

Fall 2011 Syllabus
English 111: College Composition I
Delta College (3 credits)

Instructor: Nichole Bartel

Office: S053

Office Hours: Tuesday 4:30-5:45 or by appointment

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Mailbox: S-006 (Note that this is not the same room as my office.)

Required Texts and Resources:

On Writing Well by William Zinsser

Me Talk Pretty One Day by David Sedaris

Desire to Learn access for additional readings and class materials

One (or both) of the following:

Kirszner, Laurie and Stephen R. Mandel. *The Pocket Wadsworth Handbook*, 5th ed. Boston: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning, 2012

OR an online source offering similar information such as:

-Writer's Help: <http://writershelp.bedfordstmartins.com/ebooks/helphandbook.php> (requires paid subscription)

-The Purdue OWL: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/> (free)

Required Materials:

*2 pocket folder for turning in essays and all process documents

*A standard sized one or two subject notebook for grammar logs/journals

*A 3-ring binder to organize your notes, handouts, and other work

*USB flash drive for saving and backing up your work

*A Delta e-mail address

*12-3 x 5 note cards

*A collegiate level dictionary

Introduction

Welcome to English 111! The goal of this class is to help you become a better writer, which will benefit you throughout college and life. Writing is a craft. Like any other craft, it takes practice to master. You will get a great deal of practice with writing and revision. You will give and get constructive feedback as we become a community of learners.

If the thought of writing essays intimidates you, don't stress! You will learn strategies to help writing tasks become less difficult and more enjoyable. Your essays will be broken down into manageable steps, and you will have plenty of time to revise. You will learn to combat writer's block so you know what to do when you don't even know what to say or where to start.

In addition, you will hone your critical thinking and research skills. You will learn how to summarize accurately and to write thoughtful reading responses. Our reading will mostly center on the kind of writing we are doing as we read model essays written by accomplished authors as well as student writers.

I am committed to do everything I can to help you succeed. If you work hard, I know you will!

Course Description (from the Delta College Catalog):

Develops fluent, effective, and confident writers. Practices the process of composing; generating ideas; shaping and evaluating writing. Uses reading and language awareness to further the development of writing.

Outcomes and Objectives:

According to the standards set by Delta's English Division, a successful student in this class should be able to master the following outcomes and objectives:

Write effectively for appropriate rhetorical situations.

Objectives:

- A. Use the writing process: pre-write, write, and revise.
- B. Write with clarity.
- C. Select, organize, and present details to support a main idea.
- D. Use generalizations and details effectively.

Read effectively.

Objectives:

- A. Demonstrate the ability to derive meaning of text from multiple perspectives.
- B. Demonstrate the ability to distinguish between the meaning one makes of a text and the author's intended purpose.
- C. Show comprehension by accurately paraphrasing and summarizing a wide variety of texts.

Develop critical thinking skills.

Objectives:

- A. Explore the relationships among language, knowledge, and power.
- B. Develop critical thinking skills and apply them to reading texts.
- C. Demonstrate intermediate skills for information literacy, including accessing, analyzing, and using resources.

Grade Calculation**Essays: 700 points**

With each writing assignment, you will have multiple drafts due (the rough draft, the instructor draft, and the final draft). You must come with a draft at each stage of the writing process to receive full credit for the assignment. If you don't take the drafting process seriously (i.e. your final draft is almost or exactly the same as your previous drafts except for minor editing), you will be asked to revise and resubmit your essay and be marked down one whole letter grade. If this happens again, you will have to resubmit and be marked down two full letter grades. Writing is a process of revision, and to be successful in this class you must demonstrate your best effort in revision. You will receive a detailed rubric for each assignment, which will give you the criteria I am using to score your essay. You must turn in each major essay with the gateway criteria for scoring including your folder, rubric, and all process documents. We will go over what this means in class.

Essay #1- Narrative Essay=150 points
Essay #2- Descriptive Essay =150 points
Essay #3- I-Search Essay=200 points
Essay #4 Persuasive Letter/Rhetorical Analysis=100 points
Final Reflection Essay/Exam=100 points

Out of class writing: 200 points

Out of class writing will mostly consist of reading logs, online discussion posts, and summary responses. Writing about what you have read will help you understand it and clarify your thoughts on it. Writing about the reading will also help prepare you for class discussion. I prefer summary responses to be typed but will accept handwritten work. In addition, you will also have other homework assignments like research logs, proposals, sample critiques, and quizzes. You will receive detailed instructions on each assignment.

Participation and in class writing: 50 points

You will get participation points for coming to class, being involved in class discussion, and keeping a journal for in class writing. You will have a number of opportunities to free write on a topic or respond to a prompt. In class journal writing cannot to be made up. I will not correct your grammar or punctuation on these journals. This is your place to write without rules. I will periodically be checking your journals throughout the semester. Participation in writing workshops, instructor conferences, and class discussions is also crucial to your success in this class. You will lose participation points if you don't come to class prepared with a rough draft, if you miss a conference, or if you aren't prepared for class discussion.

