**English 150 Syllabus: Fall 2018**

**Instructor:** Steve Barrows – Room 108

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**Class Days:** MWF

**Office Hours:** TTH

**Credits:** 3

**Required Texts and Supplies**

All readings will be provided in the form of handouts.

A three-ring binder with tab dividers is **required** for organizing paper drafts, peer revision sheets, and course handouts/readings.

**Course Description**

English 150 teaches methods to organize and develop papers for diverse audiences and purposes, including how to discover and focus on a topic, develop ideas, gather support, and draft and revise papers effectively. Fundamental language and reading skills and an introduction to library research and argumentation will also be a component of the course.

**Course Outcomes**

* Develop and analyze the purpose of writing and adjust writing to achieve a purpose.
* Adjust writing for a specific audience.
* Develop, analyze, and organize ideas for effective writing.
* Locate and analyze reliable resources for writing.
* State and support assertions with reliable evidence.
* Improve writing content and style through feedback and revision.
* Edit a document for standard grammar, mechanics and punctuation, and consistent point of view.
* Critique other’s drafts and collaborate with others to improve writing.

**Course Requirements**

**The instructor reserves the right to adjust these policies depending on the needs of the class.**

***Attendance/Class Participation (90 Points)***

Since this course centers on revision of student writing, it is important to be present and to participate in peer revision groups, discussion, and in-class writing activities. You will receive points for each day you are present and participate. You will receive two points for each day you are in class and fully participating.

***Article Response Papers (200 Points)***

You will be assigned four article response papers over the course of the semester (worth fifty points each). An article response is a two page response to an assigned article. The first paragraph will consist of a brief summary of the article. The rest of your response will be a discussion of the effectiveness of the article and the specific techniques used by the writer to get his message across to his audience. Each article response must be submitted to turnitin.com.

***Rough Drafts (100 Points)***

You will be assigned five papers over the course of the semester. For each paper(except the research paper), you are expected to create two rough drafts. The first draft will be reviewed by me while the second draft will be reviewed and commented on by a group of your peers. The research paper will not have any rough drafts due; however, you may submit drafts at any time for my review. You are expected to show an effort at revision and improvement from the first draft to the second draft. Each draft will be worth ten points.

***Final Revised Essays (1200 Points)***

You are expected to show an effort at revision and improvement from the first and second drafts to the final, revised essay. **The first two drafts must be completed for a grade to be given on the final essay**. In addition, each final essay must be submitted to turnitin.com. Each final, revised essay will be worth 200 points, except for the research paper, which is worth 400 points.

***Portfolio/Personal Assessment (200 Points)***

**You are required to submit a portfolio in order to receive credit for the course.** Your portfolio should contain all of your drafts along with your final paper for each of the five paper assignments. In addition, your portfolio must contain a two page assessment for each of your five writing assignments.

**Specific Essay Assignments**

***Observation/Description***

For this assignment, I would like you to hang out in a public place such as a park, mall, lobby, food court, or choose any place that you spend a lot of time in, such as a room in your house, a place in your yard, or any other area that is important to you and that you are familiar with. Observe and take notes on what you see, hear, and experience. This is your chance to slow down and consider the world around you and then describe what you see and learn.

***Epiphany Experience***

Everyone, at some time, experiences some sort of personal epiphany: an experience that leads to a realization of oneself that was not known before the experience. One could also think of an epiphany as a life changing experience. This assignment will provide you the opportunity to explore the various “epiphany” events you have experienced over the course of your life. You will choose one to explore in greater detail, specifically focusing on how the event changed your behaviors and/or attitudes.

***Rhetorical Analysis***

Rhetoric refers to the techniques and strategies that writers and speakers use to form an argument for a specific audience. It is important to analyze and critique the use of rhetoric by other writers in order to implement rhetorical strategies in your own writing. This assignment will require you to analyze the rhetorical strategies used in one of the assigned argumentative articles and to provide a written analysis of the effectiveness of the rhetorical strategies in relation to the writer’s target audience.

***Argumentation***

This assignment allows you to build on your knowledge of rhetorical strategies that you analyzed in the previous assignment. You will form an argument, analyze your intended audience, and implement rhetorical strategies that will be effective for your given audience.

***Research Project/Current Issue/Problem and Proposal***

Explore an issue/problem that you are interested and passionate about. It could be political, social, economic or any other type of issue/problem. Research some background information and explore the history and development of the issue/problem. You should also identify what has been done, up to this point, to address the problem. Finally, based on your research, put forth your own proposal for the most effective method of addressing the problem. You will be required to supply an annotated bibliography with this assignment.

**Grading**

You will receive points for your attendance/drafts, essays, and portfolio. There is no extra credit. All written drafts and final, revised essays need to be typed in MLA format. Final essays are to be submitted to turnitin.com.

93-100% = A 73-76% = C

90-92% = A- 70=72% = C-

87-89% = B+ 67-69% = D+

83-86% = B 63-66% = D

80-82% = B- 60-62% = D-

77-79% = C+ 0-59% = F

**To receive transferable college credit for this course, you must pass with a minimum grade of a C.**

**Policies**

***Paper Assignments and Due Dates***

All papers are due on the due date at the beginning of the class period. Any paper turned in after that time is considered late and will not be accepted. Problems you may have with computers or printers are not excuses for late work, so I suggest you avoid procrastination so that you have time to work these issues out should they arise. Each assigned paper will require the completion of two drafts that show proof of revision and display an effort to improve the writing. Drafts will be collected throughout the writing process and must also be turned in with the final paper. The final paper will not be graded unless its preceding drafts are included. In addition, the final copy of each paper must be submitted to turnitin.com by the due date. There will be a full grade reduction for any paper that is submitted to turnitin.com after the due date.

***Absences***

If you know you are going to be late or absent for a class, please make an effort to let me know in advance. If a paper is due on a day that you are late or absent, you are still required to turn it in on time. If you are unable to turn it in early, then you should e-mail me your assignment by the beginning of the class period. In the event of a major emergency, please communicate with me as soon as possible, and we will work something out.

***Cell Phones***

Cell phones should be off and out of sight during class time.

***Plagiarism***

Plagiarism is defined as the act of using or closely imitating the ideas and language of another writer without giving credit to the original writer. Any time you use another writer’s exact words you must use quotation marks and cite the source. Even if you paraphrase another writer’s ideas, you must cite the source and give the original author credit. Academic honesty is extremely important, and any plagiarized assignment in the course will result in a zero for the assignment and could result in a failing grade for the semester.