

Delta College
English 090-SP130:
Introduction to Academic Writing

Instructor: H.M. Kanicki

Class Location/Time:

Ricker Center

MTWR, 9:30 am - 12:10 pm

Office Information:

Faculty Lounge

T/R 12:20 pm - 1:20 pm

Required Course Textbooks & Materials:

College Writing Skills with Readings (8th edition) by John Langan

A notebook for class notes and assignments

A sense of humor & willingness to learn

Summation of Course Description & Outcomes:

This course gives students the opportunity to improve their writing skills and to prepare them for future academic work. Students will develop a writing process for pre-college and college papers as well as abilities with the basic and complex structures of an essay.

Grade Scale & Course Break-Down:

A (93-100)	C (73-76)	Reflectionary Writings (RW)	10%
A- (90-92)	C- (70-72)	In-Class Activities/Quizzes	10%
B+ (87-89)	D+ (67-69)	Summaries	20%
B (83-86)	D (63-66)	Exemplification Paper	30%
B- (80-82)	F (0-62)	Exams	30%
C+ (77-79)			

Some Tips on How to Pass This Course:

- 1) Take excellent notes while you read as well as in class.
- 2) Keep everything until the end of the semester, including electronic copies of your papers.
- 3) TRY!
- 4) Keep your sense of humor.
- 5) Lather, rinse and repeat.

Course Policies:

Attendance: After 4 absences, you will automatically fail the course and the instructor initiated drop form will be applied. If you will be unable to attend class regularly, I recommend dropping it and taking it at a more convenient time.

Late Papers/Extensions: Due dates are listed in the course calendar. **I will not accept papers after that date for any reason.** If absent, email them to me by **the end of class** on the due date. After that deadline, you receive an automatic and irreversible zero. If needed, I do offer

extensions if notified 24-48 hours before the paper due date. Extensions will not be given after the due date.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism (the use of another person's words, ideas, images, etc.) is a serious offense, and is akin to stealing. If a student is found to be plagiarizing, depending on the severity, he will either 1) fail the assignment irrevocably or 2) fail the course and be reported to the proper authorities. ***This is your only warning.***

SLA Tutoring: All students are **required** to attend the tutoring sessions. **Three** missed SLA sessions will count as one full class absence.

Conferences: There are 3 **mandatory** conferences set-up during the semester. During conferences, your major assignments will be discussed and improved upon. Students who are late will risk having only a partial conference as I will not push back others in order to cater to tardiness.

Assignment Requirements:

ALL assignments, except for in-class work, reading logs and quizzes/examinations are to be:

- 1) typed; double spaced; in Times New Roman, 12 point font
- 2) follow the MLA standard of citation and paper format
- 3) follow the instructions posted in the "Paper and Assignment Descriptions" section of this syllabus (number of sources and pages are to be **strictly** adhered to)
- 4) use proper grammar and spelling.

Paper and Assignment Descriptions:

In-Class Work: **no make-ups**

- To be done during class time unless assignment carries over to homework (in which case it is due the following class).
- Will vary in length and direction; assignments do not need to be typed.
- **Notes will be graded in this course**, so good note taking strategies are a good idea.
 - **I am looking for not only in class notes, but notes from the book readings as well.**

Exams and Quizzes: **no make-ups**

- Will be over topics discussed in class.
- Dates for exams and quizzes are noted in the course calendar.

Reflectionary Writing (minimum of 2 paragraphs each **unless otherwise noted**):

- Questions for reflectionary writing can be found in syllabus under "Homework."
- Writings are due the class following their assigning.
- Answers should be thoughtful and reflective.

Summaries: will be written for the following readings -

- ↳ "College Lectures" on pages 744-47 of *CWS*
- ↳ Your possible sources for the exemplification essay (3 in total)

Exemplification Paper (a paper that uses examples):

- Length: 2-3 pages
- Minimum number of sources: 1
- Compose an exemplification paper on a topic you find interesting. You will need to find one source to use in the paper, but personal examples are fine.

Course Calendar:

Monday, May 7

Syllabus & Introduction
Note Taking Strategies

Homework:

Reflectionary Writing (RW): Why are you in college and what do you hope to gain from this experience?
EMAIL PROFESSOR KANICKI

Tuesday, May 8

RW DUE
Writing Key Words
Capital Letters

Homework:

Chapters 1 & 2 in CWS

Wednesday, May 9

The Writing Process: A Summary

Thursday, May 10

NOTEBOOKS DUE
Quiz on Capital Letters
The First Steps in Writing

Homework:

Chapter 3 in CWS
Activities 16 (pgs. 74-75) & 18 (pgs. 76-77)

Monday, May 14

ACTIVITIES 16 & 18 DUE
The Next Steps in Writing
Making Sentences Stronger

Tuesday, May 15

Quiz on Writing Key Words
Fragments

Homework:

Chapter 24 & 25 in CWS

Wednesday, May 16

Run-Ons

Homework:

Read "College Lectures" pages 744-47

Thursday, May 17

NOTEBOOKS DUE
Quiz on Fragments, Run-ons & Thesis
Tone & Audience in Writing
How to write a summary

Homework:

Create draft for summary of "College Lectures"

Monday, May 21

SUMMARY DRAFT DUE

Organization Day

Apostrophes

Homework:

RW: Why do you think "table pounding," in your own words, is such a bad idea?

