

ENGLISH 120 SYLLABUS : COLLEGE COMPOSITION & READING

John Lee, Cuyamaca College

Section #0773, Spring 2008

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course studies the elements and principles of composition through the practice of writing narrative and expository essays and a research paper. Using computer laboratory word processing functions, revision is stressed as a means to achieve higher skills in writing. Assigned readings stimulate critical thinking and effective writing according to a formal MLA format.

English 120 adheres to policies outlined in the Cuyamaca College catalog. For further information, consult “Academic Policies” in the catalog.

PREREQUISITES

To enroll in this three unit, sixteen week course you must have earned credit in English 110 with a grade of “C” or better (or equivalent course). Ask your counselor about equivalence. If you are attempting to enroll, either directly or by crashing, and you have not met the prerequisite, the admissions computer will deny you access to this class automatically.

Prerequisites are to assist you, so please be sure that you are enrolling in the appropriate class so that the college and I can best serve your needs.

OBJECTIVES

This class promotes writing and reading critically as the keys to success in your academic life. When you write clearly you communicate well, and you will be understood clearly. You will experience the ideas and beliefs of many other writers via your textbook and by working closely with your fellow student writers in this class. Your active participation in these experiences will lead you to success in English 120 as well as in other classes.

The ability to write well in a range of modes is a central concern of English 120 at Cuyamaca College. We are going to read and write a great deal over the next sixteen weeks. Come to class prepared and come prepared to write, both in the Writing Lab and in the classroom.

All materials (except vocabulary and in-class assignments) should be typed and must follow a standard format. Also, you must devote many hours **OUTSIDE OF CLASS** in order to complete the array of assignments designed to perfect your English skills.

Part of your class time will be spent in the Writing Lab each week. Tutoring in English will be available to you at hours to be set by the director of the Writing Center. This individual assistance can help you with any writing or reading problems which you may encounter.

All of these activities are directed toward the goal of your succeeding in English 120; however, it is your personal responsibility to complete all assignments. Decide NOW that you will take this course seriously.

TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLIES

The Longman Reader, eighth edition, 2007

A college edition dictionary (hardbound)

A large spiral notebook or a three ring binder

A folder to hold your written work

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/ASSIGNMENTS/METHODS OF EVALUATION

Writing lab assignments (six (6) grades): Many compositions will be on assigned subjects, but you will occasionally have a free choice of subjects for your practice of several writing strategies. Lab assignments are due within one week, unless otherwise noted. There will also be occasional quizzes on your readings and on specific English skills. These quizzes generally cannot be made up. During the first six weeks of class, some re-dos of writing assignments will be allowed.

Essay assignments (four (4) grades): These are longer writings, usually assigned two (2) weeks in advance. See "Schedule" for due dates. See my Web page for complete assignment details.

Class participation (one (1) grade): You will learn much from one another. Your contributions during class discussions and small group activities will be very important and valuable to you. I will be evaluating your performance.

Attendance (two (2) grades): More than four (4) absences will adversely affect your performance and your grade. You should be able to contact a fellow student so you can keep up if you are absent. You should contact me as well. Three (3) consecutive absences, with no contact from you, will result in your being dropped from the course. Attendance is a requirement; NO excused absences.

Research paper (three (3) grades): This will involve using library and computer resources and basic research methods to help you produce a solid argumentative paper. There will be class assignments assigned to assist you to prepare a good research paper according to MLA format. This is a course requirement.

Class folder (one (1) grade): This folder will hold all of your writing assignments. Missing items will adversely affect your grade. I will collect the folders at least once during the semester and will provide written feedback on your progress.

Vocabulary work (two (2) grades): Frequent assignments will be made in which you must define and use words correctly. I place strong emphasis on your vocabulary-building efforts.

Final examination (two (2) grades): This is a course requirement and it will be an in-class writing assignment.

NOTE: Promptness is required. If work or other commitments may cause you to often be late to class, consider selecting another section. A new section of English 120 may occasionally be added due to high demand. You may be able to change sections during the first two weeks of classes.

(2 of 4)

GRADES

Your final grade will be determined by the quality of your critical reading and writing skills as developed during the semester and by your meeting **ALL** of the course requirements listed above , a total of twenty-one (21) grades.

