

English 1113.4: Freshman English I
MW: 11:00 – 12:15 ~ Fall 2010 ~ Hughes-Strong Hall 215

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Office Hours
Monday, Wednesday: 9-11am
Tuesday, Thursday: 9:30-11am

Other days/times by appointment only

If my office hours conflict with your schedule, please make an appointment to meet with me at your convenience.

This course is designed to improve your writing, reading, and thinking skills, which will prepare you for the kinds of writing, reading, thinking required in college courses.

Prerequisites

For students to take this course, they need a minimum ACT subscore of 19 or its equivalent or have successfully completed DEVE0123: Basic Writing.

Textbooks

- ❖ *Reading Critically, Writing Well*
- ❖ *Practical English Handbook*

Course Objectives

To complete this course successfully, the students will be able to

- ❖ prepare an organized, developed essay in standard American English in response to instructions regarding content, purpose, and audience; **(NCTE Standards 3.1.2; 3.2.1; 3.2.3; 3.4)**
- ❖ read, write, and think critically; **(NCTE Standards 3.1.2; 3.2.1; 3.2.3)**
- ❖ identify, analyze, and write an evaluation essay, a cause/effect essay, and a position essay; **(NCTE Standards 3.1.2; 3.2.1; 3.2.3; 3.4)**
- ❖ identify audiences and communicate a specific message to a specific audience; **(NCTE Standards 3.1.2; 3.1.3; 3.4.2)**
- ❖ compare and contrast writing by professionals and peers; **(NCTE Standards 3.1.2; 3.2.5; 3.4; 4.6)**
- ❖ evaluate writing by professionals and peers; **(NCTE Standards 3.1.2; 3.2.1; 3.2.5; 3.4; 4.6)**
- ❖ develop and improve their writing processes; **(NCTE Standards 3.1.2; 4.6)**
- ❖ improve their English usage skills; **(NCTE Standards 3.1.6)**
- ❖ work independently and collaboratively. **(NCTE Standards 3.1.2; 4.5)**

Assessment

I will use the following assignments to evaluate how well students meet the course objectives.

Essays. You will write three essays, each at least 500 words in length. In writing these essays, you will develop your critical reading, writing, and thinking skills. None of your essays will be researched, but rather they will be the result of your thinking and experiences. You will submit your essays attached to an email as a Word ® document or as a Rich Text Format (rtf) document; other formats will not be taken, and your work will not receive a grade.

Grammar Test. The last week of the semester you will take a standardized grammar test.

Daily Work. Daily work will consist of participation in rough draft analysis sessions, essay workshops, grammar and mechanics exercises, sentence-combining exercises, and exercises designed to improve your critical reading, writing, and thinking.

Tests/Quizzes. You will take several tests/quizzes throughout the semester—some announced some unannounced. All quizzes and tests will be averaged.

Participation. You will receive a grade for actively participating in class discussions, essay workshops, peer critiques, etc. Also, you must attend **THREE** fine arts* events and write (at least) a page-long reflection for each. The reflection is due the next time class meets after the activity attended. Make sure your reflection covers the entirety of the event; for example, if you attend a concert that showcases band and choir, your writing should reflect on both the band and the choir. It is important that you give a very short summary of the whole event at the beginning and then that you reflect on the complete event itself.

Final. The final exam may consist of

- a section to test critical reading, writing, and thinking skills;
- sentence-combining exercises; and/or
- short answers about your writing process.

Your final will take place from 10:30 to 12:30 on Monday, December 6, 2010.

Participation

Because this is a writing class, and writing is better achieved when done within a community of writers, participation is vital. Just like you would benefit from others' input, other students will appreciate the help with which you provide them. We will conduct workshops and peer critiques for all papers, so be ready to share your work with everyone in this class.

Attendance

Students are expected to come to class every time class meets. Much of the daily work will be done in class, and you will not be allowed to make up that work if you are absent. If you miss class, it will not be my responsibility to catch you up. You will have to find someone from this class and get whatever work was assigned. If work is assigned in class and you are absent, it is still your responsibility to do it. Be wise and come to class. If you are tardy, it is YOUR sole responsibility to see me right after class is dismissed to make sure I erased your absence; if you do not, please do not expect me to delete your absences at the end of the semester because I shall not do it. Punctuality is essential. Be early for class.

Late Work

- ❖ I will not accept ANY late work—whether it be an essay, a test, or daily work. No excuses.
- ❖ You cannot take the final early or late.
- ❖ You may not make up a peer critique or workshop.

Point Distribution

Essay 1: Evaluation	10%
Essay 2: Proposal	20%
Essay 3: Position	20%
Final Exam	10%
Tests/Quizzes	10%
Daily Work	10%
Participation	10%
Grammar Test	10%

Grading Scale

A= 100-93; B= 92-85; C=84-77; D= 76-69; F= 68-0

Scoring Rubric for English Curriculum

English instructors use the following standardized grading criteria:

- "A" work indicates that students have advanced critical thinking skills, make sophisticated connections between readings, class discussions, and their own ideas, and demonstrate an exceptional knowledge and use of standards of written English;
- "B" work indicates that students have above average critical thinking skills, make above average connections between readings, class discussions, and their own ideas, and demonstrate an above average knowledge and use of standards of written English;
- "C" work indicates that students have average critical thinking skills, make average connections between readings, class discussions, and their own ideas, and demonstrate an average knowledge and use of standards of written English;
- "D" work indicates that students have below average critical thinking skills, make below average connections between readings, class discussions, and their own ideas, and demonstrate below average knowledge and use of standards of written English;
- "F" work indicates that students possess few critical thinking skills, cannot make connections between readings, class discussions, and their own ideas, and demonstrate little knowledge and/or use of standards of written English.

