

ENG 098 – PREPARING FOR COLLEGE WRITING

SPRING 2012

Instructor : Ronald L. Brown (call me Ron, please.)

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday – 5:00 – 5:55

Other times by appointment – please don't hesitate to ask

How to Get in Touch With Me:

E-mail (the best way): ronaldbrown@delta.edu or brownhiron@yahoo.com

Cell phone: 989-450-2731 (Note: If you text me, please first indicate your name)

Delta College Main Number: 989-686-9000

English Division Offices: 989-686-9159

Sue Deford, English Division Secretary: sdeford@delta.edu

Texts: *Conquering Writing Anxiety* by Cynthia K. Arem

English Brush-up by John Langan and Janet Goldstein

How I determine your final grade:

Personal Essay Assignment – 20 points

Argument Assignment – 25 points

Reading Responses – 20 points

“Brush-up” exercises – 15 points

Homework – 10 points

Attendance and in-class participation – 10 points

PLEASE NOTE – All assignments, lesson plans, etc. are subject to possible change at the discretion of the instructor.

Total points available – 100

Grading Scale:

93-100 – A	89-92 – A-	85-88 – B+	82-84 – B
79-81 – B-	74 – 78 – C+	71-73 – C	69 – 70 – C-
67-68 – D+	62-66 – D	60-61 – D-	59-Below - F

Late Paper Policy:

- All homework, including drafts of major assignments, will be due by the start of that day’s class.
- No late homework will be accepted.
- All final drafts of major assignments are due no later than 12 midnight on the day established (Example: If an assignment is due Wednesday, you’ll have until Wednesday at midnight/going into Thursday).
- You may turn in one late paper no later than 12 noon the day after it’s due.
- Your score on each late paper will automatically be reduced by 25% of the available points on the assignment.
- There will be no exceptions.

Turning in Papers:

- All homework and major assignments must be typed and **double-spaced**.
- All work must be posted on D2L in either Word or Rich Text Format files. There may be times when you’ll be asked to bring in a hard copy of an assignment. We’ll spend some “get acquainted” time with D2L as needed.
- No late homework will be accepted.
- If I am ill and will be absent for class, I will attempt to “mass text” everyone, and I’ll also send out an e-mail as soon as possible.

Other considerations:

- I will deduct one point for your first missed homework assignment or an absence and an additional half- point for all other absences and missed homework.

-If your point totals at the end of the semester are “close” – for example, if you’ve earned 92.4 points, I may raise the grade to a straight “A,” depending on your overall performance and effort. The point here: **try hard – all the time.**

-I rarely allow extra credit; if I do, you must already be passing the class without it in order to be “eligible.” In other words, no one will pass this class if extra credit puts them “over the line.”

Conferences:

I will meet with each of you individually at least once, and perhaps twice, during the marking period. These meetings will take place during our regular class time and will be used to discuss current assignments, overall performance, and other issues you or I feel relevant at the time.

If there is an assignment due for that day and you come to your meeting without that work posted on D2L, you will automatically be marked absent.

Instructor Initiated Drop for Lack of Attendance:

Your English Division instructor will drop you from this course if you miss, for any reason, in excess of 2/15 of your classes, or a total of two classes, for this course. This is an English Division policy.

Teaching and Learning Center:

Our library is a great resource for many reasons, including the Teaching and Learning Center, which can assist you with writing, proofreading, and revision of your work from this class. Help is given on a walk-in basis, and you can call the Library at 686-9560 for more information. They also have a great website: www.delta.edu/tlc.

Disability Services:

Delta College has an outstanding department to assist those with physical or learning disabilities. Please feel free to contact Michael Cooper at 686-9322 if you feel you may be in need of their services.

Academic Integrity:

Delta’s policy in this regard follows at the end of this document. Bottom line: do your own work. Plagiarism is not that difficult to detect and if you’re guilty, you will fail the assignment in question at the very least and could be dropped from the class.

Notes and Observations:

-Please be respectful of the class environment and your fellow students. Give those speaking the respect you want and deserve when it's time for you to talk. I'm real big on acting like ladies and gentlemen.

-Please **turn off** all cell phones – no beeps, buzzers, etc. **Please do not text in my class.** I ask nicely here. If you choose to do so, I consider it a personal affront – I don't like to be "personally affronted."

-If you're monitoring a family situation – a child's illness or other emergency – and want to keep your cell phone on "vibrate," please let me know before class.

-Please give yourself credit for being a thinking human being. You may not like to write, but it's not because you're a "bad writer." You haven't written enough to even know if you are a bad writer – you are an "evolving" writer. I do not tolerate negative self-talk.

-You may not have the right answer, but I respect and encourage making an effort. We're not always going to be correct in our judgments, but you will simply become a better student by consistently making an effort. You will find as the semester moves forward that many of your questions will be immediately followed by one of my own: "What do you think?"

Attendance Policy/Instructor Initiated Drop for Lack of Attendance:

Your English Division instructor will drop you from this course if you miss, for any reason, in excess of 2/15 of your classes for this course. For this particular class this semester (or term) that means in excess of **two** class periods. This is an English Division policy.

Outcomes and Objectives:

Use a writing process for pre-college and college essays at the intermediate 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 intermediate 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 and punctuation

Produce written responses to and understand texts at the intermediate 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 intermediate skills for information literacy, including accessing, analyzing, and using resources such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, handbooks, and the Internet