

Delta College Winter 2011
College Composition 112
3 credits
Prerequisite: English 111

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Introduction

According to Kermit the Frog, “It’s not easy being green.” But green is the new code word for everything from making environmentally-conscious decisions about processes, practices and actions to opening doors to new careers. This makes sustainability an interesting current topic for discussion and writing.

As a second semester composition student, I am asking you to rethink and write about your experiences with sustainability. What should you eat for dinner? Is bottled water better for you? Are all those chemicals in your shampoo dangerous to you and the environment? What happens to all those disposable baby diapers? What’s with those new twisted-looking light bulbs? What’s better in the checkout line, paper or plastic? And on and on. Hopefully your discoveries will have a positive impact on all aspects of your life, especially your health and the health of our planet.

Unlike most college courses that begin with the unknown and ask you to master new knowledge, this course will begin with familiar territory – your environment. It will require you to question your habits and preferences, shopping decisions, daily routine including what you eat and drink, how you care for yourself, your living space and how you travel from place to place. You will examine important moments and recurrent patterns in your lifestyle. Hopefully, by thinking through your experiences, you will become more attentive to your carbon footprint.

Information about our environment is riddled with controversy and fear. What should you believe? This class will give you an opportunity to zero in on areas of interest, stop the action and take a closer look. You will be asked to read, listen, discuss, write and revise. This progression will develop your critical thinking and writing skills so you can apply these to future writing assignments in college and beyond.

We will use the readings in the *Environment Annual Editions* text and *GreenGreenerGreanest* as a starting point. You should think of these texts as a companion to help you recall, sort out and respond to ideas. Readings will be recommended but you also will have choices. In addition, you will be expected to do additional readings and consult websites to update our discussions. Readings in the *Handbook* are required.

Course Description

This class continues the development of fluent, effective and confident writers. It expands abilities and versatility in the process of composing for a range of purposes, audiences, and situations, including academic research writing.

Course Requirements

- **Attend all class sessions.**
- **Complete all major papers. It will not be possible to receive a respectable grade in this class if you do not write all of the major papers. You will not be able to pass this course if you do not write the final project paper.**
- **Complete all reading assignments**
- **Participate in class discussions**
- **Attend at least one formal conference with the instructor**

Outcomes and Objectives

Outcome: Write effective college compositions

- Objectives:
- Consider audience and purpose
 - Plan writing processes, using effective strategies and techniques
 - Include a clear articulation of important ideas.
 - Select, organize and present details to support a main idea.
 - Demonstrate the ability to move between generalization and detail
 - Write effective introductions and conclusions
 - Employ the conventions of standard written English

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

- Objectives
- Demonstrate the ability to derive meaning from a piece of writing.
 - Demonstrate the ability to distinguish between the meaning one makes of a text and the author's intended meaning.
 - Interpret reading and writing tasks in such a way as to invest them with personal significance, thereby creating ways to make reading and writing vital activities in a lifetime of learning.
 - Demonstrate critical thinking skills.
 - Understand the relationship among language, knowledge and power.

Outcome: Work with others, both in and out of the classroom.

- Objectives
- Reflect upon and assess one's own work as well as the work of others.
 - Show willingness to work with others, seeking help where necessary and offering help where it is sought.

Outcome: Write an academic research composition

- Objectives
- Locate information using a variety of research tools and methods including library sources.
 - Select source material appropriate to the writing context.
 - Integrate their own opinions with various source points of view.
 - Quote, paraphrase and summarize accurately.
 - Document sources in conventional style with parenthetical references in text.

Approach

Our approach will be a cooperative effort between you, me and other members of this class. You will have plenty of support and direction to help you revise your writing to its highest level. I plan to have at least one formal conferences with each of you and several informal conferences. Together, we will become a community of learners and better writers.

Classroom behavior that respects the instructor and your classmates is expected. The college's formal policy for dealing with disruptive students is included in this course pack.

Incomplete Assignments

The gateway criteria for all assignments is listed at the top of the grading rubric for each assignment. These sheets are included in this course pack. You must complete and check off each gateway item before I accept your paper. If you fail to do this (for example, you don't include your research with your research paper) the assignment will be considered incomplete and will not be accepted or graded.

Assignments

You should expect to learn and practice the following writing formats during this class:

- **Personal narrative**
- **Essay test writing**
- **Personal opinion writing**
- **Opinion writing with library and original research**
- **Real world writing including:**
Memos, Resume and Cover Letter

Late Work Policy

Assignment deadlines will be announced well in advance. **Therefore, NO late work will be accepted for any reason.** If you cannot attend class, you must see that I receive your assignment prior to the beginning of class -- whether you send it to me in the mail, deliver

it to my office or give it to a classmate to bring to class. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

It is not fair to other members of the class if I accept late papers from some students while others turn their work in on time. Late papers also make grading confusing — some students want a lesser grade for late work but I don't deal in discount grades. I only accept and grade papers that are complete and submitted on time. Requiring you to turn your papers in on time also will help students who procrastinate from falling into a pattern that is difficult to change.

Electronic considerations

If you want to contact me by e mail, you must use your Delta e mail address. If you use another address and I do not receive your assignment because it has gone to my spam mail, it will be considered late and will not be accepted. If you are sending me a document via e mail, either paste it into the e mail message or save it as a **doc or docx file**.

