

## SYLLABUS

### English 110: First Year Composition

Winter 1998  
 W F 1:30-3:18  
 Call# 07352-4  
 Derby 30

### Instructor: Chris Johns

Office: 449 Denney,  
 Hours: W F 3:30-5:00 p.m, and by appoint.  
 Phones: Home: 421-7516 (before 10 p.m.)  
 Office: 292-1695 (During office hours)  
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### Course Description and Goals:

English 110 fulfills the requirement for the GEC first writing course. This section of English 110 is designed to develop one's reading, writing, and critical-thinking skills, and to adapt those skills to the demands of the university. The course will do this in several ways: by writing expository essays, by holding class-discussions, and by paying particular attention to common grammatical "problems." The content of the course includes non-fiction, fiction, poetry, and drama: readings which investigate a wide range of themes such as love, art, religion, race, and gender. Ideally, upon completion of the course, the student will be better prepared to write college papers in any discipline. More specifically, we will emphasize clear, concise writing; strong argumentation skills; cohesive thought and organization; significant content; and active class participation. Grammar, style, and usage will be addressed as needed, and we will try to have fun. To do well in this course, you must work hard.

### Course Materials: Available at Student Book Exchange

- The Everyday Writer. Lunsford & Connors. (ER)
- Literature for Composition. Barnet, et al. (LC).
- Two folders: one for essays and one for journal.

### Course Requirements:

You are required to write four formal essays including drafts of each. You will also keep a Reading Journal folder which will consist of 20 one-page responses to assigned readings. In addition, as part of class participation, you will be reading and responding to essays written by your classmates. The grading percentages for these requirements are as follows:

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Essay One           | 15% |
| Essay Two           | 20% |
| Essay Three         | 20% |
| Essay Four          | 20% |
| Writing Journal     | 15% |
| Class Participation | 10% |

Note: If you fail to complete any of the essay assignments you cannot pass the course.

**Essays:** Essay topics will focus on the assigned readings. All essays and drafts must be three to five pages in length, typed, double-spaced, have 1" margins, and numbered pages. No title pages, please. The top left of your first page must present the following:

Your name

Instructor Chris Johns

English 110--Assignment (essay, draft, or journal).

Date

In addition, your last name and a page number should appear in a header on every page.

A word about fonts and font-size: Please do not use any large or ornamental fonts. In order to insure fairness and to reduce irritation, I require that you use Times Roman, Palatino, Courier, Helvetica, or something very similar, and point-size 12. Do not use large fonts like "Chicago."

Regarding computer use: There are many computer labs on campus; however, during busy times they are mostly full. Also, computer, printing, and disk problems occur frequently. For these reasons, avoid the tendency to wait until the last minute to type your papers. Furthermore, while working in labs it is most important to *save your work often, and save it onto your own disk*. If you have any trouble with computer usage, please consult me.

Rough Drafts: It is wise to take your rough drafts seriously, and that they be as complete as possible. They will not be graded, but I can guarantee you that your effort on them will directly affect both your essay and class participation grades. They must be done on time for you to receive valuable feedback from me and your peers. If you do not bring your rough drafts to class you forfeit the chance to have them reviewed.

Note: You must submit your rough draft (the one with my comments) with your final draft.

**Writing Journal:** These are shorter (one *full* page, typed, double-spaced), less formal exercises that ask you to respond to the course readings and discussions. The purpose of these writings is to encourage a habit of writing without the pressure of grading. Use the journal as a spring board for paper topics and class discussion. Complete two journal entries per week, for a total of 18, and you get an A for 15% of your overall grade. Fewer than 18 yields lower grades. To figure your grade, multiply the number of completed entries by 5. Your point total will yield the following letter grades:

**90-100=A; 76-89=B; 61-75=C; 46-60=D; 0-45=E.** Plus or minus at either end of the scale.

Note: If your point total yields an A, you cannot get an A unless you have completed all 18 of the entries. For example: you could do 17 and get five points each time, resulting in 95 points, which yields an A; but since you did not complete all 18 Journals, you get a B+.

