

## English 090W-sp135

### Introduction to Academic Writing

(4 Credits)

**Instructor:** Kristin (Beamer) Cornelius

**Term:** Spring 2010

**Section Location & Time:** S – 261

**Time:** MTW 8:30am – 11:45am

**Office Location:** S - 213

**Office Hours:** Before class, or by appt.

**Email:** [kristinbeamer@delta.edu](mailto:kristinbeamer@delta.edu)

**Office Phone:** 686-9437

**Adverse Weather Line:** (989)686-9179 or 1 (800) 686-9179

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**Prerequisite:** Writing Level 1

**Course Description:** Prerequisite:: Provides those who are not yet prepared for academic work in the regular composition sequence ([ENG 111A](#), [ENG 111](#), [ENG 112](#) or [OAT 150](#), [151](#), [152](#)) with opportunity to improve their writing skills in an interactive and collaborative setting. Includes practice of personal and academic writing with special attention given to individual needs, which may include organization, sentence structure and variety, correct usage, and vocabulary development. Practices active reading strategies to understand, interpret, and apply information from reading. Does not earn credit towards graduation. Must earn a grade of "C" or better in ENG 090 for progression to the next level. (60-0)

#### Outcomes and Objectives for ENG 090W - Introduction to Academic Writing

*Use a writing process for pre-college and college essays at the basic level*

Objectives:

- A. Plan and brainstorm ideas for an essay before beginning to write.
- B. Produce drafts of an essay and show an understanding of revision.
- C. Participate effectively in writing groups and conferences.
- D. Demonstrate an ability to work with written comments.
- E. Produce edited, properly formatted essays.

**Write basic college level essays.**

Objectives:

- A. Use introductions, conclusions, and paragraphs.
- B. Write essays that demonstrate a sense of organization.
- C. Use topic sentences.
- D. Use transitions between sentences and paragraphs.
- E. Write at least two essays with a clear thesis.

**Develop abilities with the more complex aspects of an essay.**

Objectives:

- A. Demonstrate ability to develop significant ideas and use supportive, specific examples.
- B. Write essays that lack confusion.
- C. Write essays that demonstrate an awareness of audience.
- D. Reduce number of errors in grammar, usage, and punctuation.

**Produce written responses to and understand texts at the basic level.**

Objectives:

- A. Demonstrate ability, both orally and in writing, to make personal connections to the ideas in a piece of reading.
- B. Demonstrate an ability to negotiate unfamiliar vocabulary, as well as make new words a part of one's own vocabulary.
- C. Demonstrate basic skills for information literacy, including accessing, analyzing, and using resources such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, handbooks, and the Internet.

**Classroom Practices and Activities**

In order to accomplish the learning outcomes for this course, we will engage in multiple activities, strategies, and methods of learning this semester. The following is a list, by no mean exhaustive, of classroom practices and activities:

- > Apply active writing and reading strategies to a variety of selections
- > Engage in small group work for both reading and writing activities
- > Engage in silent and oral reading as individuals, small groups, and whole class
- > Engage in daily writing activities for personal growth
- > Group reading/writing and discussion activities
- > Revising, Editing, and Conferencing with classmates and with instructor
- > Engage in "Writer's Workshop" activities and assignments
- > Computer work
- > Develop a connection with reading and writing for enjoyment
- > Research related activities
- > Portfolios

**Course Materials: The following materials are *REQUIRED* for this class.**

- Tyner, Tom (2009) *Writings from Life* 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.
- Chris Van Allsburg, *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*
- The *American Heritage* dictionary
- Memory device (USB drive memory stick or thumb drive) for saving work from the computer.
- 1, Three-ring binder - dividers will be useful
- Highlighter (yellow, pink, or orange are preferred)

**Class Policies**

*Due Dates*

All due dates are firm. It is important that you have all of your work done on time - this includes work that will be used to facilitate small group discussions. Having work completed when it is needed allows you to engage in rich, meaningful, collaborative activities with your classmates which will give you a deeper understanding of the course material. In other words, you are not the only one affected by late or missing work - your classmates suffer too.

Any work that is turned in late (not received in class on the due date) will be counted as such, and points will be deducted for each day that it is late. You will lose 5% for each day that it is late. Saturday and Sunday are not counted as late days. There is a limit to the amount of late assignments that will be accepted - no more than three. No assignment will be accepted after one week past the due date. There are times that "life happens" and you may encounter an exceptional circumstance which prevents you from turning in an assignment. Please set up a time to speak with me, and we can try to work out an acceptable solution to the problem.

*Academic Honesty*

All work that you turn in is expected to be original to you. If you have referenced other material, it must be properly cited. Any type of cheating or copying will result in penalties in accordance with Delta's Academic Integrity policy (4.060). In other words, plagiarized work will receive a "0" and you will be reported to the college per the above mentioned policy.

### Active Attendance Policy

Each instructor at Delta has the freedom to set his or her own attendance policy. As a student in the class, it is your responsibility to know what the policy is for each of your classes. In this classroom, active attendance means that you are in class, awake, and participating in discussions and work.

For ENG-090W my expectation is that you are here for every class session. **Attendance for SLA is MANDATORY.** Regardless of the grade you are receiving, or other instructors' policy about SLA attendance, you must be on time and in class when SLA starts. Missing SLA and arriving just for lecture will be looked at as an absence. Two missed classes will result in a required conference to be held with me *during* my office hours. (I will not meet with students to discuss attendance issues immediately before, during, or after class sessions. Please come see me during my office hours or make an appointment). The purpose for the conference is so that we can sit down and discuss any problems you might be having. It also allows for consideration to be given to the issue. Three missed classes can result in an instructor withdrawal from the class. If you are going to stop coming to class, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to drop the class. Do not rely on me to be the one to drop you. Failure to drop yourself from class could result in a failure of the class.