Grammar and Mechanics Journal: 60 points

You will use your grammar and mechanics journal to identify and improve your surface or sentence level issues with writing. I'll explain what these terms mean in more detail, but most of the time this means the issues you may have with grammar, punctuation, and spelling. (You don't have to log errors with MLA style and other essay issues like paragraph breaks and formatting). Any time you make an error of this nature in your paper (like a comma splice or run on sentence), you will need to look up the rule in your handbook or online at a reputable source (like the Purdue OWL). You must find the reason for the error and explain the rule. You will demonstrate how the error should be corrected. If you have many of the same errors in one assignment, you only have to correct one instance of that error. If you make that error again in another assignment, however, you need to correct the error again. You will also include the assignment, the date, and where you found the information you needed to correct the error. The grammar journal will need to be completed on homework and final drafts of assignments.

Total Points Available=1010 points

Grading Scale

95-100=A	83-86=B	73-76=C	63-66=D
90-94=A-	80-82=B-	70-72=C-	60-62=D-
87-89=B+	77-79=C+	67-69=D+	59 & Below=F

Format

All rough drafts and final drafts of essays must be typed, double-spaced on 8 ½ by 11 with 1 inch margins on typing paper and formatted in MLA style using 12 point font. I prefer your summary responses and other homework assignments to be typed as well (with the exception of reading logs), but I will accept handwritten work on out of class homework.

Electronic Considerations

Always back up work your with a flash drive and send it to yourself as an attachment in an e-mail. You may also save it to your locker on Desire to Learn or upload it to your portal. I won't accept excuses about forgotten or failed technology because I will expect you to back up your work frequently.

Notebook

Since you will be putting together a portfolio for this class, **it is crucial for you to save all of your rough drafts, final drafts, and feedback.** Use a three ring binder to organize all course materials: essay drafts, reading logs, journal writes, summary responses, and your grammar and mechanics log.

Late Work

All papers are due on the due date at the beginning of class. Print your paper out well in advance, not at the beginning of class. If you cannot attend class, you must see that I receive your assignment prior to the beginning of class. You may have it delivered by someone you know or you may upload it to Desire to Learn in the "absent homework" folder and send me an e-mail so I know it is there. I do not accept late work, but I will make one exception to accommodate unfortunate and uncontrollable circumstances. I will accept **ONLY ONE** late major essay per student. You will have up to one week past the due date to turn the paper in. This will be the **ONLY** case in which I will accept late work. **I do not accept late homework for any reason.**

Attendance

Attendance is crucial to your success in this class. According to the English Division's attendance policy, if you miss, for any reason, in excess of 2/15 of your classes for this course, your English Division Instructor may drop you from the course. For this particular course this semester (or term) that means in excess of two classes. Three tardies equal one absence. If you leave early or arrive late and miss more than 20 minutes of class, you will be marked absent. I expect your full participation in class. Also, being present means actively listening and being involved in class. If you come to class, but aren't fully present, for example, if I catch you texting, Facebooking, sleeping, or shopping online on your computer, I will give you a warning and you will lose 10 participation points. If it happens again I will mark you absent from class.

Early Alert

In an effort to ensure you have the supports necessary to be successful, Delta College has a MyAlert/Early Alert Referral Program. If I feel you could benefit from additional support outside of the classroom, I may make a referral.

Accommodations

If you have a documented disability which affects your academic performance, and need an academic accommodation, please contact the Office of Disability Services in D102. The telephone number is 686-9330.

Classroom Conduct

- Arrive on time.
- Treat your instructor and fellow classmates with courtesy and respect. Don't have personal side conversations while others are speaking.
- Pay attention and participate in class discussions.
- Turn off all cell phones, iPods, etc... and put other reading or class work away while class is in session.
- No laptops should be out during class lectures. Take notes with pen and paper unless you have a reason that you need to use a laptop.
- Lab computers are only to be used for English 111 coursework. Do not check your *Facebook* page or use lab computers for other purposes.

Please note: If you disrespect others or become a distraction to the learning process of your fellow classmates you may be removed from the class for one or more class periods or dropped from the course, according to Delta's Disruptive Students policy. You can find this policy at <https://public.delta.edu/catalog/Pages/Policies.aspx> under "Rules and Regulations."

Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty

Using another person's specific words, thoughts, or ideas and passing them off as your own is a serious offense and will result in an "F" for the paper and possibly the course. Taking words or ideas from a source and not properly citing them is considered plagiarism. Using work previously submitted for another course is also not acceptable. If you are unsure and think you may have done something wrong, don't turn the paper in. Come ask me for help. For more information about Delta's policies on plagiarism see the Delta College's Plagiarism policy at <http://www3.delta.edu/english/plagiarism.html>.

WRIT Center

The Delta College WRIT Center is located at the back of the library, **near A-125**. Formerly called the Writing Center Café, the WRIT Center now can assist you with reading strategies and Information Technology (IT). The WRIT Center can help you at any stage of the writing process. Whether you need help brainstorming a topic, revising a cover letter for a job application, or just need one final pair of eyes to look over a piece you've written, the WRIT Center can help. The WRIT Center has also recently added a Virtual Writing Center. You can upload your paper online, and you will receive thoughtful feedback within 48 hours (Monday-Friday).

Syllabus Revision

I reserve the right to modify this syllabus if necessary to meet course objectives or to accommodate unforeseen circumstances. Student response will be considered before I make any changes. I will notify students of any changes in a timely matter.