I expect you to print out your assignments and hand them to me in class. Don't wait until the last minute to print your documents at Delta. Sometimes you can't open your documents from home once you get to campus. For better results, save your files in the rich text format (.rtf). To do this, choose the "save as" option and select rtf. You should also e mail your document to yourself at your Delta account. That way you will have a back up.

If you want me to e-mail you your grade or other information about your performance in this class, remember that **there is no reasonable expectation of privacy with computer systems and networks used to conduct college business. For your protection, do not share your e mail account or password with anyone. Review the college's access and usage guidelines at www3.delta.edu/AIG.asp**

In part, the guidelines state:

You should not assume that anything received, sent or stored on any of these systems is private. The College generally, and system administrators specifically, will respect the privacy of users. However, these systems are not provided or intended for sending or receiving private or confidential communications. If material is stored electronically rather than in paper files, it must be just as accessible to others who need access to those files as any paper file would be. In addition, system administrators have access to all mail and user access requests and will monitor them as necessary to assure efficient performance and appropriate use. If access discloses improper or illegal use, it may be reported and penalized. Legal process, including requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act, may also compel disclosure.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism (using the words of someone else and passing them off as your own) is a serious issue. The College's Policy for Plagiarism and Honesty in Academic Work is

included in this course pack and you should become familiar with it because you will be held accountable to it. Students are put on notice that I will use Turnitin.com, an authenticity check service, on any papers without notification. If you do not want to have your papers put into this system, you must make this known to me within the first week of class.

Papers that have been plagiarized are given a failing grade of E for the assignment. In some cases, this grade could result in a failing overall grade for the class.

I require you to turn in highlighted copies of your research with your assignments that require research.

The college's official plagiarism policy is included in this course pack or can be found at www.delta.edu/englishplagiar.html

Attendance

Attendance is required for this course and I will take attendance daily. I expect you to arrive on time and stay the entire class period. Any graded work we complete in class cannot be made up if you miss the class.

I may **drop** you from the class if you miss, for any **reason, in excess of 2/15 of the classes**. This is a policy of the English Division. In other words, if you are absent **two or more times for the courses that meet once a week or four times or more times for the courses that meet twice a week** you will be dropped. This could have an impact on your financial aid status as a full-time student.

If I drop you from the class, Records and Registration will notify you in writing. If you wish to appeal the instructor-initiated drop, you must contact me. If necessary, you may request mediation of the English Division Chair. An appeal must be in writing, signed by you as the person requesting the appeal, and received within one week following the notification of the drop.

Sounds like a lot of trouble, right? It is. Just come to class during the assigned time and this won't be an issue for you.

Emergencies

If you cannot attend class, you must notify me through voice mail at 686-9151 or e mail at jbramm@delta.edu prior to the class meeting to let me know how I should expect your assignment. You cannot bring your assignment to the next class period and expect me to accept it. Remember the NO LATE WORK POLICY.

Format

The final version of each assignment must be typed, double-spaced on 8 1/2 by 11 inch typing paper. Follow the MLA style in your handbook. Rough drafts can be handwritten.

Notebook

This class will require you to have a writing notebook. It should be divided into the following sections: (1) **Class notes**; (2) **Drafts of writing assignments** (3) **Revised papers** (4) **Journal reflections**. All of your writing for this class will be included in this notebook. Bring it to class every day. A loose-leaf notebook works well because you can add and subtract papers easily. **Keep all of your graded work throughout the semester in case there is a question about your mid-term or final grade.**

Grades

Your grade will be updated after every major paper and you will be provided with a grade report. You may request additional grade reports at any time. Grades will be calculated according to points earned on each assignment.

Approximate total possible points: 400

Grading scale:

100-93 A	92-90 A-	
89-87 B+	86-83 B	82-80 B-
79-77 C+	76-73 C	72-70 C-
69-67 D+	66-63 D	62-60 D-
59- F		

Required textbooks and materials

The Pocket Wadsworth Handbook
Kirszner and Mandell

Environment Annual Edition
Zachary Sharp, editor

GreenGreenerGreanest
Lori Bongiorno

Pack of 3 X 5 cards
A three-ring notebook

Flash storage
A pocket folder

Writing Center Café A 03

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, come to the writing center. Every writer needs a reader, and we love talking writing! Students, faculty, and staff are welcome, so come early and stay late. See you there.

Note

As your teacher, I will make every effort to make sure that this class is meaningful to you. If you need help with a particular type of writing and do not see it on our agenda, please see me. We can modify our game plan to suit the needs of the people in this class. **The tentative class agenda and procedures are subject to change.**

Extra credit assignments will **NOT** be accepted in this class.

Delta College has an official add/drop and refund policy that is printed in this semester's Schedule of Academic Classes. The policy can have a financial, personal and career impact on you. Please review it.

If you have a documented disability that impacts your academic performance and need an academic accommodation, please contact the Office of Disability Services in D 102 or call 686-9330.

Disabilities

If you have a documented disability that affects your academic performance, and need an academic accommodation, please contact the Office of Disability Services in D 102 or call Mike Cooper, disability services director at 686-9322.

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