

English 101
Fall, 2005
Office hours TBA

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Language 203
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English 101 is a course in thinking and writing. It may be called by different numbers, but every college and university has a version of English 101. I call it, "Thinking and Writing, Thinking and Writing Some More, Thinking and Rewriting and Editing, Thinking and Writing and Revising until Your Brain Might Explode."
Descartes said, "I think, therefore I am." We might add, "We write to discover and to clarify what it is we think."

Books and things you will need for this class:

Three books: Loud and Clear, by Anna Quindlen; Pilgrim at Tinker Creek, by Annie Dillard; Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith, by Anne Lamott.

A good dictionary.

A black and white composition book to be used exclusively for journal entries.

Access to a computer so that you may access these websites:

www.ccc.commnet.edu, to get to the Guide to Grammar and Writing, to get to Essay and Research Paper level, to Research papers, to MLA style. This site is also very good for studying many aspects of writing, from basic grammar to advanced rhetoric.

For help in how to cite internet sources for research papers, go to

www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/cite5.html.

If you would prefer, you may purchase a good handbook for grammar and research. Be sure you select something appropriate for college level writing and research, something that is current, and something that teaches MLA style.

Your Emory at Oxford Honor Code is sacred in this class. Any suggestion of plagiarism will be dealt with mercilessly. Make yourself aware of the Honor Code and the Honor Council at this college.

Final grades will be based on the following. I will be utilizing the plus/minus scale.

Journals	20%
Essays	30%
Participation and contribution to class discussions	10%
Research process, paper, and presentation	20%
Final exam	20%

Journals will be brought to every class meeting. Assignments for writing in them will be both in and out of class. Entries will be dated and numbered. For example, your first entry may be 9/2/05 J#1. I will collect journals for evaluation at any class period. ONLY journal entries should be in your journal. I do not want to find notes from this or any other class, phone numbers, random screen names or drawings, or recipes.

Essays in class must be neatly written in blue or black ink on college-ruled paper. Do not write on the backs of pages. Do use a dictionary. Essays written out of class must be typed and presented in MLA style. Do use a dictionary.

9/1 **Class 1.** Introductions, syllabus, honor code.

Do words have power? What is voice? And what is the point of any of it?

* For next class, read pp. 60-63 in Quindlen. Dissect it and respond to it in pieces in your journal. This is entry J#1. Bring journal and Quindlen to next class, as well as needed supplies for writing an in-class essay.

9/6 **Class 2.** In-class essay. (Paper, pens, dictionary, journal, Quindlen)

*For next class, read pp12-15 in Quindlen and write J#2. Read pp.52-55 in Q and write J#3.

9/8 **Class 3.** How do you define poverty? Discuss.

*For next class, read Q 140-143; write J#4. Read Q 267-270; write J#5.

9/13 **Class 4.** Quindlen. Discuss possible topics for essay 1.

*For next class, read Q 301-304. Write J#6.

9/15 **Class 5.** Discuss more topics for Essay 1 and get started on it. Find a powerful thesis.

9/20 **Class 6.** Essay #1 is due at the beginning of class. Bring journals to class. Write J#7 in class on handout "Once More to the Lake" by EB White.

*For next class, read Q 56-59. Write J#8. Prepare to discuss how Quindlen and White approach similar topic in different ways.

9/22. **Class 7** Discuss how thinkers approach nature for meaning. Assign Dillard, Chapter 1, and write J#9.

9/27-10/6 **Classes 8, 9, 10.** Dillard, chapters 1, 2, and 5. (journal entries for each: J#10, J#11, J#12.) Assign essay #2.

10/6 **Class 11.** Submit essay #2.

Beginning with Class 11, we will discuss the research process and topics. Topics will be given to you in class at this time. Research papers and presentations will be due in the last five class meetings of the class, 11/29 through 12/13.

In mid-October, we will begin our study of Lamott's book. Journal and writing assignments to follow.

Your final exam will be an essay you will write in class. Topics for the essay will be based on Lamott's book and the research papers and presentations. See the college calendar for the date of your final exam.

Syllabus October – December, 2005 English 101 Dr. Sweet-Hurd
All assigned readings are from Anne Lamott's Traveling Mercies.

Read "Overture: Lily Pads," pp. 3- 55. Write J #12. Due Oct. 13.

10/13 Meet in Humanities Building for DVD presentation
Bring your journals.
For next class, read 59-67, J # 13.

10/18. Campbell, research discussions. (Annotated bibliography requirement)
For next class, read 68 – 78, J #14.

10/20 Discuss Lamott readings. Possible essay topics for essay # 3.
For next class, read 106 – 114, J #15.

10/25 Turn in journals. Meet with research groups.
For next class, read 117 – 127, J # 16.

10/27 Discuss Lamott, work on essay 3 topics and thesis possibilities.
For next class, read 128 – 137, J # 17.

11/1 Turn in any extra credit essays.
Research progress discussion.
For next class, read 138 – 144, J # 18.

11/3 Work on essay 3 in class.

11/8 Submit Essay # 3 at beginning of class. Discuss research.

11/10 Turn in journals. Meet with research group.

11/15 Essay # 3 returned. Bring essay portfolio to class.

11/17, 11/22 Finalize PowerPoint presentation. Last group meetings.

Research papers due December 8. Papers must be in MLA format, with proper parenthetical citations and Works Cited pages. Your Works Cited pages must be in annotated bibliography format.

11/29 - 12/ 13 PowerPoint presentations. Minimum of 20 minutes, maximum of 30 minutes.

Your final exam will include material from all of the PowerPoint presentations and your readings from Lamott. Part of the exam is take-home.

Take-home part of exam handed out in class December 13.