• The following information must appear in the upper left corner of your journal entry:

Your Name

English 110 Chris Johns

Reading Journal and Number

**Class Participation:** English 110 is one of the few places where students and teachers can freely exchange ideas. How successful this class is depends in part on your willingness to participate in open discussions. Your active participation and input are important so that we can understand and learn from each other. It will also make the class much more fun and interesting. Furthermore, you have a responsibility toward other students to provide them with quality feedback and insight on their papers. Keep in mind that this is a place to try out new ideas, without the fear of sounding foolish.

**Attendance:** Your attendance is important individually and to the class as a whole, but it is also mandatory. The Department of English has a strict attendance policy. For every unexcused absence over one, your overall grade for the course will be lowered by half a letter (i.e. from B to

B-, C to C- etc.) In addition, repeated lateness will count against you: four late arrivals equals one absence. *Furthermore, if you have more than four unexcused absences during the course, you will automatically receive an E for the course.*

- However, you will not be penalized for **excused** absences, which are absences due to illness, death in family, religious holiday, academic testing, or athletic or military service. All excused absences must be accompanied by official documentation, i.e., doctor's note, departmental or faculty memo, copy of death certificate. To make sure your excused absence gets recorded, you must speak to me personally and give me a note. If you miss the deadline for handing in an assignment, you must call or e-mail me as soon as it is reasonably possible to do so.

Note: Whether excused or unexcused absence occurs, in all cases you are responsible for completing any missed assignments. Always ask me about assignments and handouts. Talk to other students about what occurred during class time.

**Late Assignments:** All assignments are due at the beginning of class time on the date specified in the Course Schedule. In order to be fair and consistent, late papers will be graded E. If you are having a problem with an assignment, *you must contact me a day ahead of time.*

**Revision Policy:** If you are not satisfied with the grade you received on your paper, please talk to me; you may be able to revise it. In order to revise, I require that you meet with me during office hours. Bring all drafts of your paper, especially the final draft and the rough draft with my comments. After we discuss your paper, you must write up a one-page plan for revising your it. Your plan should show thoughtful engagement with your paper and with my response to it. You have two weeks to submit a plan, revision, and all prior drafts. The final grade will stand. Note: Most revisions receive a higher grade, but not always.

**Plagiarism:** Using someone else's words, ideas, or work without proper acknowledgment is a serious academic offense and grounds for dismissal from the university. All cases of plagiarism will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. Please be sure to read and understand the statement on plagiarism included in this syllabus. If you have any trouble understanding this complex issue, please ask for guidance.

**Conferences/Office Hours:** You are expected to attend at least two 15 minute conferences with me: once after your first draft is completed, and once before the eighth week of the quarter. The first conference is mandatory, the second is optional.

NOTE: Failure to meet me and/or failure to meet me at your scheduled time will automatically lower your paper grade by a full letter.

- During my office hours you are encouraged to just walk-in. See me, call, or e-mail if you want to set up an appointment or to inform me that you will come during office hours. It is helpful to get your work to me before your appointment so I can prepare comments ahead of time.

**The Writing Center:** If you need any additional assistance with any step in the writing process--brainstorming for ideas, drafting, revision, organization, style, or grammar and usage--I strongly encourage you to see a tutor at The Writing Center in 338 Denney. You must call ahead for an appointment: 292-5607. Keep in mind that using a tutor does not mean that you are incompetent. Many "incompetent" graduate students, professors, and professionals have used the Writing Center.

### **Student Work Policy**

After the quarter is over I will still have two of your essays. I'd like you to get them back. Over the next two quarters your work will be available in my office for pick-up. Stop by or call me and make arrangements.

### **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

The following statement is provided by the English Department Teaching Handbook and applies to this class: "If you are disabled (or have a disability) and need particular accommodations, please feel free to discuss this issue with me during office hours. Students with disabilities who need accommodations should be registered with the Office of Disability Services (292-3307)."

