

ENGLISH 090

WINTER 2009

Instructor: Julia Fogarty, Professor

Office Hours: MW 11:00-11:30 and M 2:00-2:30; TTh 11:00-12:00

and by appointment

Office: S-26

Telephone: 686-9017; Secretary: 686-9408

email: jtfogart@delta.edu (notice there is no final "y" on my name)

FAX: (989) 686-0485

GENERAL FORMAT:

Welcome to English 111A. I'm sure each of you has a somewhat different set of expectations about this course but, those differences aside, you're probably all expecting a course that is more or less similar to those you've had in the past.

Our 111A class, I hope, will be different from what you're expecting and better.

My job, generally speaking, is to teach you the conventions of writing and reading and being a student in a college setting and by "conventions" I mean simply the way it's done in college. I've found that the best way to do my job is to arrange the course so that it is like the courses I took in college. In those courses, we, the students, were, in a way, in charge of the course. The teacher was always there but more as a helpful guide and facilitator. She did very little lecturing; she was more like one of us, only she had more knowledge and experience in the subject we were studying. We read books about the subject and then got together during class time and occasionally at other times in restaurants or bars and talked about what we'd read. We'd work together to try to figure out what the writers were saying and we'd discuss our own ideas and thoughts about the material. Our teacher would give us paper assignment deadlines and we'd express our ideas in those papers, using our reading and our group discussions to explain and back up our thoughts.

These classes were rarely boring and, in fact, were usually quite fun. I learned a great deal being a student in this kind of course and I've found that most other students do too. **It does, however, require that the students come to class prepared, with a positive attitude, mentally alert, and ready to work and learn. With these elements present, the class can be lively and fun for everyone.**

From time to time, I will be giving you specific information about how to read more effectively and easily and how to write. Also, when we write our formal papers, we'll do it in stages; we'll bring our rough drafts to class and exchange them with our classmates so we can get some help making sure our ideas are expressed clearly and correctly.

Our texts for the semester will be:

The Kite Runner

Coursepack to be purchased in the bookstore

Other materials you'll need are:

One 1-inch three-ring binder (spiral notebooks will not work)

At least five dividers and tabs for the dividers

8 ½ x 11 inch lined paper punched with three holes for the binder

A three-hole punch
A computer flashdrive

Label the dividers as follows:

SLA
Notes on Reading and Writing
Logs
Essays
Handouts

Course outcomes and objectives are attached.

GROUND RULES:

For Me:

I'll provide you with reading materials that will contribute to your thinking, writing, and class discussions. I'll help plan writing and reading assignments and class activities designed to make you a more capable reader, writer and participating student at the college level. I'll set up a rotation schedule of conferences so that each of you can meet with me individually for help on a regular basis. I'll return your work with comments and feedback. Finally, I'll try to create a supportive and respectful atmosphere that will allow you to freely express your ideas and thoughts.

For You:

1. (The following attendance policy is subject to revision.) Plan to attend all class sessions and to come prepared; your classmates will be counting on you. In order to have a positive, motivated, active class so that everyone will do well and enjoy the course, each of us has to take on the responsibility for being present, motivated, prepared and active. **Missing more than two class sessions will reduce your final grade by half a grade for each additional absence. For example, if you earn a B but are absent three times, that one absence over the limit of two will reduce the B to a B-. Four absences would reduce it to a C and so on.**

If you miss more than 5 sessions or if you miss more than 3 in a row, I will drop you from the course.

This is not to imply that it is ever okay to miss class but it does acknowledge that occasionally events occur that are out of our control, such as automobile accidents. Only in such extreme cases should you miss class. Dentist appointments and so forth are within our control and should not be made during class time.

If you do have an extreme emergency and cannot attend a class, you must contact me prior to or immediately following the class. I have voice mail so you can leave a message any time. **Being absent is not an excuse for being unprepared for the next class session.**

This bears repeating: Being absent is not an excuse for being unprepared for the next class session.

