

English Composition: Fall 2009

Instructor: John Teschner

Section Information:

ENGL 1101-07 CRN: 80166

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:30-1:45 in Napier II 003

ENGL 1101-08 CRN: 80167

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:30-4:45 in A&S 340B

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Mailbox: in the MFA Office, A&S 329

Office Hours: T TH, 2:00 - 3:15, and by appointment. I will be on a bench by the fountain or the lounge by the coffee stand on the first floor of the library.

Required Texts:

Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim, Sedaris

Acting out Culture: Reading and Writing, Miller

Writing and Revising: A Portable Guide, Kennedy

The Easy Writer, Lunsford

Course Description & Goals:

This class is focused on the process of writing. You will discuss examples of effective writing and systematically practice the steps of the writing process: gathering a surplus of detailed evidence, drawing conclusions and choosing a focus, organizing your evidence to defend your claim, expressing your ideas with vividness and clarity.

For those of you who "hate" writing (as even very good writers often do), you will find that the more work you do before you start writing, the more enjoyable and less stressful the actual writing will be. Plus you'll end up with a good paper, thus good grades, thus a good job, thus a happy, happy life (maybe).

Final Grades:

Participation:	20%
Personal essay, 3-4 pages:	20%
Personal persuasive essay, 4-5 pages:	20%
Cultural analysis essay, 5-6 pages:	20%
Research Paper, 7-8 pages:	20%

Attendance/Participation: You are expected to attend class. Absences will affect your grade directly and indirectly.

Indirectly: Classes this semester will not be autonomous units. They will be devoted to steps in the process of writing your four papers. Missing class means missing an important step in a process that will not stop for you. If you must be absent, I urge you to contact me in advance or as quickly as you can so I can tell you how to catch up.

Directly: Each student is allowed a total of three absences, excused or unexcused. After the fourth absence, the student's participation grade will drop significantly.

Revisions: You are allowed (not required) to revise TWO graded papers and resubmit them to me. The grade of the revised paper will be averaged with the grade of the original. Note: You will also submit a *draft* of every paper for peer review before the paper due date. The most efficient use of your time and effort will be to submit a quality draft, revise, and submit on the paper due date.

Submitting Papers: This class is analog. At the start of class on the assigned date, all essays are to be turned in on paper, typed, double-spaced, and stapled. Late papers will lose points each day.

Academic Dishonesty: This is from the student Handbook:

"Plagiarism" is defined as presenting as one's own work the words or ideas of an author or fellow student. Students should document quotes through quotation marks and footnotes or other accepted citation methods. Ignorance of these rules concerning plagiarism is not an excuse. When in doubt, students should seek clarification from the professor who made the assignment.

If you plagiarize in a paper, you will automatically fail that paper. At my discretion, you may also fail my class.

The school has a procedure for dealing with plagiarism. You can read all about it at:

http://info.gcsu.edu/intranet/handbooks/academic_affairs/aahandbook/301.html

Etiquette: I'll silence and put away my cell phone, please do the same with yours. Texting in class is infuriating to me and disrespectful. There are times when you can use a laptop to write in class, but when someone is speaking, I expect your laptop to be closed.

Statement of Equal Opportunity: If you have a disability that affects your progress as a student in this class, please meet with me to discuss how we can create the most helpful environment. For significant accommodations, an official letter from GCSU documenting the disability will be necessary. All discussions will be confidential.

Fire Drill: In the event of a fire alarm students should exit the building in a quick and orderly manner through the nearest stairwell to a ground level exit. Do not use elevator. Be familiar with the floor plan and exits of this building. In A&S, third floor stairwells are areas where disabled people may communicate with rescue workers.

Writing Center: The GCSU Writing Center is a tremendous resource. A visit takes only 15 or 20 minutes and the feedback you get can transform your paper. It is located on the second floor of Lanier Hall, room 209, and is open Monday through Friday. No reservation is necessary, just drop in.

From the Department Head: The Department of English & Rhetoric will offer ENGL 1101 in the Fall, Maymester, and Summer I terms in 2009-2010. Please be advised that students who withdraw from ENGL 1101 or earn the final grade of D or F will be able to repeat the course at GCSU in Maymester or Summer I. ENGL 1101 will not be offered in Spring 2010. To students entering ENGL 1101, it is important that you do your best to persist in this course. Resources such as the GCSU Writing Center in Lanier Hall and the peer consulting the Writing Center provides in residence halls will help you to succeed in this course on your first attempt.

Regents' Test: Some of you may be required to take the Regents' test. To find out whether this applies to you, check your tranquide under PAWS. More information regarding this exam can be found at:
<http://www.gcsu.edu/testingcenter/regentstesting.htm> and
<http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwrtp/>.

