

Fall 2010 Syllabus
ENG 111C-FA652: College Composition 1
The Balancing Act Learning Community
S-055, Main Campus
TR 8:30 – 10:55 a.m.

Instructor: Michael Somers, Assistant Professor of English
Instructor Credentials: M.A.-English/Writing (Northern Michigan University, 2003); B.A.-English (Albion College, 1997)
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 TR: 11 a.m. - Noon
 Or by appointment

Required Texts:

Stories from the Edge by Jimmy Santiago Baca
Publisher: Heinemann
ISBN: 978-0-325-02948-1

Romeo and Juliet (No Fear Shakespeare Edition)
Publisher: Spark Publishing
ISBN: 978-1-58663-845-0

Note: *Everything else we will read will be provided to you as electronic documents and through websites.*

Required Software:

<http://free.avg.com/us-en/download-avg-anti-virus-free-edition>

<http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

<http://www.jingproject.com/>

Microsoft Office, Google Docs, or Open Office <http://www.openoffice.org/> (It's free!)

Required Accounts (Register Using Your Delta E-mail Account):

<http://www.delicious.com>

<http://www.google.com>

<http://www.blogger.com>

Instructor Greeting:

Welcome to English 111! You are in a very special section of the course—using laptops as a way to practice writing and learn the conventions of academic writing. I am very excited because I sincerely believe that learning to write using computers is a better way of teaching composition.

Although I am available during the class period, in my office before and after class, and by phone, I will also be sending messages to your Delta e-mail account. Please check your Delta e-mail regularly (at least every other day) to see if I have left message. Checking your Delta e-mail is a good habit. You will receive information from Delta College in your inbox. Much of this information is about your registration, grades, and other related matters.

Since laptops will serve as your primary way of writing and the textbook for the class, you must follow these rules:

Wireless Statement

The Delta College Community provides learners with opportunities that extend their intellectual and personal growth by using diverse teaching and learning strategies. To this end, Delta College classrooms and community areas provide wireless connectivity to the Internet that allows faculty and learners the ability to teach, learn, and access College resources from wherever they are on campus. The wireless network at Delta College serves to provide access to Delta College learners for completion of classroom learning activities. Access in public areas allows learners the ability to use College support resources from Student Services and the LLIC and facilitates communication between the learners, their instructors, and resources available through the internet.

You must follow the Delta College Access and Use Guidelines.

<http://www.delta.edu/onlinetools/deltacollegeaccessanduseguidelines.aspx> Violating this policy will cause the College suspend your privileges.

In addition, during class time you will use the wireless network to access and complete ENG 111 assignments. You must stay on task rather than checking your social networking pages, other games and other Internet activity, or email accounts. If you are found perusing other sites not related to the course, you will not be allowed to use your netbook/laptop, that day. The assignments must be made up, but you will receive no credit.

Care of Your Laptop

Laptop as a Textbook

You must come to class with your laptop each class period. You will not be able to participate in class without it. The assignments must be made up, but you will receive no credit.

Charging Responsibility

You are responsible for the charging of your laptop before you come to class. If you come to class without your laptop being charged, you will not be able to complete the in-class assignments and activities. You will receive 0 points for the day. The assignments must be made up, but you will receive no credit.

Back-up of Course Materials

All course materials are available online. Your responsibility is to back up your work on a flash drive. A one gig flash drive is less than \$10. You need to have all your work on the flash drive as well as computer. You are required to bring your flash drive with you to each class meeting and conference.

Anti-virus

You must have an active anti-virus program on your computer. Because viruses are rampant, please have the anti-virus active and virus definitions up-to-date. If you cannot afford an anti-virus package, please use AVG Anti-Virus Free Edition 9.0 <http://free.avg.com/us-en/download-avg-anti-virus-free-edition>. It is reliable and most of all, free! If your computer becomes infected, it is your responsibility to repair it. A virus is not an excuse for missing work; you must have your work backed up on a flash drive (see above).

Required Software and Accounts

You must have installed on your computer either Microsoft Word, Microsoft Works, or Open Office <http://www.openoffice.org/>. If you do not have one of the Microsoft products, you can download and install Open Office. It is a free word processing software. Or, if you prefer cloud computing, Google Docs works great: <http://www.google.com/docs>. I have no preference for

which software you use.