After each class session, I will leave in the mailbox on my office door copies of the assignment and handouts for that day's class. If you are absent, you will need to come and pick them up so that you can then be prepared and have the homework done for the next class session. If you

call and provide me with a fax number, I can fax them to you. I may be able to email them to you. You'll also want to contact a classmate for information about what you missed.

Remember that for each day you miss, your homework for that day will also be discounted as being late unless you drop it in my mailbox on the due day.

Be on time and don't leave early. Slipping in and out of class may be possible in a lecture course where the course can easily go on without you, but it is very disruptive in an activity-based course where you and your presence matters. Your colleagues will need your input for the entire class and shouldn't be asked to give up valuable class time to get you up to speed on what's going on or be disrupted because you're packing up and walking out.

If you are late three times, you will receive a written warning. The next time will result in your being dropped from the course.

Under no conditions are cell phones allowed in the classroom unless they are **put away and turned off**. **The same goes for laptop computers. The class needs your undivided attention.**

It's important that you be alert and attentive. Even the appearance of sleeping in class will result in two written warnings, after which you'll be dropped from the class. If you are working too much or your car doesn't run or you have other obligations that prevent you from attending the whole class and attending regularly, you should drop the course and reregister for it when your life situation is such that you can be a successful student.

2. Turn in your assignments on time. Everything will be due at the beginning of the class period; I usually either collect or go around and check homework first thing. Any piece not ready then cannot be turned in until the following day. Late assignments will be marked down 10% for each day (not class meeting) they are late.
3. From time to time you'll be asked to provide copies of your essays for the class or a particular group. If you are working on a computer in the Delta Computer Lab, the lab will no longer allow students to print out multiple copies.
4. "Did You Read It?" quizzes cannot be made up.
5. If you are absent on a writing workshop day, you can arrange with another student to respond to each other's papers but those responses will be marked late.
6. Keep **all** of your work--all prewriting and drafts of papers, all reading response logs, other assignments, etc. organized in your notebook. **Don't throw anything away**. I rarely make mistakes recording grades in my book but it can happen. One thing I have learned as a student myself is that I must take responsibility for being able to reproduce work a teacher may have recorded mistakenly or forgotten to record. I even go so far as to make sure I have a xerox copy of anything I turn in to someone. It's my grade that's on the line.
7. All final drafts of formal papers and all reading response/literature circle logs **must be typed and double spaced**. All other assignments may be neatly handwritten but I encourage you to use a word processor as much as possible.
8. Logs or Papers that are turned in too late to be worth points must, nevertheless, be done to pass the class and must be done at "C" level or better.

9. Side conversations taking place while someone else is speaking or has the floor, including myself, will result in two written warnings. After that, you will be dropped from the course. The same is true of using or looking at a cell phone or laptop during class time.
10. If your printer breaks at home, you must bring your disk in to campus and print out your assigned material in one of the labs before class. As a faculty member, I cannot function as your printing service. In other words, don't count on emailing your assignment to me for me to print out. (If you are absent due to an emergency and need to email me your assignment just to get it in on time, that's fine.)
11. Delta's plagiarism policy is in effect in this class.

Rough Estimate of Points:

3 Formal Essays

Prewriting	15
Discovery Draft	15
Rough Draft 1	15
Rough Draft 2	15
Final	140, 240, 340 (papers 1, 2, 3 respectively)
Total:	900

(Prewriting and Draft points are awarded when due but may be reduced later when the entire packet is turned in if the drafts are not indicating real progress toward the final.)

Peer Responses to Essays

Each	15 x 5	75
------	--------	----

Reader Response/Literature Circle Logs

Each	25 x 10	250
------	---------	-----

Reading Quizzes

Each	5 x 14	70
------	--------	----

Total:	395
---------------	------------

Grand Total:	1595
---------------------	-------------

Grades:

1595-1396	A
1396-1197	B
1197-998	C
998-797	D
797 or below	E

VERY Very Important Note: All Essays and Reader Response/Literature Circle Logs must be turned in to pass the class. You must also receive a grade of C or better on at least two of the three formal essays to pass the class, regardless of what your point total may be.

mysyllabusdisk