It is not necessary to earn all A's to receive an A in the course. In fact, I place great worth upon your improvement in English writing skills over the semester. A few poor grades will not ruin your chances for an above average grade in the course. A = 90% - 100%, B = 80% - 89%, C = 70% - 79%, D = = 60% - 69%, F = below 60%.

If there are things about which you are unclear, raise them in class with me or in private either before or after class. My job is to be a primary resource to you and to assist you in any way possible. You may call me at home anytime at (619)583-4275 (a message telephone). My campus e-mail address is john.lee@gcccd.net

CONTACTS/OFFICE HOURS

The most reliable method of contacting me outside of class is to use my 24-hour message telephone. I am usually able to contact you promptly. Use of campus email to submit assignments has not proved dependable. Notes or late assignments may be placed in my mailbox in the Administration Office (Building F).

My office is in the "A" Building, 112A. Please feel free to speak with me before or after class, or you may make an appointment.

LOCATION/USE OF MY WEB PAGE

The course syllabus, as well as some of your assignments, are available on my home page via the college home page, under "Academic Departments" (Communication Arts & English & Directory). You can access my home page at: www.cuyamaca.edu/john.lee .

NOTE: The last day to add semester-length classes is February 8, 2008
The last day to drop English 120 is April 25, 2008 (You will receive a "W" (withdrawal) on your grade transcript).

SCHEDULE

You are responsible for completion of the work listed, in addition to all writing lab assignments. Page numbers, for example “White (107),” refer to The Longman Reader, 8th Edition, 2007. Each date is the DUE date for readings/tasks. There will be additional assignments.

January	28	Introduction and expectations, syllabus; reading (cover through pg. 11)
	30	Readings, “Description” (71-82), White (107)
February	4	Readings, “The Writing Process” (pg. 12-26), “Narration” (123-136); Select Essay #1 Topic (167), (DUE 2-13)
	6	Powers of Observation, Team Competition; Readings, Cofer (114), (pp. 27-39), Sherry (512)
	8	Last day to add semester-length classes
	11	Readings, “The Writing Process” (pp. 39-53), Orwell (143)
	13	Essay # 1 DUE; Peer evaluation session; Readings, (pp. 53-65), Hughes (155)
	15-18	Presidents’ Holidays
	20	Readings, “Exemplification” (pp. 169-183), Johnson (209)
	25	Readings, The Writing Process” (pp. 65-70), Ehrenreich (215)
	27	Readings, “Definition” (pp. 432-443), Robbins (463)
	March	3
	5	Readings, “Argumentation-Persuasion” (pp. 477-487), “Examining an Issue” (pp. 541-550)
	10	Essay #2 DUE; Readings (487-498), Twain (527)
	12	Readings, (pp. 499-510), Yuh (517)
	17-22	SPRING RECESS
	24	Select research paper topic; Library research session, LRC (in lieu of lab)
	26	Readings, Alter (552), Porter (557); Essay #3 topic (“Torture”), DUE 4-9
	31	Readings, “Process Analysis” (280-293), Rego (327)
	April	2
	7	Readings, Didion (601), Carson (350)
	9	Readings, “Combining the Patterns” (574-581), King (593); Essay #3 DUE
	14	Reading, King (597)
	16	Readings, “Cause and Effect” (381-395), King (397)
	21	Reading, Darley (417)
	23	Reading, Walker (408)
	25	LAST DAY TO DROP SEMESTER-LENGTH CLASSES
	28	Readings, “Division-Classification” (pp. 223-231), McClintock (270)
30	Reading, Lutz (263)	
May	5	Research paper DUE; Reading, Barry (368)
	7	Reading, Rodriguez (361); Select Essay #4 Topic (379-380), DUE 5-19
	12	Readings, “Comparison – Contrast” (335-343), Suinta (354)
	14	Reading, Didion (604)
	19	Essay #4 DUE; peer evaluation session
	21	“Poetry – Then and Now”; Last Class
	26	MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY
27	(Through 6-3) Final Exams; Our Final is on Wednesday, May 28 (11:00a.m.-1:00p.m.)	

(4 of 4)