

ENG 164: COMPOSITION I SYLLABUS

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Office Hours: TTh 2.00-3.00pm

Course Description

ENG 164, Composition I, involves the study of skills and methods used in writing university-level essays, with an emphasis on personal and expository essays. It is the first half of a two-semester sequence that constitutes freshman composition at Sam Houston State University.

Prerequisite

Students who have not satisfied the state-mandated TASP requirement are not eligible to enroll in ENG 164. If you have any questions about your eligibility for ENG 164, please talk with your instructor.

Course Objectives

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

- strengthen your composing process,
- strengthen your personal essay and expository writing skills,
- strengthen your analytical reading and critical thinking skills, and
- use collaborative learning in various contexts.

Texts

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

Recommended: a good collegiate dictionary (e.g., one of the Webster's series or *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*), a handbook of grammar, mechanics, and usage (e.g., the *Harbrace*)

Materials

a 2"-3" 3-ring binder
loose-leaf notebook paper
regular-sized manila folder (for submitting formal essays)

notebook dividers
a large (10" X 13") envelope

Requirements

1. Prepare for, attend, and participate in class activities. Excessive absences may adversely affect your grade (see Absence Policy statement below).
2. Keep a Writer's Notebook.
3. Read and respond in writing to assigned readings. These responses will form one section of your Writer's Notebook.
4. Write five three-five page essays.
5. Participate constructively in all in-class activities, particularly in peer review group sessions.
6. Take a final exam.

Essay Grades

Each essay will be graded on an "A" through "F" basis. For the first three essays, an additional assessment of "R" (Revise) may be used by your instructor. You may revise the first essay once for an improved grade, following a conference with your instructor on each essay. If you receive an "R," then you must revise it for a grade in order to be eligible to pass the course. This revision must be completed within two weeks of the time the original is returned to you. Note: other papers can't be revised because of time constraints.

Course Assessment

ENG 164 is a "Writing Enhanced" course, so 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%
Writer's Notebook	20%
Final Exam	20%
Participation	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 164 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 agreeing to submit your work as your instructor requires.

Attendance Policy

You are responsible for your success in this class, so regular attendance is important. After your third absence, your grade may be adversely affected by additional absences. For each absence over five, you may be assessed a five-point deduction from your end-of-semester grade.

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.

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 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.

The Writing Center

The Writing Center is located in 111 Farrington; 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.

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.