

ENGLISH 101: SEMINAR IN WRITING, 10:00 and 11:00 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

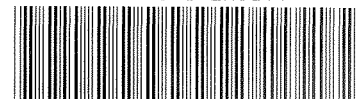
Late essays: Your essays are due at the *beginning* of class on the specified date. I will lower the grade for an unexcused late essay by one full letter grade **for each day it is late**; after one full week the essay will receive a grade of zero.

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

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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

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:

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+.