

ENG 380W.01: ADVANCED COMPOSITION (Fall 2007)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

From the SHSU undergraduate catalogue: A study of rhetorical forms and approaches to problems of composition.

PURPOSE

The purpose of Eng 380 is to give students an opportunity to hone their writing skills through writing essays on a wide range of topics and by reading the work of other students. Papers written for this class will utilize skills needed in writing academic papers adapted for a general audience. This section of Advanced Composition may include future teachers of English, so this course will also help you develop a working knowledge of current composition theory. Our discussion will engage such topics as writing process, responding to and evaluating student writing, writing *from* and *about* texts (including non-literary texts), and the role of grammar and mechanics in writing and teaching writing.

TEXTS

At this time, there is no text required for this course. However, you will be responsible for readings/links to readings that will be posted to Blackboard and included in the schedule.

In addition, I recommend that you have a good collegiate dictionary, such as *The American Heritage Dictionary* or *Webster's II* (New Riverside University Dictionary), a copy of the latest edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, and a copy of a good handbook, such as the *Hodges' Harbrace Handbook* (any recent edition would do).

REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Every essay assigned will include a "workshop" session by the students in your class. You are required to provide working drafts on these scheduled days. Failure to do so is an automatic **minus 10 points** from the final draft grade.
- 2) The final draft of each essay must include a cover letter explaining your writing, drafting, and revision process.
- 3) This class includes a "workshop" procedure in which everyone is required to participate. Most of your participation grade will come from your involvement in the workshop process.
- 4) A writing notebook will be kept for this class and will include any and all writing assignments during the course of the semester. It is your responsibility to keep up with all the work written during the semester that goes into this notebook. Please use a regular-sized manila folder for this assignment.
- 5) This class will include a series of '10 Minute Essays.' During the course of the semester, each student must preside over the 10 Minute Essay at least once. You must choose a topic (suitable for junior and senior students), then comment on and offer a grade for the student essays. These will be included in your writing notebooks at the end of the semester, along with a short paper discussing this writing assignment.
- 6) A portfolio is required at the end of the semester of what you determine to be your best work.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Assigned Essays	60%
Writer's Notebook	20%
Participation	10%
Portfolio	10%

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

You are responsible for your success in this class. Because ENG 380W requires a significant amount of writing and involvement in class workshops, your attendance is important. In accordance with the SHSU absence policy, you may accumulate three absences without penalty. Additional absences will result in a five-point deduction from your end-of-semester grade. Furthermore, because of recurring problems with tardiness recently, excessive tardies will now count as absences. Three tardies will count as one absence.

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 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. In addition, **this class may be required to submit essays to a plagiarism detecting service called turnitin.com. Your enrollment in this course and election to stay in this section constitutes your agreement to submit your work through this service.**

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.)

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. 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). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. 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.

AMERICANS 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 your work in this class, then let me 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 111 Farrington; its phone number is 4-3680. 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.

