Class Days & Times: Tue. & Thu. 1:30-3:20 p.m. Room 1738

Tentative Office Hours: Tue 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Thu 12:00-1:30 p.m.
Office: 1030 “A”-Bldg. 1000-Faculty Offices

Napa Valley College
ENGLISH 90 - Section 62901
PREPARING FOR COLLEGE READING AND WRITING 1
Spring 2012

4.0 units

Physicist Stephen Hawking taped this message on his 70th birthday:

“Remember to look up at the stars, not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious.”

Christopher Nelson, President of St. John’s College, stated:

“We should want for our students not merely bookish competence, good as that can be, but experience in building an honest curiosity about the things they are studying…”

~ Be curious!

Pre-requisite: English 85 or appropriate skill level established through the English assessment process.

Required Textbooks:

- **WORDSMITH A Guide to College Writing** by Pamela Arlov, 5th Edition (buy before 3/1/12)
- College level dictionary

COURSE DESCRIPTION

English 90 is a class designed to build the students’ skill level and confidence in academic reading and writing and prepare them for college level work, including research. The course emphasizes the relationship of reading, thinking, and writing, providing instruction in college-level critical reading skills, including the application of advanced reading comprehension skills, critical analysis, evaluation of college-level texts, as well as instruction in college-level essay development, including the concepts of coherence, clarity, and unity, and the correct use of grammar. A minimum of 5,000-6,000 words of writing is required.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will be able to generate ideas for writing assignments; students will write essays with unity, substance and clarity; students will be able to formulate a thesis statement that clearly expresses the central ideas of the essay, organize essays in logical sequence so that the central idea of the essay is developed to a logical conclusion, develop effective sentence structure and variety, identify and correct errors in grammar and spelling,
ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is mandatory. If a student misses three classes, he or she may be dropped from the class; a student may be dropped from the course without prior notification if he or she misses two consecutive classes. Tardiness will affect your grade since you will be required to write in-class journals or responses at the beginning of the class. If you leave class early without making arrangements ahead of time, I will mark you absent.

DROPPING THE COURSE

It is YOUR responsibility to know the last day to drop and to file the appropriate paperwork; otherwise you will receive an “F.” I will drop any student who has exceeded the allotted absences if no PRIOR arrangements have been made with me.

REQUIREMENTS / GRADING

Assignments:
The student must complete all essay assignments, including the Research Paper, English 90 Assessment Exam and the final exam in order to pass this course.

→ TWO MAJOR WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

1. RESEARCH PAPER
   Research/argument, typed, double spaced, MLA styles, Works Cited Page
   - Outline, tentative thesis, support 25
   - First Draft 150
   - Revision/Editing/Proofreading: 25
   - FINAL Draft 100
   - MLA component 20
   TOTAL 320

2. Epitaph for a peach ESSAY
   Typed, double spaced, MLA style, Works Cited Page
   - Outline, tentative thesis, support 20
   - First Draft 100
   - Peer Review 20
   - Final Draft 60
   TOTAL 200

→ Late papers are not accepted.

→ FOUR IN-CLASS ESSAYS
1. Argument Paper # 1 60
   America Now Reading responses 40
2. Argument Paper # 2 60
   America Now Reading responses 40
3. English 90 Assessment Essay (Argument) Thu 4/26/12 120
4. Final Exam (Argument) Tue. 5/22/12 1-3 p.m. 60 380

→ HOMEWORK/Epitaph for a peach Elements of Fiction charts/RESPONSES
   TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS: 1000

Grading: The grade is based primarily on demonstrated skills, not effort or completion of assignments.

The instructor reserves the right to change grading standards and assignments during the course of the semester. The above items are approximate requirements.
In-Class Essay Workshops. The first two in-class essays are not “exams” per se, but they will be graded. You will be able to consult with the instructor during the pre-writing and the drafting processes. You can use your textbook and a dictionary. The purpose of the essay workshops is to guide you through the writing process in a stress-free, creative environment and prepare you for the English 90 Assessment Exam. In order to re-write the essay if you receive a “3” or less, you need to meet with me during office hours or go to the Writing Center for feedback. Essays will be graded (1-6) according to the Napa Valley College Basic Skills Rubric. The English 90 Assessment Exam is an 80-minute exam that will be graded by two English professors (not your professor). The final exam and the Assessment Exam are mandatory to pass the class.

MAKE-UP IN CLASS ESSAYS

I will allow make-up in-class essays under the following conditions:

1. Illness, providing you supply me with a doctor’s note.
2. Planned absence, providing that you have notified me ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE and that I have approved the absence. Vacations are not a legitimate excuse.

OTHER ASSIGNMENTS:

In-class Journals/Summaries/Responses and Homework

Write in-class journals, epitaph for a peach elements of fiction charts/responses and homework in college ruled paper. Use a pen. No binders, please. I will collect homework regularly.

In-Class Journals will be written in class (during the first 15 minutes) every day except the days when you write an in-class essay. Please arrive on time. In-Class Journals cannot be made up if missed. I will write the question on the board and you will answer it in class. I will ask you to respond to critical thinking questions that refer to our readings from the textbooks, essays, the novel, or newspaper articles. Do your best to answer the question. The response should be thoughtful and shall demonstrate that you have read and understood the material. Don’t worry about grammar or spelling. You will be graded on the content, not the mechanics. It is important to keep up with all reading assignments since they will be the basis for all class discussions and writing assignments.

