

ENG 380.02—ADVANCED COMPOSITION
Spring 2008

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION AND CONTACTS:

Dr. Diane Dowdey
Farrington 111
(936) 294-1438

Office hours: 11-5 M & W 11-12:30 T & Th
other times by appointment
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COURSE MEETING TIME: Tuesday and Thursday 9:30

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

ENG 380 ADVANCED COMPOSITION. A study of rhetorical forms and approaches to problems of composition. Prerequisite: 9 hours of English. Credit 3.

This class will be run as a portfolio reading/writing class. If you want more information about a portfolio English class, you might want to read *Room 109*.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will develop skill and knowledge in expressing themselves through writing and the writing process.
2. Students will use different prewriting and revising strategies
3. Students will develop their creativity through their writing and book projects.
4. Students will learn to analyze and critically evaluate their writing and the writing of their peers.
5. To teach you to be an independent learner. This class is what you make of it.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

For this class, each of you will:

Essays: Write 4 nonfiction essays extensively revised and edited, minimum length 1000 words. You must write a minimum of 4 drafts for each paper, which clearly show revision in each draft. For 1 draft you must conference with me during class time. You will use a variety of prewriting, revising, and editing strategies to produce these essays.

Journal Entries: Write a total of 10 journal entries, minimum length 200 words. These entries will be due at various times throughout the semester. The last entry will be a reflection on the semester. Some of your journal entries will be on specified topics, some will pertain to your readings, some will be free choice topics.

Reading: Read 3 books you haven't read before, at least one must be over writing, and one other one must be nonfiction. You may use 1 book you are reading for another course in your 3 books. It is expected that the books be aimed at adult audiences. Some of your journal entries will be discussing and analyzing your books.

Book Projects: Complete 3 book projects: 1 must be multi-media, either a PowerPoint presentation or a web page which will be presented to the class. One book project will be written. For the other book project, use your creativity.

Editing Logs: (1) Editing log of whose papers you critiqued and which draft. You must critique 10 different drafts, using different responding styles. (2) Editing log for each of your essays, who reviewed it and which draft. A form for the editing log will be posted on Blackboard.

Portfolio: On April 29, you will turn in your portfolio. It will consist of all your drafts of your nonfiction essays, the responses done by your peers, your editing logs, and a reflection on what you have learned through your revision process. This will need to be placed in a binder, with dividers.

COURSE POLICIES:

You are expected to attend class and be punctual. Some assignments will be done during class time, and if you miss class, you will not be able to complete them. Excessive absences will affect your final grade. If you have to leave class early, please let me know and sit near the door that day, so you won't disturb your classmates. I expect you to not disturb or distract your fellow students. The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, Section 5 explains the university's expectations about student behavior. Members of this class are subject to this code. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Please turn your cell phones off or on vibrate during class time as ringing phones are distracting to your classmates and me.

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experience both in and out of the class room. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subjected to disciplinary action, Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, Section 5.3, as printed in the student guidelines. Submitting writing that you did not create, claiming that you edited papers you did not, asserting that you read a book you did not are examples of academic dishonesty.

Students who are absent from class for observance of a religious holy day will be allowed to make up a test or other class assignment scheduled for that day within one week of returning to class. Students with disabilities that affect their academic performance are expected to arrange conference times with me so that appropriate strategies may be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. Students with disabilities are responsible for contacting the Director of the Counseling Center as chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students to register their status. The phone number is 936-294-1720.

If over the course of the semester something happens which will require an extended absence, you should contact the Dean of Students' Office, who will contact your professors. The phone number is 936-294-1781.

Information on the course, including grades and assignments, are posted on Blackboard. I expect you to check Blackboard regularly for updates.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

There are two major components to your grade in this class: the timely completion of assignments, and the quality of your portfolio. As tasks are assigned and listed on Blackboard, their completion date and point value will be listed. A rubric for the portfolio will be given to you. The grade will be determined on a point system and the letter grade will be based on A=90% of the total points, B=80% of the total points and so on.