

Wilberforce University**Division
Course Syllabus**

Course:	ENGL 115: College Reading, Sections 04, 05, 06
Term:	Spring 2012
Instructor:	Name: Teri Barker Email Address: tbarker@wilberforce.edu Phone Number: (937) 708-5466 Office: Walker 102 Office Hours: M-F: 8 – 10:00 a.m. (or by appt.)
Catalog Description:	<p>A college-level course that emphasizes textbook reading techniques, learning strategies, and vocabulary comprehension skills needed for success in college. This knowledge will lead to increased growth in comprehension rate, vocabulary, and a reinforced set of writing skills. A grade of C or above is required to pass the course. This course cannot be dropped.</p> <p>The purpose of this course is to solidify the probability of success in college and in subsequent careers by introducing the student to many of the writing styles that will be encountered during their academic career. In short, this course is a bridge between the academic languages encountered in high school to the expected levels of college academic terminology.</p> <p>The goal of this course is to provide students with the tools to decipher unfamiliar terminology by observing contexts, writing disciplines, and performing research. At the end of this course, students will be able to examine writings from across the disciplines and, even though they may not understand 100%, will have a foothold to begin deciphering the text into a form usable for their purposes.</p> <p>A grade of C or above is required to pass the course. This course cannot be dropped.</p>
Prerequisites	A grade of C or above in Eng 105 or equivalent score on the AccuPlacer Placement Exam.

<p>Course Level Learning Outcomes:</p>	<p>At the end of this course students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Examine writings from across the disciplines and, even though they may not understand 100%, will have a foothold to begin deciphering the text into a form usable for their purposes. 2. Accurately summarize, analyze, and critique upon the writings of others. 3. Synthesize sources for their own research. 4. Have a basic understanding of evaluating sources. 												
<p>Materials:</p>	<p><i>Critical Thinking, Reading, and Writing: A Brief Guide to Argument</i> by Sylvan Barnet and Hugo Bedau</p> <p><i>A Flash drive</i></p>												
<p>Grading:</p>	<p>The Grading System: Standard University grading applies. A, B, C, D, and F. Grades will be based on the quality and completeness of total work submitted.</p> <p>Grading Scale</p> <p>90 - 100% = A 89 - 80% = B 79 - 70% = C 69-60% = D Below 60% = F</p> <p>The course assignments will be weighted as follows:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Writing Assignments (4)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">25%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Midterm</td> <td style="text-align: right;">20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final</td> <td style="text-align: right;">20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attendance and Participation:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">25%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Name History Presentation:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">100%</td> </tr> </table>	Writing Assignments (4)	25%	Midterm	20%	Final	20%	Attendance and Participation:	25%	Name History Presentation:	10%		100%
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Grading

Grade A—Students who fulfill the requirements for a B at least two weeks before the end of the semester, with the consent of the instructor, may be assigned additional work in order to become eligible for the grade of A. Individual instructors determine the specific criteria.

Grade B—Students who receive a passing grade (holistic score of 4 or higher) on more than half of all assigned essays and who also maintain a high level of achievement on other tasks assigned by the instructor (homework, quizzes, journal, etc.) will be eligible for the grade of B.

Grade C—Students have demonstrated that they can write consistently at the passing level and meet minimal competencies in the following areas:

1. The ability to conceive ideas about a topic for the purpose of writing an essay.
2. The ability to organize, select, and relate ideas and to outline and develop them in coherent paragraphs.
3. The ability to write Standard English sentences with correct
 - sentence structure
 - verb forms
 - possessive and plural forms, and other matters of mechanics
 - punctuation and capitalization
 - word choice and spelling
4. The ability to vary one's writing style, including vocabulary and sentence structure, for different readers and purposes.
5. The ability to improve one's own writing by restructuring, correcting errors, and rewriting.

Grade F—Students who do not meet the minimal competencies will receive the grade of F.

A student's proficiency in course work is measured in terms of the following Alphabetical symbols. Minuses and pluses are not accepted.

A: Excellent

B: Good

C: Satisfactory (Grade C or better required in major courses).

D: Poor (passing, except in major courses).

F: Earned Failure. (Removed only by repeating the course). Upon successfully passing the course, the first grade is "excluded" from grade point average. The second grade is "included in the recalculation of the grade point average.

I: Incomplete (student performing satisfactorily, but unable to complete coursework due to valid reason).

N: Used in cases where grades are not yet submitted.

W: Withdrew before course drop deadline.

WP: Student withdraws from University.
Withdrew passing after course drop deadline (2 weeks after mid-term).

WF: Student withdraws from University.
Withdrew failing after course drop deadline (2 weeks after mid-term. WF is treated as an F (punitive grade).

CR: Credit/pass

NC: No credit/fail

Z: Failed course for non-attendance/unofficial withdrawal (treated the same as an F grade). Last date of attendance is reported by faculty.

Activities:

ASSIGNMENTS

Multiple opportunities will be provided for students to demonstrate their intelligence and diligence. These will include several assignments, described below. Additional information will be provided on each of these in class.