You must download and install *Jing!* on your computer. You can find *Jing!* at <http://www.jingproject.com/>. *Jing!* is a screen capture software we will be using to create video essays. Download and install the software at home. Do not become concerned about learning to use it. We will work and troubleshoot any problems with it in class.

You will need to create accounts for Delicious <http://www.delicious.com> and Google <http://www.google.com> and Blogger <http://www.blogger.com>. **Please create these accounts using your Delta email address.** Remember your password. We will be using some of the Google applications in class. Delicious will be necessary to keep your bookmarks (favorites) in one place so that you can access them from any computer anywhere and any time. Download and install the software at home. Do not become concerned about learning to use it. We will work and troubleshoot any problems with it in class.

My Role in the Course:

I am here to help you succeed. My role is to diagnose and create assignments that will help you improve your academic writing skills. Your role is to participate in activities that will diagnose your abilities and work on the assignments created to learn how to write in the academic arena.

My work with you requires that you be invested in your success as much as I am. If you fail to come to class, do not complete the required activities, and do not heed my advice, you will not do well. I will give my very best effort; I expect the same from you.

If personal difficulties are causing problems in your academic progress, I need to know in order to help you deal with these difficulties. I do not need to know the details of these problems, but I must be informed. These difficulties are not excuses to do poorly in the class nor will they excuse you from the work. They are obstacles that you must learn to handle. I can provide assistance and refer you to services provided by the college. At times, some difficulties are not able to be handled at this point in time; in that case, I will make a recommendation that you drop the course. Dropping the course is the last resort. My every attempt is to help you succeed.

Your Attitude Toward the Course:

Your attitude toward the goals the class is trying to accomplish should be positive in nature. If you bring a negative attitude toward class, it infects the class and creates an unpleasant environment. This negative environment affects everyone's progress in the course. **If you are unhappy with the goals and assignments in the class, you must speak to me immediately.** Maybe this is not the course for you at this time. If so, I will strongly encourage you to drop.

Commitment to Course Outside of Class

Time outside of class should be spent reading the assignment materials, writing, revising, and editing the writing assignments, using the appropriate library and internet sources, and visiting the Writing Center.

If you do not have internet access at home, you will need to schedule time to use the computers at Delta College or at libraries near your home. The same is true for assignments which require you to use the library.

Course Description:

Prerequisite: READING LEVEL 3 and WRITING LEVEL 3. Practices the process of composing; generating ideas, shaping and evaluating their writing. Uses reading and language awareness to further the development of their writing. Of the five credits earned in this course, three will transfer to universities and partially fulfill the college's English composition requirement. Although the other two hours do not transfer, they do provide a solid background necessary toward success in all college courses. ENG 111C is intended to only be taken in a learning community combination. Credit may be earned in one of the following: ENG 111 or ENG 111A or ENG 111C or ENG 111H. (75-0)

Outcomes and Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

Outcome 1: Write a formal college composition for a specific audience and purpose.

Objectives

- A. Use writing processes to generate and organize ideas, including where appropriate, revision.
- B. Include clear articulation of the important ideas.
- C. Select, organize, and present details to support a main idea.
- D. Demonstrate the ability to move between generalization and detail.
- E. Write effective introductions and conclusions.
- F. Employ the appropriate writing conventions.

Outcome 2: Use writing tasks that involve both reading and writing.

Objectives:

- A. Demonstrate the ability to derive meaning from a piece of reading.
- B. Demonstrate the ability to distinguish between the meaning one makes of a text and the

author's intended meaning.

C. Paraphrase and summarize accurately.

D. Develop critical thinking skills.

Outcome 3: Assess progress revealed in a body of work.

Objectives:

A. Assess the progress revealed in a body of work.

Grading Procedure:

You begin the course with no points and must earn credit to achieve a passing grade or better. The final number of points for the course will be dependent upon the number of assignments given. Delta utilizes a +/- system, which will be reflected in your final course grade.

I will utilize a variety of rubrics for grading assignments and projects.

