

ENG 165: COMPOSITION II (Spring 2008) SYLLABUS

Instructor: Matthew Davis

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Office Hours: M/W 2:00-4:00

Class Meeting Time: T/TH 6:30-7:50 P.M. (EV 353)

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. ENG 165 is the second half of SHSU's two-semester freshman composition sequence.

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 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.

Texts

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

Materials

a 2"-3" 3-ring binder
notebook paper

notebook dividers

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 Research Notebook.
3. Read and respond in writing to assigned readings.
4. Complete all written assignments, including a 6-10 pp. term paper.
5. Give an oral report.

6. Participate constructively in class activities, but especially in peer review group sessions.

7. Take a final exam.

Essay Grades

Each essay will be graded on an “A” through “F” basis. For the first two essays, an additional assessment of “R” (**R**evis) may be used by your instructor. You may revise each of the first two essays 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. Each revision must be completed within two weeks of the time the original is returned to you.

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:

Assignments (x10)	50%
Oral Report	20%
Research Paper	20%
Final Exam	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 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 you instructor requires.

Attendance Policy

You are responsible for your success in this class, so regular attendance is important. After your second absence, your grade may be adversely affected by additional absences. For each absence over three, 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. 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 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 Farrington 111; 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.