Words to the Wise

- ❖ This course will require you to do extensive reading and writing. If you are not prepared for this, you should probably not take this course.
- ❖ You need to ***follow directions at all times***—no excuses, no exceptions.
- ❖ Attendance is important. Come to class. Your failing to attend might cause you to fall behind considerably and be unable to catch up. Your being in class every day, however, does not guarantee a good grade if your work does not reach a passing-grade level.
- ❖ This is a college class. I expect you to be mature, hardworking, and responsible. You are to meet this course's standards, not the course meet yours.
- ❖ Make sure you have my office phone number and email address handy. Contact me whenever you have a question. Don't wait until it's too late—you are not my only student! If you wait too long, you might not be able to contact me or I might take longer than expected to reply. Be wise, ask questions in class and/or contact me via phone or email the moment a concern arises.
- ❖ Make sure you know how to use your OPSU student email account. Hotmail and Yahoo do reject emails sent from the opsu.edu server; hence, if you send an email from an account in one of those two providers, you might not get my response. Occasionally, I will send an email to the entire class with due dates, assignments, etc. Please, check your email.
- ❖ When sending emails, please use standard email etiquette: sign your emails with your name and the course number and section which you attend. ALWAYS include a subject.
- ❖ **All assignments (unless otherwise requested) will be submitted typed and double spaced** and will bear the following information on the top left margin:

John Doe (Your Name)
Tito Aznar
English 1113.4
3 September 2010 (Date in *this* format)
Name of Assignment and Page Number

- ❖ I will not accept handwritten work unless it is done in class.
- ❖ All essays will be submitted via email. All essays will be typed on a Word® document or Rich Text Format (rtf) document and attached to the submission email. If you don't own a computer or don't have access to the Internet, make sure you know where computer labs are on campus and their operation hours or visit your local public library. It is your responsibility to check with me and make sure I get your essay on time. **If I don't get your email with the correct document (essay) attached, you will not receive a grade.**
- ❖ No cell phones, mp3 players, CD players, etc. are allowed in class. If you use one in class, you will be asked to leave—this includes sending or receiving text messages. If you bring a cell phone to class, keep it in your pocket or away and off—unless your job requires you to keep it on at all times or you're expecting an important call, in which cases you will have to let me know in advance. If you keep your phone on your desk or on your lap and not away, I will either confiscate it or will ask you to leave.
- ❖ I expect everyone to be on time for class. If you are late repeatedly, I will not allow you to come in. On occasion, I might lock the door once class begins. If the door is locked, don't knock. Take notes from outside or go back home and be on time the next time class meets.
- ❖ All work you submit in this class will be original to this class. You may not use essays or projects you've written or are writing for other classes.
- ❖ Tobacco use is not allowed in this building.
- ❖ You may bring limited food/drink items to class, just make sure you dispose of trash in the appropriate receptacles and that you clean up if you happen to make a mess/have an accident.

Academic Dishonesty:

Plagiarism is defined as "Verbatim copying of an entire paper or other assigned work, not writing or composing your own work, submitting anyone else's (student, friend, professional, web) work, structure, or ideas, in whole or in part, without adequate acknowledgment of the sources used to construct a paper or other assigned work, giving or obtaining answers on a test."

Please refer to the **OPSU Academic Integrity Policy** (you can find it in the *OPSU General Catalogue*, the *Student Handbook*, the OPSU website, and my website) to find a list of specific items that constitute plagiarism and the possible consequences..

I will not tolerate plagiarism/cheating.

Disabilities:

Requests for accommodation for disabilities should have been made prior to the start of the semester through the Vice President of Academic Affairs Office (academic, i.e. learning disabilities) or the Vice President for Student Affairs Office (physical, i.e. mobility, vision, hearing). However, if you think you have a disability and are in need of special accommodations, I will work with you to provide a reasonable accommodation to ensure that you have a fair opportunity to perform well in this class. Please advise me and the appropriate VP of such disability and the desired accommodation at some point before, during, or immediately after the first scheduled class period.

Important Dates:

August 13:	Overload Hours Request Due
August 17:	Last Day to Change Sections, to Enroll or Add a Class, or to Change from Audit to Credit
August 24:	No Refund on Dropped Courses
September 6:	Labor Day—No School
*October 7:	Band and Choir Concert (7pm @ Centennial Theatre)
October 21-22:	Fall Break
*October 26:	Comedian (7pm @ Centennial Theatre)
October 29:	Last Day to Change from Credit to Audit
November 1:	Beginning of "W" or "F" fro Dropped Courses
November 4:	Opera Scenes (7pm @ Centennial Theatre)
November 12:	Last Day to Withdraw from a Class
*November 12:	<i>The Star-Spangled Girl</i> (7pm @ Centennial Theatre)
*November 13:	<i>The Star-Spangled Girl</i> (7pm @ Centennial Theatre)
*November 14:	<i>The Star-Spangled Girl</i> (3pm @ Centennial Theatre)
November 21-22:	Thanksgiving Break
*December 2:	Band and Choir Concert (7pm @ Centennial Theatre)
December 6-9:	Final Exams

This syllabus is a living document; hence, it is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.