

College of the Canyons
English 091: Intro to College Reading and Writing
Spring 2015 Course Syllabus

Section #: 13739
Schedule: M/W 8:00am – 9:20am
Location: Bonelli Hall 309
Instructor: Eric Barnhart
Email: Eric.Barnhart@canyons.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays 9:30 - 10:30am

“We read books to find out who we are. What other people, real or imaginary, do and think and feel... is an essential guide to our understanding of what we ourselves are and may become.”

Ursula K LeGuin



About this Class:

Catalog Description: Prepares students to write well-organized, unified, and coherent essays for a college audience and teaches critical reading skills for college-level reading material. No credit if taken after ENGL 094 or ENGL 096.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Compose thoughtful, well-organized, grammatically correct short essays, using properly documented outside sources and personal experiences to develop a unified thesis.
- Distinguish and analyze basic elements of fiction and non-fiction found in introductory college readings.

Course Objectives:

- Focus and narrow ideas using prewriting strategies.
- Compose well-organized, source-based short essays.
- Provide adequate support for thesis statements.
- Create unified, coherent, and well-developed writing through revision.
- Apply a variety of patterns of development in writing, such as: persuasion, cause and effect, and compare and contrast.
- Document external sources with parenthetical citations and a Works Cited list according to MLA format.
- Edit one's own sentences for sentence boundary, punctuation, mechanics, and spelling errors.

- Analyze elements of fictions such as: plot, setting, characterization, irony, figurative language, and theme.
- Analyze elements of non-fiction including: author's thesis, main points, supporting details, and organization strategy.
- Synthesize ideas from sources with one's own ideas.

Required Material:

- *The Road*. Cormac McCarthy. ISBN: 978-0307387899
- *Mirror on America. Essays and Images from Popular Culture*. Joan T Mims and Elizabeth M Nollen. ISBN: 978-0312667658
- A working email address that you check regularly
- Regular Internet Access for Blackboard and Class Blog
- Notebook and pens/pencils
- Two-pocket folder for essay submissions

Policies

Attendance and Participation:

This class is committed to the process of creating and maintaining a scholarly community. Each class period will include active discussion/lecture as well as in-class, graded writing exercises. Therefore, attendance and participation are vital to your success and the success of your classmates. If you miss more than four (4) class periods, you will fall behind with your work. And if you fall behind, your grade is in danger of dropping. Additionally, lateness is a distraction, not only for yourself but your classmates, and not acceptable. For this reason, tardiness will count as half of an absence. Please be here at the start of class, ready to work, participate, and learn.

“Anyway—because we are readers, we don't have to wait for some communications executive to decide what we should think about next—and how we should think about it. We can fill our heads with anything from aardvarks to zucchinis—at any time of night or day.”

Kurt Vonnegut

If you do arrive late, it is your responsibility to check with me at the end of class to make sure you are not marked absent.

I expect you to not only be on time, but also fully present. This means that you are responsible for fulfilling all readings and assignments *before* you get to class and that you bring the essential materials needed to participate. If you are not prepared for class, it will show. You will only get out of college what you are willing to put into it. Respect your time, as well as that of your classmates my own. If you commit yourself to the process, we will be able to use this classroom as an environment to grow in. Be present, be active, be involved.

Students who are absent during the first class session will be dropped from the class. If you are unable to attend the first class but wish to remain enrolled, contact me immediately via email. Additionally, students who miss more than three classes before the drop date may be dropped from the class.

Classroom Conduct:

Be respectful and you will be respected.

Please keep in mind that while I promote and encourage a free exchange of ideas and information, side-conversations or other disruptive talking when either a fellow student or myself

“One writes most of all in order to take part in a collective enterprise.”
Italo Calvino

is speaking is inconsiderate. Furthermore, all commentary needs to be respectful of the beliefs, opinions, and ideas of others. Students that do not comply with these guidelines will be asked to leave for the day, resulting in an unexcused absence. If the problem continues, further action will be taken.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:

The College of the Canyons’ “Statement on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism” defines plagiarism as “the submission of someone else’s work or ideas as one’s own, without adequate attribution. When a student submits work for a class assignment that includes the words, ideas, or data of others, without acknowledging the source of the information through complete, accurate, and specific references, plagiarism is involved. This may include dual submission of a similar work for credit for more than one class, without the current instructor’s knowledge and approval... Cases of alleged academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism or cheating, will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for investigation.”

In other words: all work that you submit for this course must be your own and must be written exclusively for this course. The use of all sources (other people’s ideas, quotations, and paraphrases from published work) must be properly documented. The consequences of plagiarizing can be extreme.

Some students may worry that they may accidentally plagiarize, which can hinder the writing process. Don’t worry, this course will teach you how to incorporate outside sources and document them properly.

Email:

Email will be the primary means in which I will communicate with you outside of class. It is your responsibility as a college student to check your email everyday. You can set up your COC email so that it forwards messages to another email account (this will ensure that you do not miss important information from your professors). When you do email me, please include your name and the class you are in (ex: Eric Barnhart: English 091 T/TH).

Late Work:

Because each assignment is designed to build up to each of the three essays, there is little point in doing them after the essay is written. Therefore, late work will not be accepted. Late essays will be accepted (final drafts only), but will be reduced one full letter grade for each day they are late (this includes days that we do not meet). If you are having trouble with an assignment, discuss it with me; I am here to help.