Homework: After each textbook reading, you will respond to critical thinking questions or prepare a summary/response.

Epitaph for a peach Fiction chart/Responses/Quote analysis:
You will write an Elements of Fiction chart of what you read in epitaph for a peach and critical responses (what surprises you and why, questions that came up, an exploration of ideas that might interest you to write about, etc.) Annotate while you read (either in the margins or on post-its) and put those thoughts and responses together in a few paragraphs right after you finish the reading. You will also select relevant quotes and analyze them.

Revision: Revision is a mandatory element of this writing course. If you get a “3” or less on an in-class essay, you need to meet with the instructor during office hours to go over the essay and then re-write the essay. For a paper to be considered a revision and receive a passing grade, the changes made must be substantial, not merely editing and proofreading, although these steps are also necessary.
PLAGIARISM

Every student is required to give credit to any material that is not original; this includes summarized and paraphrased text. The NVC Board of Trustees adopted an academic honesty policy designed to aggressively detect and punish violators. (See “Academic Standards”—p. 39-NVC Catalog). Plagiarism, intentional or accidental, will be punished with an F on the assignment or an F in the course if there is a second offense.

Please be advised that instructors also have access to a comprehensive plagiarism site Turnitin.com that often requires only a word or a phrase to detect an incident of plagiarism. Students are required to submit an electronic copy along with a hard copy of their research/argument paper.

WRITING CENTER

Students may sign up for one unit (36 hrs/semester) or 1/2 unit (18 hrs/semester) in the Writing Center. Not only will the instructional assistants help you with your work in this course but also they will design a program of exercises to address specific problems that you have with your writing. You can also make 30 minute appointments to go over your essays.

Students in need of accommodations in the college learning environment:

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a learning disability should contact Learning Services in the Library and Learning Resource Center (LLRC), room 1766, phone (707) 256-7442. A Learning Disability Specialist will review your needs and determine appropriate accommodations.

If you need accommodations for physical or other types of disabilities, schedule an appointment with DSPS Counselor, Sheryl Fernandez, in the Counseling Department located on the top floor of the 800 building, phone (707) 253-3040 for appointment.

All information and documentation is confidential.

Please feel encouraged to make an appointment with me privately (at the beginning of the semester) to discuss your specific learning needs in my class.

WEBPAGE

Please check my WebPage (accessed through NVC Web Site) before each class for announcements, in class activities, assignments, updates and deadlines. You will also find links to other useful resources. If you do not have a computer or web access at home, as college students, you are entitled to use the computers in the Library. You can also borrow a laptop. All you need is your NVC Library card.

STUDENT CONDUCT

- Cell phones must be turned off for the duration of the class. If you must have one on due to an emergency, you must have the device set to vibrate. Text messaging is not allowed. Laptops, iPads, “tablets” and iPods are not allowed.
- Food is not allowed. Drinks (water, coffee, tea, sodas) are allowed.
- Harrassment of any kind (implied, written, oral or physical) toward any member of the class or the instructor, or disruptive behavior, will not be tolerated (see pgs. 19-20 of the NVC Catalog).
- Students will treat the instructor and each other with respect. Students must feel safe to express their questions, ideas and curiosity. Therefore, respect for all thoughts, feelings and opinions must be demonstrated—no put downs or name-calling; profane language, verbal attacks or demeaning non verbal actions will not be tolerated.

Students who are a disruption will receive one warning, meet with the instructor, and meet with the V.P. Student Services. 1) First disruption: Warning. 2) Second disruption: The student will be asked to leave the classroom and meet with the instructor during office hours. 3) Third disruption: The student and the instructor will meet with Mr. Oscar De Haro, V.P. Student Services, to discuss disciplinary actions.
I have read and understood the contents of this syllabus and the summary below, and I understand the consequences of not following the assignments and rules. It is my responsibility to complete the assignments of this course, to study the course material and to attend each class meeting on time. I also understand that it is my right to ask the instructor, at any time, in person, or e-mail for clarification of any assignment, rule or my responsibilities for this course.

**Summary of English 90 Rules and Assignments:**

3 absences throughout the semester = May be dropped from the course
2 consecutive absences = May be dropped from the course
If I am late = I miss in-class journals. ICJ cannot be made up.
I miss in-class essay or exams instructions.
I will have to wait outside the classroom until Instructor finishes giving the exam instructions.
Instructor will not repeat the instructions.

Plagiarism, intentional or accidental = F on the assignment or the course
Not turning in all essays = F in the course

Not turning in the research paper (320 points) = F in the course
Not talking the the final exam = F in the course

The instructor does not accept late papers.

**Turn in all papers in person. Do not e mail or leave papers in the instructor’s mailbox.**

**No food, no laptops, no iPads, no “tablets”, no cell phones, no iPods.**

I will e-mail → mtapiarene@napavalley.edu if a problem or an emergency arises.

________________________________________________________
Student’s signature

________________________________________________________
Date

________________________________________________________
Student’s name – please print clearly

________________________________________________________
Student’s avatar/nickname (for gradesheet)

________________________________________________________
Student’s e-mail address

________________________________________________________
Student’s phone number