

ENG 184**Fall 2012**

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Office Hours: MW 3:45-4:45 & F 12:00 -1:00

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Required Course Materials:

- Larry Beason and Mark Lester, A *Commonsense Guide to Grammar and Usage*
- A college-level dictionary
- All other readings will be available on Blackboard

Course Description:

- This is a college-level reading and composition course that will develop your reading comprehension, vocabulary, academic writing, and critical-thinking skills. Working individually, within small groups, and as a class, you will learn to utilize the writing process to generate clear and well-developed sentences, paragraphs, responses, and essays. These skills will enable you both to understand the complex issues that surround us and to act upon this knowledge. Reading to understand and writing to convince are ways to increase your individual power and achieve your goals.
- This course will emphasize writing as intellectual self-defense. Only by developing our ability to consider issues critically and to express ourselves in clear and effective ways will we be able to fully engage in important discussions both as university students and members of our communities. We will use basic principles of comparison, analysis, and argument to examine a variety of issues that will move from the personal to the global or political level. Through the exercises and assignments you complete for this class, the act of writing will emerge as an extraordinary bridge between the personal and the political and serve as a powerful intellectual and practical tool.

Criteria for Success:

- Do not view this class as a throw-away requirement but instead recognize this course as an opportunity to hone your ability to think and to write about important issues in critical

and effective ways with the support and encouragement of your peers.

- Attend class regularly, arrive on time, with all electronic devices turned OFF, and stay for the entire period.
- Complete all homework on time and come to class prepared to discuss readings and other assignments.
- Complete all essays on time and provide all back-up materials required for each assignment.

Course requirements: You will write three complete essays and a number of short pieces in this class. Essay assignments will vary in length from 1000 to 2000 words or approximately four to eight pages. All essays will require first, second, and final drafts. Your classmates and instructor will comment on your drafts and provide suggestions for improvement. These should give you a clear idea of how much revision each piece needs. In addition, you will revise one of your first two essays and write a reflective introduction in which you explain your development as a writer in this course. This class will also include weekly reading assignments, written responses, quizzes, and instruction on mechanical and grammatical conventions.

Grading Policy:

Your final grade will be based on the following course requirements:

➤ Essay 1	15%
➤ Essay 2	20%
➤ Essay 3	25%
➤ Revised Essay	15%
➤ Homework	15%
➤ Participation	10%

Note: For each essay assignment, you need to attend all sessions of peer review and submit copies of your rough drafts with your final draft. If you miss peer review without a valid, documented excuse, I will deduct 10 points from your grade on the final draft.

Note on grades in general: A “C” is the average grade for a student in English 184. This grade shows that you have successfully completed all of the assigned steps in

constructing each essay: done all of the preparatory reading and pre-writing, participated in group discussion, worked through and prepared at least one rough draft, received response from your peer group in class and/ or from me in conference, revised the essay as necessary, and submitted the paper in final form for evaluation. A grade of “C” in this class requires a good deal of work; this is an honorable grade and must be earned through serious effort.

Absence Policy: Because writing skills develop over time, students’ regular attendance is essential in English 184. You are allowed three absences without penalty for the entire semester. After three absences, I will deduct one point from your final grade for each additional absence if you do not have a valid, documented excuse. Further, you are responsible for any work due or assigned on the day of your absence. I reserve the right to amend or abridge the class schedule at any time. If you are not in class, you must make sure no changes have been made during your absence.

Make-up Policy: I do not accept late work for full credit; however, I realize that during the course of the semester, various illnesses and emergencies will arise, so I will give each student an extension on one of the three take-home essays. With this extension, you will be able to submit the paper at the start of the following class meeting. In order to take advantage of this extension, you must communicate with me at least 24 hours prior to the essay’s due date. If you turn a paper in late without prior permission, I will lower your grade by 10 points every day that the essay is late.

Behavior: This is a university class, and students should be respectful of all people in the academic setting. Students should also be respectful of differences of opinion as divergent interpretations often lead to stimulating and rewarding class sessions. I will not tolerate any disruptions – talking while someone else is speaking, answering your cell phone during class discussion, sending text messages during the period – that affect either my ability to conduct class or my students’ ability to learn. If

your behavior is not appropriate to the academic setting, you will be asked to leave and marked absent, which will count toward your three permissible absences.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class or any other at Oxford College. This course requires research on some assignments and takes advantage of group collaboration, critique, and/or brainstorming. It can be hard to clearly separate your own thoughts and analysis from those of others. Here are some guidelines:

- Plagiarism is the act of using ideas, words, sentences, or paragraphs without giving credit to the author and representing these words or ideas as your own.
- Plagiarism is also the act of allowing someone else to substantially edit, alter, or write an assignment for you.
- The most common type of plagiarism is accidental and usually done out of confusion and inexperience. The student usually does not realize what he or she is doing is wrong or may not know how to cite sources correctly. We will be examining this area closely in class. Please feel free to ask questions about this subject.

It is your responsibility to understand the Honor Code, which you can read about in the Oxford College Catalog. If you have any questions about this policy, please ask me before turning in work that is not your own.

Access Policy: If you have any diagnosed physical or learning disabilities that could affect your understanding of or performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the semester. If you suspect that you may have an undiagnosed learning disability, please come and talk to me. I am willing to make reasonable accommodations for any student who is either registered with the Office of Disability Services or feels that he/ she may have a learning disability.

BY ACCEPTING THIS SYLLABUS, YOU ARE AGREEING TO THE TERMS STATED HEREIN

