

Course Syllabus
ENG 164W
COMPOSITION I
Credit Hours: 3
Fall 2007

English 164, Section 26
Evans 251
MWF 2:00-2:50 p.m.

Instructor Information:

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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.

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.

Instructional Methods: This is a workshop class. Much of our class time will be devoted to writing exercises and peer review sessions. Lectures, group discussions, and individual writing conferences will also take place.

Required Texts:

- Ronald F. Lunsford and Bill Bridges, *The Longwood Guide to Writing*, 3rd edition.
- In addition, we recommend that you have a good collegiate dictionary, such as *The American Heritage Dictionary* or *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*.

Attendance/Make up work: Much of this class will be based on discussion, so class participation is necessary and class attendance is required. You are granted three absences, for whatever reason, but each absence after that will lower your grade by 2%. For example, if you finish the class with an average of 93% and have 6 absences, your final average would be an 87%, or a B. If you have questions about this attendance policy, please see me. You cannot earn

credit for work missed in class. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to discover what went on that day. "I didn't know because I wasn't in class" is never an acceptable excuse.

Requirements:

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

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 each of the first three 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. Note: the fourth and fifth papers can't be revised because of end-of-the-semester 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 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.)

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 a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

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. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” 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.

“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.

Visitors in the Classroom: Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

Instructor Evaluations: Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Materials:

- a 2"-3" 3-ring binder (this will become your Writer's Notebook)
- notebook dividers
- looseleaf notebook paper
- computer diskette or file storage device
- regular-sized manila folder (for submitting formal essays)
- a large (10" X 13") envelope

Course Expectations: Because this is a 3 credit course, you will spend approx three hours per week in class. For every hour of class, you can expect to spend 1 to 3 hours preparing for class. As a result, plan to spend from 6 to 12 hours working on this class every week. To improve your writing, you will have to write. Discussing readings, hearing about strategies for composing essays, talking about your peers' writings are all helpful and required, but they cannot replace the process of writing steadily over a prolonged period. Thus, your semester will include a steady stream of writing exercises. Expect to do much writing.

The Writing Center: The Writing Center is located in 114 Wilson; 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.

Classroom Rules of Conduct:

- Be prepared for each class. Simply “showing up” for class is not enough; you must have the appropriate materials and have fully completed all reading or writing assignments.
- Drinks (nonalcoholic) may be consumed during class. Snacking is also allowed if it does not distract other students or the professor.

- Except in the rare case of an absolute emergency, leaving the classroom during class time is considered rude and inappropriate and will not be tolerated. Only when class is dismissed by the professor should students leave the room. In a special situation where a student needs to leave early on a particular day, he/she should discuss the matter with the professor BEFORE class.
- All cell phones and pagers must be turned OFF during class. I don't want to see them or hear them. Text-messaging during class time is also prohibited.
- Misconduct in this class will constitute the student's immediate dismissal from class. For a detailed description of the SHSU Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, consult the following link: www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html
- All students are expected to demonstrate consideration and respect for all others, including the professor.

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 Outline: ENG 164 Sections 10 and 26, MWF

SUBJECT TO CHANGE! While I've attempted to identify major due dates and assignments, this outline is simply a guide. Other readings and assignments will be specified in class.

Week 1:

- 8/20 Monday Intro to class, syllabus; student intros; first notebook entry assigned
- 8/22 Wednesday Opening exercises; assign interest inventory; second notebook entry assigned
- 8/24 Friday In-class writing (Topic TBA)
Read Chapter 1 for Monday.

Week 2:

- 8/27 Monday Chapter 1. Notes/Exercises. Prewriting.
- 8/29 Wednesday Essay 1.1 in-class. Topic TBA.
Read Chapter 2 for Friday's class.
- 8/31 Friday Chapter 2. Notes/Exercises.
Read Chapter 3 and "Dark Hollow" by Datus Proper (page 144) for Wednesday

Week 3:

- 9/3 Monday Labor Day. No class.
- 9/5 Wednesday Chapter 3. Lecture/Notes. Discuss writing groups
- 9/7 Friday Writing workshop for Essay 1.1 (**Rough Draft Due**)
After class, complete "Evaluation of writing workshop" exercise
Read Chapter 5.

Week 4:

- 9/10 Monday Discuss writing group evals. Chapter 5. Notes/Exercises.
Read/Reread "The Myth of the Latin Woman: I Just Met a Girl Named Maria" (page 148); "My Father's Cabin" (page 153); "The Dance" (page 155); and "Gringos on Safari" (page 176)
- 9/12 Wednesday Chapter 5. Notes/Exercises.
- 9/14 Friday Essay 1.2 in class. Topic TBA.

Week 5:

- 9/17 Monday Writing workshop Essay 1.2 (**Rough Draft Due**)
- 9/19 Wednesday Work on Essay 1 in class. Discuss proper ms format, etc.
- 9/21 Friday **Essay 1 due.** Chapter 6. Notes/Exercises.
Read Chapter 6 for Monday's class.

Week 6:

- 9/24 Monday Chapter 6. Notes/Exercises.
- 9/26 Wednesday Essay 2.1 in class. Topic TBA.
- 9/28 Friday Writing Workshop Essay 2.1 (**Rough Draft Due**)

Week 7:

- 10/1 Monday Chapter 6. Notes/Exercises.
- 10/3 Wednesday Essay 2.2 in class. Topic TBA. Schedule conference.
- 10/5 Friday Writing Workshop Essay 2.2 (**Rough Draft Due**)

Week 8:

- 10/8 Monday Conferences with Instructor/Work on Essay 2
- 10/10 Wednesday Conferences with Instructor/Work on Essay 2
- 10/12 Friday Conferences with Instructor/ Work on Essay 2
Read Chapter 7 for next class.

Week 9:

- 10/15 Monday **Essay 2 Due.** Chapter 7. Notes/Exercises.
- 10/17 Wednesday Chapter 7. Notes/Exercises.
- 10/19 Friday Chapter 7. Notes/Exercises.

Week 10:

- 10/21 Monday Start Essay 3 in class.
- 10/23 Wednesday Essay 3 in class. (Using quotes, titles, authors, etc.)
- 10/25 Friday **Essay 3 Rough Draft Due.** Writing Workshops.

Week 11:

- 10/29 Monday Essay 3. Finish Peer Review.
- 10/31 Wednesday **Essay 3 Due.** Chapter 8. Notes/Exercises.
- 11/2 Friday Chapter 8. Notes/Exercises.

Week 12:

- 11/5 Monday Chapter 8. Notes/Exercises.
- 11/7 Wednesday Start Essay 4 in class.
- 11/9 Friday Work on Essay 4.

Week 13:

- 11/12 Monday Writing Workshop Essay 4. (**Essay 4 Rough Draft Due**)
- 11/14 Wednesday Continue Peer Review for Essay 4.
- 11/16 Friday **Essay 4 Due.** Reflective Essay discussion.

Week 14:

- 11/19 Monday Discussion of Writing Portfolios.
- 11/21-11/23 Thanksgiving Break.

Week 15: 11/26-11/30 Reflective Essay. Portfolios. Editing Practice for final.

Week 16:

- 12/3 Monday **Reflective Essay/Portfolios Due.**
- 12/5 Wednesday Optional Review
- 12/7 Friday Study Day/No Class

Week 17: Final Exam will be scheduled in accordance with the SHSU Final Exam Schedule.