

ENGLISH 101: SEMINAR IN WRITING, 1:00 MWF

Fall, 2000

Instructor: Stacy Bell

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Office: Writing Center, Language Hall 103

Office hours: MW2:00-6:00, and by appointment

### ***Required texts and materials***

Hacker, Diana. *Rules for Writers*, 4th Edition. Bedford.

Readings assigned in class.

A 3 1/2 inch floppy disk for Mac use only.

### ***Course Description***

An examination of grammar, mechanics and principles of effective written expression, with primary emphasis on the expository essay.

### ***Objectives***

The student will demonstrate an understanding of the differences in spoken and written English. The student will apply this understanding in the process of expository writing. The student will submit six 3-5 page essays and one 8-10 page research paper on a selected topic using a minimum of five secondary sources; the essays and research paper will be well-organized and will demonstrate mastery of grammar, mechanics and organization appropriate in college-level writing, as well as the ability effectively to utilize a variety of rhetorical forms.

### ***Responsibilities***

***Late essays:*** Your essays are due at the *beginning* of class on the specified date. I will lower the grade for an unexcused late essay by one full letter grade **for each day it is late**; after one full week the essay will receive a grade of zero.

***Attendance:*** As per Oxford College policy, class begins at five minutes after the hour. If you are not present when class begins, I will mark you absent. If you are not prepared for class, I will mark you absent. You may miss two days of class without penalty, beyond which I will deduct half a letter grade from your final average for each additional unexcused absence. I will excuse absences in the event of a major illness [with a doctor's note], legitimate emergency, or religious observance.

***Plagiarism:*** The work you submit for class must be your own. You may not submit an essay more than once. If you use another author's words or original ideas in your writing, you must give credit to the author by using MLA documentation form as it is presented in *Rules for Writers*. All papers suspected of plagiarism will be turned over to the Honor Council (*Oxford College Handbook* page 49, Article I, number 2). If you are uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism, **please see me**.

***Behavior:*** The instructor and students will display professional and courteous behavior, including but not limited to respect for the opinions of others. What constitutes professional and courteous behavior is at the discretion of the instructor. I will dismiss and mark absent any student who fails to show respect for his or her classmates and/or instructor. Continued disruptions and/or discourtesy will result in automatic dismissal from this class and referral to the Academic Dean. Dismissal from class may negatively impact the final grade.

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**Evaluation:** You will write six essays and one final exam, each worth 10% of the final grade, and one research paper, worth 15% of the final grade. The student will submit a rough draft for each essay. Failure to do so will result in deduction of one half letter from the essay grade, and the student will be marked absent for that day. For each essay submitted, the student will complete an error analysis, due within one week after the graded essay has been returned. No grade will be recorded for the essay until the error analysis is completed. **\*Note:** Your final essay will be evaluated based on a predetermined set of criteria, including demonstration of competency in the mechanics and organization of essay writing. This is a college level writing course; spelling errors will not be tolerated. An essay with more than five spelling errors will receive a failing grade--NO EXCEPTIONS.

**Any student who a) receives a grade of C- or lower on an essay, or b) has failed to cite, in an essay, secondary sources correctly, MUST schedule a conference with me during my regular office hours immediately after receiving the evaluated work.**

You will keep a journal of numbered and dated in-class writing assignments, to be submitted at the end of the semester, and worth 10% of your final grade. The remaining 5% of your grade will be reflected in participation and other in-class work.

Unless you obtain approval from the Academic Dean, there will be no exceptions to the policies outlined in this syllabus, which represents a contract between student and instructor. The instructor will meet her responsibilities in regard to instruction and evaluation of the student, and the student will meet his or her responsibilities in regard to completion of all assignments and adherence to all class policies.

**I have read and understand all components of this syllabus. I agree to adhere to all the policies and guidelines outlined in this syllabus.**

\_\_\_\_\_

signature

\_\_\_\_\_

date

August

30 Introduction and objectives

September

1 From vernacular to formal: Becoming fluent in the Language of the Academy. Examination of the English we speak and discussion of linguistic terms.  
"Speaking across the Divide"; excerpts from *Push* and *As I Lay Dying*

4 LABOR DAY--no class

6 Grammar: The Basics  
*RFW* 474-502

8

11 Essay 1: Writing in the First Person  
"An American Sensibility"; "I Am That I Am"; "Guarding Sing Sing"; "Field Trips"; "Music Is My Bag"; "Stranger Than Pulp Fiction"

13 Introduction to Semester Research Project

15 Rough draft due: peer editing.

18 Essay 1 due  
Essay 2: The Editorial  
"Scaremongering and the Court"; "If Not Now..."; "Your Show of Shows"; "Gore's Surrender"; "OK, Marty, You Win"; "Beta Male"; "Vote for Nader/Vote for Gore"; "Texas Bashing"; "An Amalgam for Leadership?"

