

English 165W.06: Composition II Syllabus

Instructor: Mary Cook
Office: Kirkley 231
Phone: 294-3134
Email: MGC001@shsu.edu
Semester: Fall 2007 **Credits:** 3
Time & Place MWF – 12:00 – 12:50 / Evans - 258
Office hrs: MWF 1:30-2:30, Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 or by appointment

The Syllabus Defined: A syllabus is a living entity that grows from the first of the semester till the last and comprises every assignment and handout that you receive. Keep your syllabus in a separate section of your Writer's Notebook, so that you'll have everything together in one place.

Course Description:

ENG 165, Composition II, continues the study of skills and methods used in writing university-level essays, with an emphasis on researched argument and persuasion. This course emphasizes the development and support of effective argumentation, including researching and using support from various sources. It also includes an oral report component. It is the second half of a two-semester sequence that constitutes freshman composition at Sam Houston State University.

Prerequisite:

Completion of ENG 164 with a grade of D or higher.

Course Objectives:

Through a sequence of writing, reading, and workshop assignments, you'll:

- strengthen your composing process,
- strengthen your argumentation skills,
- strengthen your analytical reading and critical thinking skills,
- strengthen your ability to conduct research,
- strengthen your oral presentation skills,
- use collaborative learning in various contexts
- and understand the power of language.

Required Texts:

Ronald F. Lunsford and Bill Bridges, *The Longwood Guide to Writing*, 3rd edition.

Requirements:

- Daily attendance is required, recorded and rewarded.
 - After 3 absences, each additional absence will ADVERSELY affect your grade in this class. Over 6 absences, your grade will be lowered by 10 points, after 10 absences, by 20 points. Consistent tardiness can affect your grade as well.
- **All work must be handed in on time.** It is your responsibility to turn your work in on time if you are absent.
- **ALL assignments must be completed to receive an A in this course.**
- Keep a Writer's Notebook.
- Read and respond in writing to assigned readings. These responses will form one section of your Writer's Notebook.
- Write three three-five page essays and a 7- 10 page research paper.
- Give an oral report.
- Participate constructively in class activities, but especially in peer review group sessions.
- Take a final exam.

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Materials:

- a 2"-3" 3-ring binder
- notebook dividers
- loose-leaf notebook paper
- a large (10" X 13") envelope

Essay Grades:

- Each essay will be graded on an "A" through "F" basis.
- For the first two essays, an additional assessment of "R" (Revise) may be used by your instructor.
- If you receive an "R," then you **must** revise it for a grade in order to be eligible to pass the course.
- You may revise each of the first two essays once for an improved grade, **following a conference with your instructor on each essay.**
- Each revision must be completed within one week of the time the original is returned to you.

Course Assessment:

ENG 165 is a "Writing Enhanced" course, which means that at least 50 percent of the semester's grade must be based on writing. In this course, 90 percent of your grade will derive from writing.

Here's a breakdown on grades:

Assigned Essays = 50%

Evaluation (10 pts.), Position (10 pts.), Persuasion (10 pts.), and a Problem/Solution (research paper) (20 pts).

Oral report: 20%

Writer's Notebook: 10%

Final Exam: 10%

Participation (attendance/daily work): 10%

Incomplete (X) Grade:

At times, due to extenuating circumstances beyond your control, you may not be able to finish the course, and you may request a grade of X (incomplete). Students who request an X grade for ENG 165 must provide adequate documentation of the reason for their not being able to complete the course, and they must have satisfactorily completed at least 50 percent of the course's assignments in order to be eligible for a grade of X. If your instructor feels an X to be warranted, the instructor will recommend this grade to the Department Chair who then will decide whether the X should be entered as the semester's grade. If an X is approved, the student has one semester to complete the remaining work; if the student does not complete the work in that time period, the X grade automatically converts to an F.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy:

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 861001 provides the procedure to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

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Students with Disabilities Act:

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. Note: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. Please contact the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling (936) 294-1720.

