

English 120 Fall 2008 #2795
T/Th 8:15 AM-10:27 AM
AU 207 & Writing Lab (TBA)

Dr. Monette Tiernan
Office LB 215/ext. 5609
SOffice hrs: T 10:30-11:30;
W 9:30-10:30 & by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Welcome to English 120, a course in which you will learn to write clearly and persuasively about a variety of topics from current events and multi-cultural issues to the questions and problems that confront all of us as human beings. The practical goal of this course is to familiarize you with the conventions of academic writing and to prepare you for English 101. Beyond that, I am also confident that this course will enable you to see the potential power of your thinking and written expression as you work to explore, articulate, and refine your thoughts on the page.

To achieve these goals, we will read and respond to a number of texts in both formal and informal writing. Most essays will be written in class, though some (especially early in the semester) may be completed at home, so you will have sufficient time to work at a relatively “leisurely” pace and to internalize the necessary principles of academic writing. This writing will equip you with a number of practices and skills useful both inside and outside college, including collaboration, outlining, drafting, revising and editing, reading critically, using writing as a tool for learning, organizing research materials, and more. The final exam will be a timed essay, written entirely in class; this will encourage your facility with several skills you will need in other college courses, such as writing essay exams and organizing your thoughts quickly and logically.

COURSE RATIONALE: English 120 is designed for students who want to prepare for the writing required in college classes and other settings. The course emphasizes practice in the writing of thesis-based essays and the critical analysis of selected prose works dealing with important contemporary ideas. English 120 provides practice in mechanics, style, and organization of paragraphs and essays.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: Successful completion of English 191 or placement based on a composite of test scores and academic background.

REQUIRED TEXTS & MATERIALS

- *Glendale Community College English 120 Reader*
- A PC formatted diskette or flash drive
- A portable dictionary
- A portable thesaurus

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Completion of all writing assignments
- Daily reading/writing homework

- Peer review
- Quizzes on reading and grammar
- Class participation & regular attendance
- Library research workshop (extra credit)

COURSE GRADE: To receive at least a C in the course, you must fulfill all the course requirements. In addition, you must receive at least a C average on required work. To receive an A or B in the course, you must fulfill all the course requirements and receive at least an A or B average on required work. Finally, to receive a C or above, you must also attend class regularly, be on time, and be prepared (appearing with completed homework, required books and materials for the day, and so forth).

Your final grade for the course will be computed according to the following:

Written homework	15%
Quizzes	10%
Essay #1	10%
Essay #2	10%
Essay #3	10%
Essay #4	10%
Essay #5 (Research)	15%
Final Exam Essay	20%
	100%

(Note: In order to pass this class, your research paper must receive a grade of C- or better.)

GROUND RULES FOR WRITING: All essays must include a title and must be typed and double-spaced. We will discuss other formatting issues (such as documentation of sources) as the semester progresses. Essays will be considered late unless they are handed in at the beginning of class on the designated due date. They will be considered incomplete unless they have carried out all of the required activities leading up to their completion. I will lower late essays one grade for each class they are late—up to three days after the due date. After that, I will not accept them, which will mean that you cannot pass the course. You will be allowed a total of two late essays with noted penalties; after that, I will not accept additional late essays.

OTHER CLASS PRACTICES: Regular attendance in this course is mandatory, and you must come to class on time. Excessive unexcused absence or tardiness will result in a lowering of your final grade, and may result in your being dropped from the course. I will drop students who miss classes during the first full week of classes. If you miss a class after that, it is your responsibility to contact a classmate or me regarding homework, quizzes, changes in the syllabus, etc. The statement, “I was absent,” is not an excuse for not knowing what is going on in class. Penalties for unexcused absence are a) 4 absences, no penalty; b) 5 absences, loss of one letter grade from final grade; c) 6 absences, may be dropped from the course or receive a final grade of “F”. Penalties for

tardiness are as follows: a) 4 tardies, no penalty; b) All subsequent tardies count as one absence each; c) Any tardy on a quiz day will result in a "0" on the quiz. Tardy is defined as 5 minutes or more late.

Homework and quizzes may not be made up. Essays and exams may not be made up, though late essays will be accepted with penalties as noted above.