1. **Class Participation:** The wisdom of the class commentary, including comments on readings, presentations, and other readings will be evaluated in terms of its pertinence, clarity and perceptiveness.
2. **Major Writing Assignments:** Moreover, a series 4 of writing assignments (3-4 pages each) and discussions will be provided in order to elicit your reactions to assigned readings. **Attendance is truly expected every class. It is mandatory.** Failure to attend could result in failure of the course.
3. **Midterm:** There will be a midterm exam designed to assess the student's knowledge and perception of important concepts learned in the course. The midterm will involve an in class written response to an article or quote.
4. **Debates:** Students will debate the features of the assigned freshman reading for the course.
5. **The Final Exam:** The final will consist of a series of questions in response to readings.

Policy Statements:

Attend class regularly. **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY FOR A FINAL GRADE OF A!** Commit to being in attendance in every class meeting and attending every class meeting on time. **(A student will experience a serious reduction in grade average for THREE or more unexcused class absences. See also page 9 of the University undergraduate catalog for more information on excessive absences.)**

- A. Study carefully all assigned readings and textbook.
- B. Turn in all assignments promptly. Late work will be reduced one letter grade for each week that it is late.

	<p>C. Be prepared to make reports, etc. at the scheduled time.</p> <p>D. Turn off all cellular phones, pagers and any other listening device</p> <p>E. Participate in all in-class discussions</p> <p>F. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. If a student is caught plagiarizing an assignment, she will receive a zero grade (0) for the assignment and may, per the instructor's discretion, be referred to the Vice President for Academic Affairs for further action.</p>
<p>University Policies:</p>	<p><u>Academic Honesty:</u> Plagiarism and cheating are completely unacceptable in an institution of higher education and learning. Such behavior deprives the student involved of the desired education and development of an appropriate value system. It is extremely unfair to other students, and it severely diminishes the value and integrity of a University degree.</p> <p>Plagiarism occurs whenever another's work is submitted as one's own. This includes the use of information from an Internet site or from a published author's ideas and words without proper attribution or documentation. It also includes the copying of term papers, other unpublished works, homework, case reports, computer programs and spreadsheets, and any other course assignments which are submitted for course credit as the student's own effort.</p> <p>Each instructor shall state the specific penalties for plagiarism and cheating in the course syllabus. The instructor has final responsibility for assessing the penalty in such cases regarding the course grade.</p> <p>All cases of plagiarism and cheating will be referred to the Vice President for Academic Affairs for possible further action. Additional penalties may be imposed for the egregious cases of plagiarism and cheating.</p>

Drops and Withdrawals

Dropping Courses:

A course may be dropped up through the end of the second week of the semester without any record on the transcript. After this date, a course may be dropped up to two weeks after mid-term grade reports are due, with a **W** appearing on the transcript. Withdrawals after mid-terms must be approved by the Vice-president of academic Affairs.

In certain General Studies core courses, students' assignments to course sections may be changed by faculty with written notification given to the Registrar. In all other cases, a student wishing to move from one section of a course to another must accomplish this by using a drop-add form to drop the old section and add the new section.

Withdrawal/Grading Policies

The following procedures will apply to all students withdrawing from the University. Grades will be given in regard to the time of withdrawal. Contact the Registrar's Office for forms and assistance.

- **W** (official withdrawal initiated by the student): To be given when a student withdraws between the first day of class/registration and the last day to drop courses, this is two weeks after mid-term exams.
- **AW** (unofficial withdrawal not initiated by the student): The student does not inform anyone that he/she is leaving campus (the student walks out). The university may also administratively withdraw a student for disciplinary reasons, academic legal anytime during the semester.

Special Accommodations:

A student who is ill or who has or develops medical conditions including but not limited to illness, physical or other disability or pregnancy must notify the Director of Health Services immediately.

Course Policies :	<p><u>Relationship of Course Content with Issues of Equity, Cultural Diversity and Global Applications:</u></p> <p>This course will be presented in a manner that permits related issues to be examined from several perspectives. Provisions will be made for minority and majority views. Race, gender, socio-economic and cultural pluralism will be encouraged, and the class will be conducted in a way that nurtures facilitators of learning and competent and caring practitioners with a multi-cultural perspective, in keeping with the NCATE theme.</p> <p><u>Need for Accommodation</u></p> <p>The First Year Enrichment program, in conjunction with the Academic Center for Student Support Services, makes reasonable accommodations for qualified students with medically documented disabilities. If you need an accommodation, please contact the ACCESS Office at 708-5648, preferably as soon as possible.</p> <p><u>Contact Hours:</u> All classes will meet for the full-time stated on schedule. Classes will not be shortened or cancelled without prior notice. Classes cancelled due to inclement weather will convene via distance learning such as conference calls or internet. The instructor may also provide an independent study assignment in lieu of class time.</p>
Advising & Tutorial Support:	<p>If you need tutoring assistance, please contact the ACCESS Office at 708-5648, preferably as soon as possible. I am also available by appointment to aid you in strengthening your assignments. Please see me for details about the P.A.S.S. Writing Lab, which meets weekly.</p>