20 Research topics are due today, typed.

22 Rough draft due: peer editing.

25 Essay 2 due.  
Essay 3: Taking a Position  
"Calculating the Risk"; "Death Penalty Politics"; "The Man Who Changed Everything"; "The Good Bad Girl"

27

29 Rough Draft Due: Peer Editing

October

2 Essay 3 due  
Essay 4: Speculating about Causes  
"When Good Doctors Go Bad"; "Let Them Eat Fat" and "Letters"; "Maid to Order" and "Letters"

4

6 Rough Draft Due: Peer Editing

9 Essay 4 due

Essay 5: Cause and Effect and Proposing Solutions

"Notebook; 'School Bells' "; "Food from Their Mouths"; "AIDS in Africa"; "Population and Gender Equity"

11 **Research Design due**

13 Class will not meet today.

16 FALL BREAK--no class.

18 Rough Draft Due: Peer Editing

20 Essay 5 due

**Grammar fundamentals review**--focus on troublespots in student essays

23 **Preliminary Report due.** You may not change your topic after today.

25

27

30 **Outline, Initial Draft, and Working Annotated Works Cited due**

November

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8 You may turn in research papers today.

10 Class will not meet today.

13 **Research Papers due**

15 Essay 6: A Critical Analysis of a Work of Short Fiction

Short stories will be on reserve in the library.

17

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22 THANKSGIVING BREAK--no class.

24 THANKSGIVING BREAK--no class.

27

29

December

1

4 Journals Due.

6 Rough Draft Due: Peer Editing

8 Essay 6 due  
Review

11 Review

***Exam Schedule***

Students will report to exam room during their appointed time:

## Required Readings

- "AIDS in Africa." *The Nation* 7/14 Aug. 2000: 4-5.
- Alterman, Eric. "Your Show of Shows." *The Nation* 21/28 Aug. 2000: 13.
- Bartly, Robert L. "An Amalgam for Leadership." *The Wall Street Journal* 7 Aug. 2000: A15+.
- Borosage, Robert L. "Vote for Gore." *The Nation* 21/28 Aug. 2000: 32-.
- Cockburn, Alexander. "Okay, Marty, You Win." *The Nation* 21/28 Aug. 2000: 10.
- . "Scaremongering and the Court." *The Nation* 24/31 July 2000: 8.
- Conover, Ted. "Guarding Sing Sing." *New Yorker* 3 Apr. 2000: 55-67.
- Corn, David. "Gore's Surrender." *The Nation* 21/28 Aug. 2000: 4-5.
- Critser, Greg. "Let Them Eat Fat." *Harper's Magazine* Mar.2000: 41-47. + Letters from May 2000.
- Daun, Meghan. "Music Is My Bag." *Harper's Magazine* Mar. 2000: 64-69.
- Dickerson, Debra. "The Man Who Changed Everything." *Talk* Mar. 2000: 118-123-.
- Dybek, Stuart. "Field Trips." *Harper's Magazine* Feb. 2000: 17-20.
- Ehrenreich, Barbara. "Maid to Order." *Harper's Magazine* Mar. 2000: 59-70. + Letters from May 2000.
- . "Vote for Nader." *The Nation* 21/28 Aug. 2000: 33-.
- Faulkner, William. *As I Lay Dying*. New York: Vintage International, 1930.
- Gawande, Atul. "When Good Doctors Go Bad." *New Yorker* 7 Aug. 2000: 60-68.
- Hitchens, Christopher. "Beta Male." *The Nation* 21/28 Aug. 2000: 11.
- . "If Not Now..." *The Nation* 24/31 July 2000: 9.
- Lahr, John. "Speaking Across the Divide." *New Yorker* 27 Jan. 1997: 35-42.
- Lapham, Lewis. "Notebook: School Bells." *Harper's Magazine* Aug. 2000: 7-9.
- Lowry, Beverly. "The Good Bad Girl." *New Yorker* 9 Feb. 1998: 60-69.
- MacLean, Donna Rawlinson. "I Am That I Am." *Harper's Magazine* Aug. 2000: 18-19.
- Middleman, Raoul. "An American Sensibility." *Harper's Magazine* July 2000: 18-20.
- Saletan, William. "Calculating the Risk." *Mother Jones* July/Aug. 2000: 27-29.

Sapphire. *Push*. New York: Vintage Cont., 1996.

Schwartz, Herman. "Food from Their Mouths." *The Nation* 17 July 2000: 4-5.

Sen, Amartya. "Population and Gender Equity." *The Nation* 24/31 July 2000: 16-18.

Smither, Neal. "Crime Scene Cleaner." *Harper's Magazine* Aug. 2000: 30-32.

"Texas Bashing." *The Houston Chronicle* 20 Aug. 2000: Outlook 2+.