

## **ENG 165: Composition II**

### **Syllabus**

Spring, 2008

3 credit hours

Tuesday, Thursday

Instructor: Samuel Unger

Phone: 294-4109

Office hours: Tu & Th 2:00-3:00

Other times by appointment

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### **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 developments and support of effective argumentation, including researching and using support from various sources. It also includes an oral report component. ENG 165 is the second half of SHSU's two-semester freshman composition sequence.

### **Prerequisite**

You must complete ENG 164 with a grade of D or higher.

### **Course Objectives**

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

- > strengthen your composing process,
- > strengthen your argumentative skills,
- > strengthen your analytical reading and critical thinking skills,
- > strengthen your ability to conduct research,
- > strengthen your oral presentation skills, and
- > use collaborative learning in various contexts.

### **Text**

Ronald F. Lunsford and Bill Bridges, *The Longwood Guide to Writing*, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> edition.

The textbook is required for the course. Please do not attempt to complete the course without it.

### **Materials**

a 2" 3-ring binder

a large (9" X 12") envelope

5 notebook dividers

loose-leaf notebook paper

### **Requirements**

1. Prepare for, attend, and participate in class activities. Excessive absences will adversely affect your grade (see Absence Policy statement below).
2. Keep a Writer's Notebook with all class materials and assignments.
3. Read and respond in writing to assigned readings as instructed. These responses will form one section of your Writer's Notebook.

4. Write five essays, including a 6-10 pp. term paper.
 

E-1 Evaluation Essay	Ch 8	5 pages
E-2 Position Essay	Ch 9	6 pages
E-3 Persuasion Essay	Ch 10	6 pages
E-4 Problem/Solution	Ch 11& 12	
Research Essay		8 pages
E-5 Reflective Essay		6 pages
  
5. Give an oral report, a presentation of your term paper research, before the class. (Ch. 3, p. 97; Ch. 8, pp. 346-355)
  
6. Participate constructively in class activities, but especially in peer review group sessions. Attendance is required for all peer review sessions.
  
7. Take a written, in-class final exam.

**Essay Grades**

Each essay will be assigned a percentage score (0-100), where

- 100-90 = A,
- 80-89 = B,
- 70-79 = C,
- 60-69 = D, and
- 0-59 = F.

For the first essay, an additional assessment of R (**R**evise) may be assigned. This allows students to bring an unacceptable grade into line with their usual performance and permits them to adjust to the standards and requirements of the professor. If you receive an R, you must revise the essay or receive a grade of 0 for the essay. You must also meet with the instructor to discuss the essay before revision. Revisions must be completed within two weeks of the time the original is returned to you.

**Note:** Revisions will not be given for any essay after the first. The grade that your essay earns is the grade that will be entered into my grade book.

**Course Assessment**

ENG 165W is a Writing Enhanced course, so that at least 50 percent of the semester's grade must be based on writing. In this course, 80 percent of your grade will derive from writing. Here's a breakdown on grades:

Assigned Essays	60%
Oral Report	20%
Writer's Notebook	5%
Daily grades/Quizzes	5%
Final Exam	10%

The daily grades, quizzes, etc. will be put in the Writer's Notebook and be counted as part of that grade.

**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 an 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.

### **Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct**

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 as 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 used to prepare written assignments. If you cannot produce those materials upon request, the assignment will be considered incomplete and so will not fulfill the requirements. 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.)

Your instructor may require that you submit all of your essays to a plagiarism detecting service such as turnitin.com. Your enrolling in the course and electing to stay in that section constitutes your agreement to submit your work as your instructor requires.

### **Attendance Policy**

For each absence over five, you will be assessed a five-point deduction from your end-of-semester grade. Lecture attendance and participation in in-class activities are an integral part in this class, so regular attendance is required. For this reason anyone with excessive absences will not receive credit for the class, no matter how justifiable the reason for absence. Doctor's notes and funeral fliers are of no significance to this policy, and you need not justify your absence to me. You may have excellent reasons for your absences, even if they are sufficient to give you an F for the class, so I make no judgements about the character of individuals on that basis. I do appreciate it, however, when those who drop do me the courtesy of letting me know why.

Any student arriving after the professor has finished roll will be considered tardy. After three tardies each subsequent tardy will be counted as an absence. These stack up quickly, and I do notice, so do whatever it takes to get to class on time. I have no compunction about failing students for excessive absences.

In the event that you are absent, it is your responsibility to acquire the notes for the lecture and all announcements and assignments from your fellow students. If you should be unfortunate enough to miss class please do not e-mail me asking what we did in class. The reason for this is that I type so slowly that it is impossible for me to send a summary of the lecture and the assignments to every person who is absent. To those of you who do attend class *and take notes*, I would suggest taking good notes in detail and charging a small fee for sharing them.

## **Online Support**

Aside from this syllabus, all course documents, handouts, and assignment sheets will be issued through Blackboard, Sam Houston's online class support system, so students will need to become familiar with that system and check it on a regular basis. This should not be a problem because Sam Houston computer labs are open to all registered students. Students will also submit all of their essays through Blackboard as well as on hard copies, the schedule of lectures and due dates will be posted there, and I will post grades there.

## **Visitors in the Classroom**

All visitors to the classroom must be approved by the instructor prior to class time.

## **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 procedures to be followed by the student and instructor.

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under section 11.20, Tax Code.

## **Americans With Disabilities Act**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

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 to 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.

## **Instructor Evaluations**

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form towards the end of the semester.

## **The Writing Center**

The Writing Center is located in 111 Farrington; its phone number is 294-3680. 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](http://www.shsu.edu/~wctr). There is no additional charge for using the Writing Center, and you will be required to do so for each essay.

Please remember that the Writing Center is not a proofreading service, so tutors who are asked to edit essays may refuse to. Their focus will be on higher order concerns. The purpose of the Writing Center is to build your skills in all aspects of writing and you will be expected to participate actively in each tutoring session.

### **Classroom Etiquette**

According to the *SHSU Student Handbook*, any behavior that disrupts the academic process is prohibited and subject to disciplinary action. Please be respectful of your fellow students by refraining from any activity that may distract them from the learning process.

For more information on this see <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>, especially section 5.2.22.

Do not bring MP3 players, palm-pilots, or other entertainment devices to class; they are not necessary for any of our classroom tasks. Cell phones are not allowed in class. If you carry one please turn it off before entering class. Any student whose cell phone rings in class or who answers their phone in class may be asked to leave and, if asked, will be considered absent for that day.

If there is an urgent reason that requires you to use a cell phone please meet with me to arrange an exception beforehand.

Similarly, please dress in a manner befitting a university classroom. Any student wearing disruptive, distracting, or offensive clothing may be asked to correct the matter before being admitted to the classroom.

When e-mailing your professor please remember that such communications are semi-formal writing occasions. Always use standard English capitalization and punctuation, and use an address and signature. If I don't know who it's from I won't reply to it.

Vulgar and coarse language is considered juvenile in my class and will not be tolerated. All subject matter of discussions and essays must be appropriate for polite, mixed company. Don't say anything in my class that you wouldn't say in front of a stereotypical conservative grandmother.

### **The Syllabus Defined**

A syllabus is a living entity that grows and is subject to change over the course of the semester. If the professor chooses to alter the syllabus it is your responsibility to be in attendance at the time of the announcement and make a note of the change. Keep your syllabus in the front of your Writer's Notebook so that you'll have it easily accessible for reference.