Technical Difficulties:

This class will rely on both in-class and Internet activity. I will use the class website and email to disseminate readings and information, and you will need Internet access to post your Reading Journals. If you have trouble accessing the Internet, please let me know. There are computer labs on campus that you can use for free. If you are going to be traveling and know you won’t have

access to the internet, plan ahead so you can still get your work done on time. If your internet stops working and you are supposed to post something online but can't, print it out and bring it to class so I can see you did the work, even if you couldn't post it. "I didn't have Internet" is not an acceptable excuse for not turning in your work. You can access computers on campus for free in the TLC and the ASG Lab in the Student Center.

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning, and psychiatric disabilities. Please contact me at the beginning of the semester to discuss any such accommodations for this course.

Visiting the TLC (The Learning Center):

The Learning Center exists to provide free help to students with any assignment at any point in the writing process, from brainstorming to outlining to proofreading a final draft. The tutors in the TLC are kind and well-qualified. Each session will provide you with up to 30 minutes of one-on-one assistance. Please note that the tutors are there to assist you, they will not "fix" things for you. I want you to take full advantage of this service, so you will be required to visit the TLC at least once for each essay before the final draft is due.

The Learning Center also offers free computer access.

Course Overview:

Assignments and Grades:

Assignment(s)	Percentage of Grade	Total Points Possible
Attendance and Participation	• 10%	• 100
Reading Journals	• 10%	• 100
Essay 1		
• Exercises & Peer Review	• 10%	• 100
• Essay	• 10%	• 100
Essay 2		
• Exercises & Peer Review	• 5%	• 50
• Essay	• 15%	• 150
Essay 3		
• Exercises & Peer Review	• 5%	• 50
• Essay	• 15%	• 150
Reflection Letter	• 5%	• 50
Portfolio	• 15%	• 150
Total		• 1000

Grading Scale:

I will use the following grading scale. There are, as you can see above, a total of 1000 points for the semester. Grades are determined as follows:

(A) 900 – 1000 (B) 800 – 899 (C) 700 – 799 (D) 600 – 699 (F) 599 or below

Essays:

Essays will be 2-3 (essays 1 and 2) or 4-5 (essay 3) complete pages in length and based upon a prompt I will distribute in class and on Blackboard. Each essay needs to be accompanied by an MLA-style Works Cited page (not included in the 2-3 page requirement).

Exercises:

For each essay you will complete activities and assignments leading up to your final draft. These will include: prewriting exercises, first drafts, peer reviews, TLC consultation, among others. You will collect these together in a final packet (you will use your two-sleeve folder for this) and hand it in with your final draft.

Reading Journals:

We will regularly engage in in-class reading journals where you will be responsible for writing to a response to a given prompt on the assigned reading. You will be required to turn these reading journals in prior to the start of class on the day they are due. You will receive full credit on these journals as long as you do the reading, follow the prompt, and post them on time. And since these journals are an integral part of your reading and writing development, you will only be allowed to miss one journal assignment.

Portfolio:

This will include one of your three essays, one other writing assignment from this class, and a reflective letter. You may choose whichever essay you like most or feel represents your best work. This essay will need to be significantly revised from its original state. We will discuss the details of the portfolio later in the semester. In order to be eligible to turn in a portfolio, you must turn in all three essays no later than Monday, .

Important Dates:

Monday, February 16th: No Class (Washington Holiday)

Sunday, February 22nd: Last day to drop w/out a W

April 5th-11th: No Class (Spring Break)

Friday, May 8th: Last day to drop with a W

Monday, May 25th: No Class (Memorial Day)

Wednesday, June 3rd: Last Day of Class

“And by the way, everything in life is writable about if you have the outgoing guts to do it, and the imagination to improvise. The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt.”

Sylvia Plath

If You Ever Need Help:

Because there are only sixteen weeks in a semester, we will be moving at a fast pace. If you find yourself having trouble with class, or if you are experiencing problems that are affecting your schoolwork, please contact me as soon as possible. If I don't know what's going on, I can't help. I want all of my students to succeed and will do as much as I can to facilitate your success.

The TLC offers many supplemental lessons and classes; I encourage you to take advantage of this valuable resource. Check out their website at www.canyons.edu/offices/TLC, or drop by and visit them (they're in the library).

If you are feeling overwhelmed, depressed, or anxious, and you'd like to talk to someone, please consider the services at Student Health and Wellness Center. Enrolled students can get counseling for free. There's nothing wrong with needing help or wanting to talk to someone—I do so myself. Check out their website at www.canyons.edu/Offices/Health or call 661-362-3259.

Syllabus Adapted from Professor Melissa Filbeck

Tentative Class Schedule

Essay 1: Social Literacy (Persuasive Essay)

Begins: February 11th

Exercise 1 (Summary): February 18th

Exercise 2 (Letter to the Author): February 23rd

Exercise 3 (Letter to a Friend): February 23rd

Exercise 4 (Essay Brainstorm): February 25th

First Draft: March 2nd

Final Draft: March 9th

Essay 2: *Mirror on America* (Cause and Effect)

Begins: March 4th

Exercise 1 (Building a Foundation): March 16th

Exercise 2 (Annotated Bibliography): March 18th

Exercise 3 (The Dialogue): March 18th

Exercise 4 (The Proposal): March 23rd

First Draft: March 25th

Final Draft: April 1st

Essay 3: *The Road* (Compare and Contrast)

Begins: March 30th

Exercise 1 (Book Review): April 27th

Exercise 2 (Film Review): May 4th

First Draft: May 11th

Final Draft: May 18th

Portfolio Due: May 27th

Final: June 3rd