**The Ombud:** The Ombud is a resource for teachers and students of first-year composition who have concerns about their English 110 classes. The Ombud is a member of the faculty who negotiates and resolves problems or complaints. *All discussions with the Ombud are confidential.* This quarter the Ombud is Sandee McGlaun. Her office hours in Denney 363 are Monday & Wednesday 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.; Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Office phone 292-5778 (leave message) or e-mail <mcglaun.1@osu.edu>

### **Departmental Grading Standards. Some General Guidelines**

#### Minimal Composition Skills

A student will receive a grade of C in English 111 only if he or she can regularly write essays that are responsive to the assignments and that satisfy the following minimal criteria:

1. An essay must present a clear central idea which provides focus for the composition.
2. An essay must be clearly organized; logical development of thought must be readily discernible.
3. Paragraphs within a composition must be unified, coherent, and adequately developed. They should contribute to the development of thought within the essay.
4. An essay must offer supporting details which make the central idea clear and convincing.
5. An essay must demonstrate a student's ability to use language well; choice of words must be appropriate and specific.

#### Minimal Mechanical Skills

1. An essay will not receive a grade of C or above if it contains major problems in syntax. Excessive fragments, confused sentence structure, and/or run-on sentences are not present in C papers.
2. While the C paper may, of course, contain few mechanical errors, such errors must be minimal. An essay will not receive a C when it contains serious basic problems of proofreading and editing, such as subject-verb disagreement, numerous comma or other punctuation mistakes, or numerous spelling errors.

**Course Schedule:**

Scheduled readings and assignments are due on the day listed. I expect you to ask questions and offer opinions. Always bring the appropriate course materials to class. The *italics* indicate activities done in class. This schedule is subject to change, although you will be notified in due time.

1. 1/7 *Course Intro; Review Syllabus; First Day Essay*  
1/9 LC 3-36
2. 1/14 LC 38-79; *Everyday Writer*;  
1/16 LC 139-152; Plato, "Myth of the Cave"; Woolf, "Lapin Lapinova."
3. 1/21 LC 176-196; 1301-4; Chapters 14 & 15. *Everyday Writer*  
1/23 LC ; Carver, "Popular Mechanics"; "What We Talk About. . ."; Cofer, "I Fell in Love."; **Essay One, Draft One (3 copies)**. *Peer Response*
4. 1/28 LC Picasso; Paglia; Vonnegut, "Who Am I This Time"; *Rich* ; *Drafts returned; EverydayWriter*  
1/30 Cather, "A Wagner Matinée"; LC "What, Then, Is Literature?" (393-403)
5. 2/4 LC Hemingway, "Clean, Well-Lighted Place"; O'Conner, "A Good Man is Hard to Find."; **Essay One, Final Draft**; *Everyday Writer*  
2/6 LC 332-365; Ferlinghetti, (934-5); Donne, "Sun Rising" (Handout)
6. 2/11 LC Wordsworth (923); Stevens, (374) and handouts.  
2/13 LC Chapter 12; Dickinson (1218-20). *Everyday Writer*
7. 2/18 LC Keats (924-5).; Blake (366; 619-621; 822-24)  
2/20 Poem TBA **Essay Two, Draft One (3 Copies)** *Peer Response*
8. 2/25 LC 197-215; LC Shakespeare, The Tempest; *Drafts Returned; Screening to be scheduled*  
2/27 LC The Tempest; **Essay Two, Final Draft**
9. 3/4 Finish The Tempest; LC Critical readings (316-331)  
3/6 **Essay Three, Draft One**; *Everyday Writer*
10. 3/11 *Drafts Returned; Everyday Writer*  
3/13 **Essay Three, Final Draft**; *Intro to Final Essay; Evaluations*
11. Finals Week: Final Essay due in box outside Denney 449 no later than 4:30pm Wednesday, March 18th.