

## English 8: Basic English Composition I

Fall 2013

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**Course Description:** Preparation for ENGL 009. Provides developmental instruction approaching the college level in paragraph and short essay writing. (Nontransferable, non-degree applicable)

**Course Objectives:** The minimum standards for a grade of "C".

- To identify and demonstrate pre-writing techniques.
- To create original main ideas for personal or expository paragraphs.
- To write descriptive, narrative, and exemplificative paragraphs that develop supporting details from a topic sentence, using transitions and a concluding sentence.
- To write and support a thesis statement or controlling idea while applying various rhetorical modes with emphasis on description, narration, and exemplification.
- To demonstrate critical thinking by identifying support for the main idea in a text.
- To generate supporting sentences using varied sentence patterns
- To locate errors in sentence structure and correct such errors
- To produce writing in which meaning is not obscured by grammar or usage errors in punctuation, spelling, subject-verb agreement, or verb tense.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

- Generate essays with a clear thesis statement or controlling idea. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4)
- Write essays showing support for a thesis statement or controlling idea. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4)
- Construct complete sentences with few errors in sentence structure such as fragments, comma splices, run-on sentences. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4)
- Compose a multi-paragraph essay response to a reading. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4, ILO5)

### **Required Texts and Materials:**

- *Grassroots with Readings* 10 edition by Susan Fawcett
- Aplia for *Grassroots with Readings* (This is included with the price of the book.)
- *Greek Myths* by Olivia Coolidge

**Attendance: You are expected to attend every class on time, prepared with the completed assignments. If you expect you will be tardy, absent, or unprepared once in a while this is not the class for you.**

- Regular attendance is expected. Regular attendance allows you to improve your writing skills gradually and successfully. Good writing requires practice.
- Do not schedule counseling, doctor, dentist, or mechanical appointments during class.

- Missing class will count as an absence.
- Leaving class early counts as an absence.
- Work missed as the result of an absence earns a zero and may not be made up.

#### **How to Contact Your Instructor:**

- You may call and leave a voice mail. Make sure you speak slowly and distinctly. All too often voice mails are garbled and impossible to understand.
- If I return your call, and your phone is busy I can only try again a limited number of times.
- The best way to contact me is through Blackboard Messaging.
- Whether you call or send a message through Blackboard, remember, I may not be in the office or near a computer on holidays and week-ends.

#### **Making an Appointment:**

- See me in person immediately before or after class.
- Stop by my office. I may be in.
- Send an email, **several days in advance** of when you want the appointment. Make sure you have a return email confirmation that lets you know I will be in my office at the time you request.

#### **Student Responsibilities:**

- You are expected to arrive in class with all assignments completed.
- Bring your class materials to every class meeting.
- Students are expected to participate in class activities.
- All assignments must be completed and turned in by the due date to receive credit. Late work is not accepted and earns a zero.
- Keep track of your own assignments, due dates, grades, and attendance. An assignment notebook is a wonderful thing.
- If you have problems understanding an assignment, it is your responsibility to make arrangements for a conference with me in my office, to discuss this problem before the assignment is due. Lack of understanding on your part is not an excuse for turning in an assignment late.
- If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to talk with classmates regarding what went on in class while you were absent.
- Sending a message to me, requesting the homework for the period of time you were absent is not sufficient. It is not possible to present 4 the material covered in four hours of class in an email. I may not even see your email until the day of the next class meeting.
- **Look at Tasks and the Calendar on Blackboard or contact your classmates to find out what you missed.**
- Attend to emergencies, as you must. An absence is an absence
- Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) office as soon as possible: Room 2117, Health Sciences Building, (760) 355-6312.
- Excused absences are those where the student is representing the college such as student government or a sports team

**Class Assignments:**

- Completed writing is expected to have gone through several drafts and the writing workshop process. Keep all drafts. Writing must go through the writing workshop process, or it will not be graded.
- Workshop processed writing will only be accepted for grading the day it is due.
- All word processed must be typed or word processed and done in MLA style. [This will be taught in class.]
- Use the writing lab. There are tutors available to help you with your writing.
- If you miss a class conference, you may substitute proof of a writing lab conference.
- “Save” as you type. Back up your work. Disasters happen, and technology is not perfect.
- Writing often takes longer that the writer plans. Don’t wait until the last minute to type your draft.
- Assignments are due at the beginning of class.
- Not all quizzes, tests, or in-class writes will be announced.
- Missed quizzes may not be made up.
- Missed tests may be made up. It is the student’s responsibility to make arrangements to make up a missed test within five school days of the date the test was originally given. Failure to make such arrangements = test grade of zero.

**Online Assignments:**

- The class will spend one hour a week in the writing lab doing Aplia assignments, journals, and blogs.
- Aplia assignments are part of the course. Aplia scores go into Homework.
- Scores for journal and blog assignments go into Homework.
- Should an online assignment not be completed during the class lab time, it is the student’s responsibility to complete the assignment on his or her own time.

**Behavior:**

- No iPods or CD players in class.
- Turn off your cell phone. No calls are to be received during class. Leaving class to make or answer a cell phone will result in the student being dropped from the class.
- **No food or drink in class** with the exception of plain water. [This is a college rule.]
- Please make arrangements for childcare. No children may be brought to class.

**Emergencies:**

- You must notify the instructor if something occurs that interferes with your ability to come to class or have an assignment ready on time.
- Even for an unforeseen emergency missing class is an absence. An absence is an absence.

**Academic Honesty:**

The purpose of this class is to produce informed, competent writers. This requires doing your own writing. If a student’s in-class writing is demonstrably different from that student’s out-of-class writing, the instructor reserves the right to base the student’s course grade solely on the student’s in-class writing grades. Any writing turned in under your name that is not properly cited is considered plagiarism. Plagiarism will result in a zero for all portions of that particular assignment.

**Grading Procedures:**

Quizzes are often unannounced. In Class Writes are usually unannounced.

Writing	20%	Quizzes	10%	Mid-Term	15%
In Class Write	25%	Homework/Classwork	5%	Final	25%

- Homework covers plans, drafts, research, journals, blogs, Aplia, as well as specifically assigned homework from *Grassroots*.
- The mid-term and the final are essays written in class.
- Grades are available on Blackboard 24/7.
- Keep a file of graded and returned assignments.
- No past or previously un-submitted assignments will be accepted once final grades are submitted to Instruction, so do not ask, plead, or even inquire.
- Your grade is the grade you earn. No grades will be changed due to problems with financial aid, graduation, or transfer requirements.
- Grades in other classes, math, P.E., art, music, reading, or literature classes are not necessarily indicative of grades in this class.
- This is a college class. Expect to have to spend some time and effort to earn a passing grade.
- A string of zeros worth 5 or 10% can sink or float a grade, so be sure to keep up with the assignments.