuesday, August 18

Assignment: Read chapters 1-3 in Current Issues (pp 3-140). Study for next week's quiz on parts of speech.

Week 2

Tuesday, August 25

Assignment: Read Chapter 5: Writing an Analysis of an Argument (pp 177-219). Write an analysis of "Bring Back Flogging," "Wrestling with Title IX," "Animal Liberation," and "A Modest Proposal." Bring your analyses to class and be prepared to discuss and defend. Study for next week's quiz on the structure of English.

Week 3

Tuesday, September 1

Assignment: Read Chapter 6: Developing an Argument of Your Own (pp 221-256). Complete the exercise on p. 255 – bring your essay to class and be prepared to discuss and defend. Also read Chapter 7: Using Sources (pp 257-284). Study for next week's quiz on MLA format and logical fallacies.

Week 4

Tuesday, September 8

Assignment: Write a rough draft of your first essay. Read Section II in The Elements of Style (pp 15-33) and apply it to your rough draft. Bring two copies of your draft to class next week. Study for next week's quiz on agreement.

Week 5

Tuesday, September 15

Assignment: Revise your essay and bring two copies of your SECOND draft to class next week. Read Chapter 10: A Moralists' View (pp 381-415). Read Section I of The Elements of Style (pp 1-14). Study for next week's quiz on punctuation.

Week 6

Tuesday, September 22

Assignment: Complete the final edits to your first essay – due next week. Read Chapter 12: A Psychologist's View (pp 453-463). Also read Chapter 15: Abortion: Whose Right to Life Is It Anyway? (pp 507-518) – be prepared to discuss. Study for next week's quiz on commas, semicolons and colons.

Week 7

Tuesday, September 29 --ESSAY ONE DUE

Assignment: Read Chapter 21: A College Education: What Is Its Purpose? (pp 579-600). Using only these articles as sources, write a rough draft of an argumentative essay on this topic. Bring two copies to class next week. Study for next week's quiz on numbers.

Week 8

Tuesday, October 6

Assignment: Complete the research for your essay and write the second draft. Bring two copies to our next class (October 20th). Study for the quiz on capitalization, etc. Have a nice break.

Week 9

Tuesday, October 13

--NO CLASS – HAVE A NICE BREAK!

Week 10

Tuesday, October 20

Assignment: Complete the final edits to your second essay, due next week. Read Chapters 22, 23 and 24 (pp 601-709). Come to class prepared to discuss and debate. Study for next week's quiz on the possessive.

Week 11

Tuesday, October 27

--ESSAY TWO DUE

Assignment: Read Chapters 25, 26 and 27 (pp 710-790). Come to class prepared to discuss and debate. Study for next week's quiz on misused words and expressions.

Week 12

Tuesday, November 3

Assignment: From chapters 22-27, select one topic about which to write your final essay for this class. Begin researching that topic (in addition to the sources found in your text) and complete a rough draft of the final essay. Bring two copies to class next week. Study for next week's quiz on word choice.

Week 13

Tuesday, November 10

Assignment: Revise your essay, possibly including information gained from the in class survey. Bring two copies of the second draft to class next week.

Week 14

Tuesday, November 17

Assignment: Finish editing your final draft. All final essays are to be emailed to me (gscala@deltastate.edu) no later than 6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1.

Week 15

No Classes – Thanksgiving Break

Week 16

Tuesday, December 1

NO CLASS