I expect that you will come to class prepared, having completed the assigned reading and writing and/or other exercises. If you do not contribute regularly and responsibly to class discussions or other activities, or if you are disruptive or disrespectful to me or to others in the class, I will assume that you are not prepared. Lack of preparedness and/or disruptive behavior in class may be grounds for dismissal from the class. If you come to class without your book or without other materials required for the day, you will be counted absent.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES: All cell phones Blackberries, Palm Pilots, iPods, etc. must be powered off before class begins; in addition, they must be kept out of sight during class. If a student uses an electronic device during class time, s/he will be given one warning. On the second occurrence, the student will be dismissed from class and receive an absence for that day. On the third occurrence, the student will be dismissed from class and reported to the Dean of Instruction for disciplinary action. If you cannot live without access to such devices during class time, please enroll in another English 120 class.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: One of the purposes of college is to encourage your independence as a thinker and writer; therefore, you are expected to do your own work. All forms of cheating and plagiarism are forbidden. Students found cheating will have their assignments marked "0," may receive a failing grade for the course, and may be dismissed from the college. Examples of cheating include (but are not limited to) the following: Using unauthorized materials on quizzes or exams; copying other students' quizzes or exams; having another student or tutor write your work; copying, paraphrasing, or summarizing any written materials without proper credit to the original author; downloading from websites without citation.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: At the end of the course, students will be tested on their ability to 1) analyze and synthesize information from a series of related articles, as demonstrated by summary, paraphrase, and quotation; 2) write a multi-paragraph argumentative essay which addresses the topic, applies knowledge of essay organization conventions and basic MLA citation form, displays a command of standard English grammar, and demonstrates a growing awareness of critical thinking through the development of ideas and cited, logically applied evidence derived from readings; 3) assess a student composition for unity, development, coherence, strength of evidence, proper integration of reading sources, and correct citation. These outcomes will be assessed through class activities and a holistic final exam.

SPECIAL NEEDS: All students with disabilities requiring accommodations are responsible for making arrangements in a timely manner through the Center for Students with Disabilities.

CONFERENCES: You can always reach me for questions or conferences about writing or other course activities during my office hours, by phone, or by email. I will always be happy to talk with you about your course concerns.

Note: I may alter this syllabus or the assignment schedule at any time. Alteration may include but is not limited to adding, deleting, or changing the content or due date of any reading or writing assignments. Regular attendance and punctuality will ensure that you stay informed of any such changes. In the case of absence, you should check with my or a reliable classmate regarding any changes in homework or other assignments.

Schedule of Readings, Homework, and Due Dates

T 09/02	Introductions; Using the course website; Marking and annotating texts.
Th 09/04	Analysis of “Prison Studies”; Grammar—Nouns and Verbs.
T 09/09	Analysis of “Take This Fish”; Grammar—The Simple Sentence (Subjects & Verbs).
Th 09/11	Grammar—The Simple Sentence (Prepositional Phrases); Analysis of Helen Keller; Outline for Essay 1.
T 09/16	In-Class Essay 1.
Th 09/18	Analysis of “Ebola River”; Grammar—Missing Subject Fragments.
T 09/23	Analysis of “Gaza Diary”; Grammar—Dependent Word Fragments.
Th 09/25	Grammar—Causes of Run Ons; Analysis of “Border Story”; Outline for Essay 2.
T 09/30	In-Class Essay 2.
Th 10/02	Analysis of “Indian Education”; Grammar—Correcting Run Ons.
T 10/07	Analysis of “Barrio”; Grammar—Conjunctive Adverbs.
Th 10/09	Analysis of “Southie”; Outline for Essay 3.
T 10/14	In-Class Essay 3.
Th 10/16	Analysis of “Only Daughter”; Grammar—Spelling 1.
T 10/21	Analysis of “Arm Wrestling with My Father.”
Th 10/23	Analysis of “How Playing Country Music...”; Outline for Essay 4.
T 10/28	In-Class Essay 4.
Th 10/30	Analysis of “Immigration, the Sleeping Time Bomb,” “Just Say No for a While to Immigration,” and “The American Dream and the Politics of Inclusion.”
T 11/04	Analysis of “Beyond the Tortilla Curtain,” “Can America Assimilate,” and “More Immigrants Filling the Ranks of the US Military.”
Th 11/06	Locating articles for Essay #5 (Research Essay).
T 11/11	Grammar—Spelling 2; Research Essay.
Th 11/13	Research Essay.
T 11/18	Grammar—Parallelism; Research Essay.
Th 11/20	Analysis of “Hyphenated Americans,” “Still Hyphenated Americans,” and “Changing America.”
T 11/25	Analysis of “Kiss of Death,” “At War with Myself,” and “Cultural Baggage.”
Th 11/27	Happy Thanksgiving!
T 12/02	Analysis of “Like Mexicans” and “My Ecumenical Father.”
Th 12/04	Grammar—Dangling/Misplaced Modifiers; Outline for Essay 6 (in-class Final Exam: Cultural Identities).
T 12/09	Last Day of Classes; Research Essay due; Final Exam Date
TBA.	