It is your responsibility to arrive on time for class, be prepared for the session, and stay for the duration of time. Therefore arriving late, not being prepared, or leaving early will be treated as "disruptive" as provided under the *Students' Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct* section in the Delta Catalog, and will be dealt with accordingly. If you know that you will not be able to stay for the entire class period, this should be discussed with me ahead of time.

### Grading

All of the grades you receive in this class will be based on points. To find your percentage, you divide the points you have earned by the points that are possible. This will give you a corresponding percentage grade. Delta's current grade scale is as follows:

A	100-94%	C+	79-77%	D+	69- 67%
A-	93-90%	C	76-73%	D	66-63%
B+	89-87%	C-	72-70%	D-	62-60%
B	86-83%			F	59-0%
B-	82 - 80%				

Point values for all assignments will be given in advance. I strongly recommend that students keep track of all of their grades (both the physical assignment and the point value). This can be a great help in case a grade discrepancy should arise. Without your graded work, the grade that is reflected in the grade book stands.

major class assignments will be accompanied by a description sheet, and when appropriate, a rubric which denotes points available for the assignment.

## **Available Assistance**

### *Accommodations*

If you feel you are in need of a classroom accommodation, please contact the Disabilities Support Services department located in the D-wing. Their phone number is 686-9322 and their email is [disabilityservices@delta.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@delta.edu). It is the student's responsibility to take full advantage of these services if needed. If you think you can benefit, please visit as soon as possible. Accommodations cannot be applied retroactively.

### *Computers*

A computer will be used frequently this semester. If you do not have a personal computer at home, there are computers available in the Ricker Center and the LUC as well as other computer labs across main campus and in most public libraries.

### *Counseling and Advising*

The Counseling and Advising Center is located in D-wing on the main campus. For information or to contact them please call 686-9330. They deal with issues related to academic advising, personal matters, and career counseling. They are here to help you, and they are available on a walk-in basis or by appointment. I would suggest making an appointment whenever possible as they do get busy, and you may wait a while to speak with someone.

### *Tutoring*

Drop-in tutoring is provided for you - free of charge. The Teaching/Learning Center (TL/C) is located inside the Library Learning Information Center (LLIC). You will need a student ID to have access to this service. Student ID's are available at the Department of Public Safety.

### *WRIT Center*

The Writing, Reading, and Information Technology Center is located in the back of the LLIC and is available for all students to use. It is available on a drop-in basis and offers one-on-one instruction in revising and editing papers, reading skills and strategy instruction, and help with information technology. I strongly encourage you to stop in at least once to utilize the service. Especially when the instructional time you receive in class and SLA are not sufficient for the task you have been assigned.

### *Adverse Weather Line*

If you are unsure if Delta has cancelled classes due to adverse weather please call 686-9179 or ] (800) 686-9179. You can also check local TV stations for the information.

If the college is closed, class is cancelled. If the college will close or re-open in the middle of a class session, we will not have class. If the college is open, class is in session. However, you must be the judge of the weather conditions. If you do not feel safe traveling, please contact me and stay put. I do not want anyone traveling to class if there is a concern for personal safety. Use your best judgment.

### **Disclaimer**

As the instructor, I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus, and any other course papers, as deemed necessary to help accommodate for class progress and cancellations that may occur. I wish you all the best this semester, and I look forward to building a strong class community with you based on mutual respect and participation.

## Assignment Outlines/Point Values

- 1.) **Class Participation (30 points):** You will receive one point for each class session in which you are present and actively participating. Please refer to your syllabus for the definition of "active participation". If you are absent for any reason, excused or otherwise, you will not receive a point for class participation that day even if you have turned in assignments ahead of schedule.
- 2.) **Paragraph Assignment (5 x 20 points each = 100 points):** You will be expected to write a total of 6 highly polished paragraphs (one for each trait) prior to your first essay. Each paragraph will go through a thorough peer-review and editing process before being turned in.
- 3.) **Harris Burdick Publication (45 points):** You will be completing an original piece of art and poetry based on our work with *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*. In addition to the poetry and art, you will also submit a final copy of a paragraph of your choosing to add to our classroom book that will be created. The final piece of this project will require that you formally "publish" your writing by reading it aloud to the class.
- 4.) **Essays (2 x 100 points each = 200 points):** There will be a total of 2 complete papers in which you will be expected to work through the entire writing process to complete. Ample class time will be spent focuses on these papers, both as individual students and in small and whole group settings. Based on the progression of class, there is a high likelihood that there will be a 3<sup>rd</sup> formal essay assigned.
- 5.) **The Writing Process (2 x 25 points each = 50 points):** During our writer's workshop, you will be focusing on the multiple stages of the writing process in order to learn and grow as a writer. The process is highly valuable and necessary to complete an academic piece of writing. You will be asked to provide evidence of your writing process (brainstorming activities, freewrites, rough drafts, revision papers, etc.) when you submit each formal essay. Based on the progression of class, there is a high likelihood that there will be a 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the writing process for an additional formal essay.
- 6.) **Writing Portfolio (25 points):** The writing portfolio will be a compilation of all of your writing work in this class. Your 3 writing papers will be included, as well as samples of your writing from various points in the semester. You will have one piece of writing for each of the 6 - Traits we will study this semester. This portfolio must be presented in a 3-ring binder with dividers. Further information will be given at a later date in class.
- 7.) **In-Class and Homework Assignments (5-10 points each):** Throughout the semester you may be asked to engage in various activities or assignments in class or as homework. Due dates, exact point value, and directions will be given at a later date in class.