EN 120A: Expository Writing 1

Instructor: Mr. John P. Ranahan

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Location: Lang/Lit Department, Office 3

Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 8:00-8:45 AM, 10:00-10:45 AM

Course Description: Expository Writing 1 will develop student skills in expository writing by completing a minimum of four well-constructed paragraphs and three essays using the following three rhetorical patterns: example, cause/effect analysis, and argumentative. The final essay requires research and proper MLA documentation style.

Course Objective: Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to organize ideas correctly using pre-writing and outlining strategies, write clear, grammatically correct paragraphs and papers in the four rhetorical patterns mentioned above, and understand methods of research using MLA Format.

Required books & Materials:

Textbook: *Refining Composition Skills: Rhetoric and Grammar,* Sixth Edition, Regina L. Smalley, et al. Heinle and Heinle. Notebook to keep drafts and papers neat and organized. Buy either a notebook with folders included or a three-ring binder with sections and folders to help keep you organized. Paper, pens, pencils and highlighters for note taking and writing.. Flash drive to save research and papers .Dictionary/Thesaurus. Separate Notebook for writing journal.

Behavior:

1. Be respectful of one another, the teacher and the classroom.
2. Do your own work. Cheating or copying is absolutely unacceptable.
3. Be prepared for class with the following: books, notebooks, pens, pencils, highlighters, completed assignments, etc.
4. No betel nut, drink, candy, gum, or food in the classroom.
5. Cell phones and pagers must be turned off during class.

Attendance Policy: I will follow the COM-FSM Lang/Lit Department policy on Attendance: after six (6) absences, you will receive an F, and I will drop you from the class. If you are more than fifteen (15) minutes late, I will count you absent for the class. Three late appearances of more than ten (10) minutes will count as one (1) absence. Remember, regular attendance and participation contributes positively to your grade.

Academic honesty: I will follow the COM-FSM policy on academic honesty: if you plagiarize or copy, you will receive a zero (0) on the assignment, and I will bring the act to the attention of the appropriate administrator.

Writing Journal: You need to keep a writing journal; it can be a notebook that is smaller than a regular size one for notes or one section of your three-ring binder. Each week you will have a writing prompt that you will write about in your journal.

Evaluation: Students is evaluated on attendance and class participation, quizzes and tests, in class assignments, and homework.

1. Pre-drafts, drafts, and final papers: 60%
2. In class assignments: 30%
3. Attendance & class participation: 10%

You will get 5 points per day for attending class and additional 5 points per day for participating in class discussions/activities and being prepared (bringing required materials, homework, etc).

Grading Scale:

90-100 = A 70-79 = C below 60 = F

80-89 = B 60-69 = D

I will use the 6 + 1 Trait Writing Scoring Rubric for grading drafts and final copies of

paragraphs and essays.

Class Schedule: subject to change!

Week 1: Chapter 1, pp, 2-9. Skim the reading first, then re-read more carefully. Turn in Journal 1 on Friday, 13 January (see assignment on pp. 3-4).

Week 2: Chapter 2, pp. 10-35. Skim the reading first, then re-read more carefully. Turn in Journal 2 on Wednesday, 18 January (see assignment on p. 11). Final Writing Assignment, p. 35, due on Friday 20 January (peer review done in class on the 20th).

Week 3: Chapter 3 pp. 36-51. Skim the reading first, then re-read more carefully. Turn in Journal 3 on Wednesday, 25 January (see assignment on p. 37). Final Writing Assignment, p. 51, due on Friday, 27 January (peer review done in class on the 27th).

Weeks 4 & 5: Chapter 4, pp. 52-71. Skim the reading first, then re-read more carefully. Turn in Journal 4 on Wednesday, 1 February (see assignment on p. 53). Final Writing Assignment, p. 71, due on Friday, 10 February (peer review done in class on the 10th).

Week 6: Chapter 5, pp. 72-98. Skim the reading first, then re-read more carefully. Turn in Journal 5 on Wednesday 15 February (see assignment on p. 73). Written work is in-class exercises.

Week 7: Chapter 6, pp. 100-120. Skim the reading first, then re-read more carefully. Turn in Journal 6 on Wednesday, 22 February (see assignment on p. 101). Written work is in-class exercises, finished Friday, 24 February.

Weeks 8 & 9: Chapter 7, pp. 122-145. Skim the reading first, then re-read more carefully. Turn in Journal 7 on Wednesday, 29 February (see assignment on p. 122). First draft of essay is due Friday, March 2. Journal 8 is due on Wednesday, 7 March (assignment: write about your favorite foods). Final draft of the is due on Friday, March 9 (peer review done in class).

Weeks 10-12: Chapter 11, pp.219-252. Skim the reading first, then re-read more carefully. Turn in Journal 9 on Wednesday, March 14 (see assignment on p. 254). First draft of essay due on Wednesday, March 21. Journal 10 due on Friday, March 23 (assignment: compare your mother’s family to your father’s family). Final draft of the essay is due on Wednesday, March 28th (with peer review done in class).

Weeks 13-15: This essay requires library research and proper MLA documentation style, with a minimum of two, properly cited sources. Chapter 12, pp. 253-280. Skim the reading first, then re-read more carefully. Turn in Journal 11 on Friday, April 13 (see assignment on p. 254). First draft of the essay is due on Friday, 20 April. Journal 12 is due on Wednesday, 25 April (assignment: write for 20 minutes about what you have learned in this course this semester). Final draft of the essay is due on Friday, 27April (with peer review done in class).

Week 16: Final Exam will be a rewrite of either Example Essay or Cause/Effect essay. Due at the end of the exam period for the class.