Calculating Grades:

Grades are weighted by category. Individual grades within each category are calculated according to the following:

The calculation of each assignment's grade is based on the denominator of a fraction representing the weight of the assignment. For example, a minor assignment may have a denominator of 10, and a major assignment a denominator of 250. The numerator that completes the fraction determines the percentage that results in the letter grade (example: $200/250=80\%$ =low B or $15/20=75\%$ =mid C).

The following is a sample model based on percentage of total points earned:

% Points Grade

93-100 A

90-92 A-

87-89 B+

83-86 B

80-82 B-

77-79 C+

73-76 C

% Points Grade

70 - 72 C-

67 - 69 D+

63 - 66 D

60 - 62 D-

0 - 59 E

I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE you to keep track of your assignments and points earned throughout the semester. KEEP ALL GRADED WORK UNTIL FINAL GRADES ARE ISSUED.

NOTE: Grades can be viewed online at www.engage.com/mikesomers

Late Work: None accepted or graded.

Assignment Types and Grade Values:

- Projects: 50%
- Writer's Blogs (Exploring concepts/ideas): 20%
- Formal Responses (blog, wiki, etc.): 20%
- Quizzes/Assessments: 10%

Classroom Policies

Attendance:

Since much of the reading instruction and conferencing about your progress are done in class, attendance is mandatory. **It will be impossible to pass the class if you have spotty attendance.** Just because the assignments and worksheets for the entire course are available online does not mean you can take this course as a correspondence course—by simply sending assignments to me. If you wish to work by sending assignments to the instructor, I suggest you opt for an online version of the course offered by other Delta professors.

Attendance is crucial to success in this class. Four absences will result in your being dropped from the class. Timeliness is also expected; interrupting class by barging in late is rude and disruptive. Two tardies equal one absence.

Just so we're clear, here: "I paid for this class. I can choose to attend or not attend. It's my money." Newsflash: You are not "buying" your education. If that were the case, you wouldn't need to be here at all; you could just send in a check, and get a diploma in the mail. When you sign up for classes, you enter into an agreement that you will work to meet the requirements set forth in each class by each instructor, who, in turn, is meeting requirements set by the state and the college to assure that each person who "earns" a degree has achieved minimum standards. If anything, for every class you miss, you're missing a piece of your education, a piece of your future. How much is that worth?

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 course this semester (or term) that means in excess of four class periods. This is an English Division policy.

Etiquette:

- **No obscene or offensive language T-shirts or clothing should be worn to class.** You

are preparing for your future career. Dress appropriately. What you wear reflects upon your character.

- **Academic Integrity is of the utmost importance.** Plagiarized work of any kind will be result in immediate failure in the course. See the plagiarism policy at <http://www3.delta.edu/catalog/StudentsRights.asp>. *First offense: failure of assignment; second offense: failure of the course*

- **If you disagree with a grade on an assignment, please see me during office hours.** Please do not take class time to discuss this issue. It is a private matter between you and me. I am happy to explain how a grade was determined. Do not let a concern fester. Contact me immediately to save both of us from having to submit to the Disputed Final Grade Policy <http://www3.delta.edu/catalog/DisputedFinalGrade.asp>.

- **No food in class.** We will be using laptop computers. To ensure that they are not damaged, food is prohibited. If you bring a drink to class, please keep it away from the laptops!

- **Please turn your cell phones to silent during class.** Please do not answer cell phones or text during class. If you have an emergency call, please leave the room to answer it. You will be docked the time out of the classroom toward missed attendance time.

- **No Facebooking or Instant Messaging in class.** Just because you have the technology at your fingertips does not mean that it is appropriate or desirable to do so during class time. There is such a thing as manners, and such behavior is rude to your classmates and instructor, and completely ignores what laptops as textbooks is all about. It will also be considered disruptive. If you cannot live without Facebook or IM for just under five hours a week, that is your problem, not anyone else's. You are in college, so act accordingly during class time.

Disruptive Students (From the Delta College Catalog)

Disruptive conduct taints the educational atmosphere and may endanger the safety of students and staff. Accordingly, when student conduct on campus creates a serious enough disruption such that the only reasonable solution is removal of the student, a faculty/staff member may temporarily suspend or permanently expel that student from class/campus.