The Writing Center:

The Writing Center is located in Farrington, first floor; its phone number is 4-3680. It is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., on Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., and on Sunday from 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. The Writing Center is a place you can go for help with your writing in all your classes, including developing ideas and then structuring them in a paper. You may also visit the Writing Center online: www.shsu.edu/~wctr. There is no additional charge for using the Writing Center, and we encourage you to do so.

Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct:

Any instance of plagiarism will result in an automatic zero on that assignment and/or other disciplinary action.

It is academically dishonest, and often illegal, to present someone else's ideas of writing as your own. You cannot use even short phrases or parts of sentences obtained from other sources unless you properly document those sources.

Documentation includes marking quotations as well providing notes, citations, and a reference list. If you receive assistance from a source other than your instructor, your colleagues in the class, or The Writing Center, then you must acknowledge that assistance. Identify the source and the nature of the assistance in an acknowledgments note at the end of the assignment.

Failure to acknowledge constitutes academic misconduct. In addition, it is academically dishonest to submit your own previously written work for a current assignment or to submit an assignment in more than one class without the prior permission of the instructors.

You will be held responsible for furnishing upon request all the sources and preliminary work (notes, rough drafts, etc.) that you use to prepare written assignments. If you cannot produce the materials upon request, the assignment will be considered incomplete and so will not fulfill the requirements, and you will be given the opportunity to redo the assignment on a different topic, one you negotiate with your instructor.

You are responsible for protecting your own work. It is your responsibility to ensure that other students do not copy your work or submit it as their own. Allowing your work to be used in this manner constitutes academic misconduct. Plagiarism and academic misconduct of any kind may constitute grounds for failing this course and may result in further disciplinary action according to university policy. Consult the SHSU Student Handbook regarding your responsibilities and rights concerning plagiarism and academic dishonesty. In addition, writing textbooks often contain useful discussion of plagiarism.

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Writer's Notebook:

The Writer's Notebook is a place for you to keep a record of your activities in ENG 165W, so it should consist of at least these parts:

- In-class work
- Homework
- Essay assignments (Dividers - Essay 1-Essay 5)
- Course handouts

Keep this information in a three- ring binder with dividers and headings.

The Essay Package (to be turned in with each essay) is to be packaged in the manila envelope and must include:

- Prewriting—all notes, doodlings, freewritings, clusterings, etc.
- Drafting—focus statement, any structural planning you do (e.g., abstract, bibliography, outline), discovery draft, rough drafts
- Writing center reviews and assessments
- Peer reviews and your assessment of their review
- Self-assessment—challenges and learning experience, how well you believe you met criteria
- Final draft—the draft you hand in for me to read and evaluate
- Goals
- Revision packets must include the entire graded essay packet along with the revision. Revision must be marked as Revised Essay

Your final manuscript should adhere to these guidelines:

- No less than the required minimum pages and no more than the maximum pages, not including Works Cited page
- 12 point font /Times Roman - no bolding or underlining
- Stapled in upper left corner
- MLA manuscript mechanics followed
- First page heading is left aligned, **double spaced**, and follows this format:
Student Name
ENG. 165.##
Instructor's Name
Date (example: 16 January 2007)
Paper title (ex: E3, RD II)

Create a header for the subsequent pages with your last name and the page number, right margin aligned, for example: Last Name 2

Behavior:

Misbehavior should not present a problem in a college classroom. If a student does disrupt the class, he or she will be asked to leave. A notice of this action will be sent to the English Department Chair. If there is any more disruption from this student, he or she may be dropped from the course. Disruptive behavior includes:

- ❖ Extraneous conversation
- ❖ Sleeping
- ❖ Reading books not used in this class
- ❖ Lack of participation
- ❖ Disrespectful or negative comments

Blackboard: All class documents, handouts, homework, etc., plus important messages from me will be on Blackboard. **Check it every day.**