Tuesday, May 22

RW DUE

Quiz on fragments, run-ons & thesis statements

Adjectives & Adverbs; Descriptive Language

Wednesday, May 23

Continue Descriptive Language

Effective Word Choice

Begin conferences on summary drafts

Homework:

Chapter 8 in *CWS*

Thursday, May 24

RW DUE

Commas

Remaining conferences on summary draft

Homework:

Edit summary draft

RW: What topic would you like to write about for your exemplification essay? What interests you about that topic?

Monday, May 28 - Tuesday, May 29

MEMORIAL DAY BREAK

Wednesday, May 30

FINAL SUMMARY DUE

RW DUE

Midterm review

Thursday, May 31

NOTEBOOKS DUE

Mid-Term Exam

Homework:

Chapter 13 in *CWS*

Monday, June 4

Exemplification Papers: The How To

What makes a good source?

Begin finding good sources

Homework:

RW: Choose a life-changing event and clearly describe it. What happened? How did it affect/change you?

Tuesday, June 5

RW DUE

MLA Overview

Homework:

Chapter 21 *CWS*

RW: Why do you think it is so important to use sources in your writing?

Write summaries of 3 sources found

Wednesday, June 6

RW DUE; SUMMARIES DUE

Begin exemplification essays

MLA in practice

Homework:

Chapter 10 in *CWS*

Thursday, June 7

NOTEBOOKS DUE

Continue working on draft

DRAFT DUE BY END OF CLASS

Homework:

Chapter 22 in *CWS*

Monday, June 11

Conferences on draft

Homework:

Complete changes to draft

Tuesday, June 12

DRAFT 2 OF EXEMP. ESSAY DUE

Quiz 2 on fragments, run-ons & punctuation

Argumentative Papers

Homework:

RW: If you could back in time and teach yourself one life-lesson that you've learned in the past year, what would that lesson be?

Wednesday, June 13

RW DUE

Quiz on Adjectives & Adverbs

Narrative Writing

Homework:

Chapter 9 in *CWS*

RW: What is your definition of being thankful? Write me a narrative where you **describe and define** this concept.

Thursday, June 14

RW DUE; NOTEBOOKS DUE

Conferences on draft 2

Homework:

Complete final revisions on paper

Monday, June 18

Computer Day!

FINAL EXEMP. PAPER DUE

BY END OF CLASS

Homework:

Chapter 20 in *CWS*

RW: Reflect on your writing. In several paragraphs, discuss 1) how you've improved and 2) what you need to work on yet.

Tuesday, June 19

RW DUE

Resumes & Cover Letters

Homework:

RW: How has this first class experience enriched you? What have you learned about yourself?

Wednesday, June 20

RW DUE

Review game for final exam

Thursday, June 21

Final Exam

Delta/SVSU Grading Rubric

NOTE: Papers that fail to fulfill requirements for paper length and number of sources will automatically be docked points before this rubric is even referenced. Such papers risk receiving zeros points all together.

Thesis: clearly stated; contains both a topic and argument about it; size is appropriate	10	5	0
Introduction: contains hook; is several sentences long and leads well into thesis statement	5	0	
Word choice & tone: uses appropriate diction and avoids "table pounding"	5	4	3 2 0
Proofreading: few to no errors in grammar and avoids the proverbial "typo"	10	8	6 4 0
Quotes are setup, explained and linked (when appropriate) to original thesis point	10	8	6 4 0
MLA: 1" margins; .5" indents for paragraphs; 1" indent for long quotes; double spaced Correctly formatted page numbers; contains citations for each quote/paraphrase Name, class information, professor's name and the date appear ONLY ON PAGE 1	20	15	10 5 0
Conclusion: ties up loose ends and reconfirms thesis while not introducing new ideas or trailing off	10	5	0
Point is proven: Main points are backed up with proof (data, statistics, quotes that are explained, etc.) Paragraphs and ideas are logically related and linked through transitions Contains no circular statements; writing is clear and understandable Rarely strays from the topic by referring back to the original thesis point WIKIPEDIA HAS NOT BEEN USED AS SOURCE	20	15	10 5 0
Works Cited: formatting is correct and contains all sources used in the paper	10	8	6 4 0

Comments: _____
Total Points: _____