The Regents Test will be offered on Oct. 30, Nov. 2 and Nov. 3. We have a paper due Nov. 3, so I recommend you sign up for an alternate day to take the test. If you foresee a significant conflict, please meet with me to make arrangements that will help you succeed in both endeavors.

Tentative Class Schedule

8/18: Introduction - Discuss *Woman at Point Zero*

HW: Garrison Keillor Handout

8/20: The fundamentals of effective writing

HW: Sedaris "Us and Them"; "Let it Snow"; "The Ship Shape"; "Hejira"

8/25: Personal essay - purpose & emotional involvement

HW: Sedaris "The Girl Next Door"; "Six to Eight Black Men"; "Nuit of the Living Dead"

8/27: Personal essay - details & specifics

HW: Sedaris "The Change in Me"; "Rooster at the Hitchin' Post"; "Baby Einstein"

9/1: Personal essay - structure/blocking

HW: Work on draft of personal essay

9/3: Personal essay - Writing

HW: Complete draft of personal essay

9/8: Personal essay draft due - Peer Revision

HW: Complete personal essay

9/10: FINAL DRAFT of Personal Essay due

HW: Elliot "The Perfect Voice" p. 644

9/15: Personal Persuasive Essay - Making a Claim

HW: Newman "I Do. Not." p. 60, Warner "This Mess" p. 333

9/17: Personal Persuasive Essay - Evidence from your life

HW: Hedges "War is a Force that Gives Us Meaning" p. 368

9/22: Personal Persuasive Essay - Structure/Blocking

HW: Knapp "Add Cake, Subtract Self-Esteem" p. 217

9/24: Personal Persuasive Essay - Writing

HW: Complete draft of essay

9/29: Personal Persuasive Essay Draft Due - Peer Revisions

HW: Revise paper based on group comments

10/1: Personal Persuasive Essay - Revision

HW: Complete essay

**10/6: FINAL DRAFT of Personal Persuasive Essay due
CONFERENCES begin**

*Tuesday, October 6: [Marc Fitten](#) - Author of the Novel Valeria's Last Stand
7:30 pm, Max Noah Recital Hall, Porter Hall*

10/8: CONFERENCES continue

10/13: Fall Break, No Class

HW: Prose "Wages of Sin" p. 197, Moser "Make Metaphor No More" p. 428

10/15: Cultural Commentary Essay - Media and Culture

HW: Jones "Being Strong" p. 400 EXCERPT, Orwell handout

10/20: Cultural Commentary Essay - Research

HW: Brooks "People Like Us" p. 67, Dyson "Frames of Reference" p. 123 EXCERPT

10/22: Cultural Commentary Essay - Analyzing evidence

HW: bring complete evidence notes

*Thursday, October 22: [Lori Ostlund](#) and [Geoffrey Becker](#) -
Winners of the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction
7:30 pm, Arts & Sciences Auditorium*

10/27: Cultural Commentary Essay - In-class writing

HW: Complete Draft

**10/29: Cultural Commentary Essay Draft Due - Group
Revision**

HW: Revise

NOTE: Regents Test on Oct. 30, Nov. 2 and 3

*Monday, November 2: [Lucy Jane Bledsoe](#) and [Jennifer Chapis](#) -
Winners of the Arts & Letters Prizes in Fiction & Poetry
7:30 pm, Arts & Sciences Auditorium*

11/3: FINAL DRAFT of Cultural Commentary Essay Due

HW: Twitchell "Two Cheers for Materialism" p. 28

11/5: Research paper - The academic paper

HW: Sharlett "Big World, Clear Channel" p. 628

11/10: Research paper - Choosing a research subject

HW: Choose a field of research, and take library's online 1101 tutorial by visiting www.library.gcsu.edu, clicking on "Student Services" then "Access Tutorials." Take quiz, print out your results and bring them to class.

11/12: Research paper - Library Day, meet in 241

HW: Continue Research

11/17: Research paper - Library Day, meet in 241

HW: Finish Research. Bring in a list of 15 pieces of evidence, with sources properly cited.

11/19: Research paper - Creating a thesis

HW: Write! Bring introduction to class.

11/24: Research paper - Writing

HW: Complete Research paper draft

11/26: Thanksgiving holiday, no class

12/1: Research paper draft Due: Peer Revisions

HW: Complete paper revision

12/3: Research paper Due

Exam Dates/Times

12/8, 2 p.m: for ENGL 1101-08 (3:30 class)

12/10, 11 a.m: for ENGL 1101-07(12:30 class)