

Instructor: Stacy Bell

Phone: 770/784-8469 (o); E-mail: stacy_bell@learnlink.emory.edu

Office: Humanities 203

Office hours: MW2:00-5:00, and by appointment

Required Texts

Connolly *Homeless Mothers*

Ehrenreich *Nickel and Dimed*

Sheehan *Life for Me Ain't Been No Crystal Stair*

Urrea *The Devil's Highway*

The Bedford Researcher [Palmquist]

Miscellaneous assigned readings

Course Description & Objectives

This course is an examination of grammar, mechanics and principles of effective written expression, with primary emphasis on the expository essay. Writing topics are interdisciplinary, to emphasize the importance of effective written communication across the curriculum. This section of English 101 is required specifically for students for whom English is not the native language. Students who have been admitted to Oxford are expected to function at a high level of proficiency in English. However, concurrent with the college's mission and goals, language support is necessary for students who are studying in the United States for the first time; for foreign-born students who continue to struggle with English grammatical forms and idioms; and for native born students who use more than one language in the home. Research in second language acquisition suggests that generation 1.5 students who speak the parents' language at home may have difficulties with writing in English, even if they speak and read it fluently.

Language teachers may distinguish between fluency and accuracy in a student's written work; however, teachers in other disciplines may expect strict adherence to standard grammatical forms. The ESL designation is not intended to be punitive; languages are valuable resources, but often it is necessary for multilingual students to negotiate situations in which their resources are undervalued or misunderstood. There is debate among language teachers about the extent to which grammar instruction can improve the quality of a student's writing. The emphasis in this course will be on reviewing grammatical structures which pose difficulties for non-native speakers. It is likely that some students in this course will benefit from direct grammar instruction. Students will continue to develop their skills in identifying and correcting grammatical errors in their written work; the revision process is crucial, and students will be expected to write multiple drafts and to seek help outside the classroom.

In 101 students engage in rhetorical analysis of the texts; at this level students are able to distinguish facts from claim, and can formulate and support their own arguments. The next step is to analyze the use of the various rhetorical forms utilized in contemporary

media. Our texts examine social and economic inequality, and for each text we will discuss and analyze the merits of the author's argument. At the end of the semester, students will use research to strengthen their critical evaluations of the author's argument. Students will examine the differences between spoken and written English and will apply this knowledge in the process of expository writing. Students will submit short essays and one long essay for each text; students will apply secondary sources in at least two of these essays. All essays will be well-organized and will demonstrate mastery of grammar, mechanics and organization appropriate in college-level writing, the ability to utilize a variety of rhetorical forms, and application of MLA guidelines for documentation.

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 the designated time. 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. Attendance includes attentiveness. If you check your email or surf the Internet during class, I will mark you absent. You may miss three 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. If you are absent without an excuse on a day in which an in-class activity is assigned, you will NOT be permitted to make up missed work.

Class Conference/Email: Your class has a learnlink conference. All relevant materials and information will be posted to this conference. It is your responsibility to check the conference regularly. You may contact me via email to inform me about an absence or to ask questions after an excused absence. Do not email me with questions about your grades. Such questions must be asked and answered in person.

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 *The Bedford Handbook*. All papers suspected of plagiarism will be turned over to the Honor Council (*Oxford College Handbook* page 98). If you are uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism, read your handbook and please see me.

* Please note: cell phones and mp3s are strictly forbidden in my classroom. If you have one with you, it had better be turned off and concealed from my sight. If I hear or see it, I'm going to ask you to remove it from the classroom, and I will mark you absent. Laptops are permitted during the final exam *only*.

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 Conduct Council. Dismissal from class may negatively impact the final grade.

Evaluation: You will write at least eight 1-page responses to the texts [2.5 % each], one formal 5-page essay based on each text [15 % each], and one final exam [10%]. The remaining 10% will be reflected in class participation. If you are absent without an excuse on a day in which an in-class activity is assigned, you will NOT be permitted to make up missed work. 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.

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.

print your name

signature

date

AUGUST

29 Introduction and Objectives/ Diagnostic Essay

31

SEPTEMBER

3 Labor Day: Class will not meet today.

5 *The Devil's Highway* First Written Response Due

7

10

12 *The Devil's Highway* Second Written Response Due

14

17

19 Essay One Rough Draft
Individual Presentations

21 Essay One Rough Draft
Individual Presentations

24 Essay One Due
Life for Me Ain't Been No Crystal Stair First Written Response Due

26

28

OCTOBER

1 *Life for Me Ain't Been No Crystal Stair* Second Written Response Due

3

5

8 FALL BREAK--no class.

10 Class will not meet today.

- 12 Class will not meet today.
- 15 Essay Two Rough Draft
Individual Presentations
- 17 Essay Two Rough Draft
Individual Presentations
- 19 Essay Two Due
Nickel and Dimed First Written Response Due
- 22
- 24
- 26
- 29 *Nickel and Dimed* Second Written Response Due
- 31

NOVEMBER

- 2
- 5
- 7 Essay Three Rough Draft
Individual Presentations
- 9 Essay Three Rough Draft
Individual Presentations
- 12 Essay Three Due
Homeless Mothers First Written Response Due
- 14
- 16
- 19 *Homeless Mothers* Second Written Response Due
- 21 THANKSGIVING BREAK--no class.
- 23 THANKSGIVING BREAK--no class.

26

28

30

DECEMBER

3 Essay Four Rough Draft
Individual Presentations

5 Essay Four Rough Draft
Individual Presentations

7 Essay Four Due
Film

10 Film
Review

Exam Schedule

Students will report to exam room during their appointed time:

Time of Exam	Thursday December 13	Friday December 14	Monday December 17	Tuesday December 18	Wednesday December 19
9:00 - 12:00	1:00 T/TH	9:35 MWF	2:00 MW	11:30 T/TH	10:40 MWF
2:00 - 5:00	2:30 T/TH	12:50 MWF	10:00 T/TH	11:45 MWF	8:30 MWF
7:00 - 10:00	3:30 MW		CONFLICT EXAM		