This policy and accompanying procedures assumes that the faculty/staff has made every attempt to resolve this issue with the student through such informal methods as individual conferences and/or written messages. If these informal methods have not met with success, the following formal procedures will be implemented.

1. The student will be verbally warned by the faculty or staff member the student's behavior is considered to be disruptive (describe the behavior to which the faculty/staff member is referring) and that if the student continues the behavior, s/he will be asked to leave the class/building.

2. If the student persists with the disruptive behavior, the faculty/staff member can then ask the student to leave the class or campus. At this time the faculty/staff must warn the student that failure to leave may result in police intervention. The faculty/staff must indicate whether the suspension is just for that day or if the student must appeal to the appropriate Division Chair to reenter the class. In other words, clarify for the student whether the suspension is temporary or permanent.

3. If after the previous verbal warnings the student continues to demonstrate disruptive behavior, the faculty/staff will summon the appropriate police agency who will have the option of arresting the student for criminal trespass, if necessary. The faculty/staff member's request for the student to leave provides the police agency with sufficient probable cause to effect an arrest.

4. If as a result of faculty/staff member's request for expulsion the student leaves the classroom/campus, the faculty/staff will notify their Division Chair or immediate supervisor in writing within 24 hours of the incident. The written report must include the student's identity and the behavior that was considered to be disruptive. Sufficient detail must be provided to allow the Chair/Supervisor to assess whether or not the policy was followed. Please note that the written report is only necessary when considering expulsion. Temporary suspension is handled informally by the faculty/staff member.

5. The Division Chair/Supervisor must immediately contact the student by phone, with a follow-up through registered mail, notifying them of the opportunity to explain the incident from the student's point of view. In addition, this notice will include the date by which the student must respond back to the Division Chair (or designee) or else forfeit their right to appeal the expulsion. Generally, the student will be given three class* days to respond in person, by phone, or mail (postmarked). Within 24 hours of the conclusion of the meeting to review the suspension, the Chair/Supervisor will decide if the removal was justified or if the student should be reinstated. The Chair/Supervisor may find it necessary to consult with other College employees, students, or records for additional information upon which to base their decision. The Chair/Supervisor may support or deny the removal, or make other arrangements for the student.

6. The decision of the Chair/Supervisor will be conveyed to the student and the faculty/staff member who caused the removal as soon as possible, either in person or by phone. A written confirmation of the decision will be sent to both the staff member and the student within three class days. Within three class days of the receipt of the written decision, the student or the staff member may appeal in person, by phone, or in writing the decision to the appropriate Dean/Supervisor (identified in the written decision by the Chair); whose decision will be final.

7. It is important to emphasize that each step of the process should proceed as quickly as possible, while maintaining fairness and objectivity.

*For the purpose of this policy, class days include only Monday-Friday when Delta College classes are in session.

Additional Information:

Disabilities

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. Mike Cooper, Disability Services Director, D-WING, D102, 989-686-9322.

Last Day to Withdraw: The last day to withdraw with a grade of W, to apply for a grade of pass/no credit (P/NC), or to be withdrawn with a grade of WI is **by the end of the 12th week of the semester**. Please see me if you are having problems with this course. I will be happy to help you individually. Also, please consult with an academic advisor before you withdraw (D102, 686-9330, <http://www.delta.edu/ServicesforStudents/CounselingAdvisingandCareerServices.aspx>), and if you have or will ever have financial aid, you should also talk to the financial aid office before you drop the course (D101, 686-9080, <http://www.delta.edu/futurestudents/AdmissionsEnrollment/MoneyMatters/InformationAbout/TypesofFinancialAid.aspx>). If you stop coming after this date, you will receive an F instead of a W/WI at the end of the semester.

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

Syllabus Revision/Instructor Prerogative:

The instructor retains the right to modify this syllabus and any of its terms as appropriate throughout the semester. This right, however, is limited to practical necessities (schedule, assignments, etc.) and legal or institutional requirements that supersede this syllabus as a contract. Students will be notified of any change.

