Developmental Writing
Fall 2009

**Course:** ENG010  **Section:** 94058  **Days/Time:** Tues & Thurs 4:20pm-5:35pm
**Room:** C-16  **Professor:** Danielle Zahm  **Office Hours:** TBA
**Contacts:** zahmd@sunysuffolk.edu  **Office of Instruction:** 548-2575

**Required Materials:**
A sturdy paper folder
Standard lined notebook paper

**Recommended Materials:**
A new dictionary and thesaurus

**Course Description:**
Developmental Writing emphasizes basic writing skills, outlining, development of ideas and reading comprehension. Specific topics in grammar, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary and rhetoric are assigned according to needs of the students. To complete the course, students are expected to write short expository papers which show an understanding of fundamentals of organization and effective sentence structure and which avoid gross errors in grammar and mechanics. Not applicable toward any degree or certificate.

**Course Thoughts:**
This course is very intensely focused on writing and your thoughts about writing—there will be no lectures, films, song-and-dance routines, or light shows to supplement the activity and discussion of writing. Our in-class and out-of-class writing activities and assignments will demand a lot of your time. We will write in class each day and you will need to spend a considerable amount of time outside of class writing, revising and finding out what others have to say about your writing. You will not receive a traditional grade (A,B,C,D,F) in this course or on your writing; instead, you will work on your writing all semester in order to submit your best work for a review by me and other professors in the Suffolk County Community College English Department. Together, these other professors and I will determine your final evaluation in the course and grade of S (satisfactory), R (repeat), or U (unsatisfactory).

I will give you ample opportunity to practice and strengthen your writing, but in order to improve you must come prepared to write and think about your writing for the entire class period each day you enter the classroom. As you can probably imagine, this course is very demanding.

**Minimum Course Requirements for a grade of "S." You must complete all of these requirements in order to pass the course.**

Complete all writing assignments on or before the deadline dates for each along with the required number of in-class timed writings while achieving a "Satisfactory" score on each assignment.
Come to class regularly, participate in all class activities, and keep up with all readings and assignments. **You may not be absent for any reason more than two class meetings.**

Submit a final, complete portfolio on the due date at the end of the semester and receive a score of "Pass" from the SCCC Portfolio Committee.

**Writing Essays and Timed Writings:**
You will write a total of seven essays. Don’t freak out! I will give you general areas of exploration for each one, but you must choose a specific focus for your writing. In this class you will decide what you want to write about and I will help you (along with your classmates and writing center tutors) travel that path. Your final essay must be a typed, double-spaced document. **If you don't have your own computer/typewriter some very easy-to-use computers are available for typing essays on campus.**

A "Satisfactory" grade does not mean your writing is done or that it will pass a final portfolio review; rather, it means that you've made a good effort, and now you have to polish & perfect the essay for the Portfolio.

The point of more than four essays is to give you more opportunities to choose from. You want to put the BEST of EG10 work you did all semester in your Portfolio.

You will also complete several in-class timed writings. These you will not get to take home to revise or get help with from any outside people. They are, in essence, a chance for you to show what you can do on your own without any outside help. I will talk more about these in-class essays a little later in the semester.

**Portfolio:**
This final assessment in the course requires that you submit revised writing that represents your best work. I will evaluate your portfolio along with two other professors from the Suffolk County Community College Portfolio Committee and together we will decide whether or not you are writing at the level required to begin EG 11. The entire course is structured so that you have the opportunity to produce your best work for the portfolio review. I'll explain this portfolio process and what makes good writing as the course progresses.

**Conferences:**
We may meet for one-on-one conferences one or two times over the course of the semester. You can always reach me through email with questions/concerns. If you need to make an appointment to see me, let me know and I will make arrangements.

**Attendance:**
The college policy allows a student to miss two class sessions, that is, one week of class, per semester without penalty. After two missed sessions, you may be dropped from the roster and given a failing grade. **Here's a tip: save your absences for emergencies.**
I will not automatically record a "W" grade for students who stop showing up in this course; instead, I will record a grade of "F" which signifies you did not pass the course but were enrolled until the end of the semester. Withdrawals are granted ONLY to students who have withdrawn officially; you must do this through the Registrar.

If you miss a class meeting, contact a classmate FIRST via email/phone. It’s your responsibility to return to the next class PREPARED.

Finally, it’s always smart to check your email on the day of class to be aware of any sudden changes; weather, car or emergency issues may prevent me from getting here. I will make sure to give you notice.

**Lateness:**  
Class begins at 4:20 P.M. Don’t be late.

**Late assignments:**  
All work must be completed and/or handed in on the due date, during class time. Papers will be typed, double-spaced, paragraphed, titled, spell-checked, and proofread for gross grammatical errors by you, an outside reader, and hopefully with a WRITING TUTOR.

Coming to class late or leaving class early equals half an absence (ie. Two tardies equal one absence). Persistent lateness can prove to be devastating for you in this class--a student can easily go beyond the absence limit and, therefore, be unable to pass the class just by being late on a regular basis. I do not take the habit of tardiness lightly--it is very disruptive in a writing course and, quite honestly, it annoys me.

**Classroom Responsibilities and Expectations:**
- Arrive on time
- Be prepared & eager to participate
- Have paper, pen, assignments
- Turn off all unnecessary electronic devices
- Be tolerant and patient of classmates’ and professor’s opinions

**Plagiarism:**  
Plagiarism is copying someone else’s work or idea and handing it in as your own. Should you be caught plagiarizing, you fail the course and will be reported to the administrative authorities for further action. There’s absolutely NO NEED to even consider using anyone else’s ideas when producing work in this class. The primary purpose of this class and all college endeavors is to encourage INDEPENDENT, CRITICAL and CREATIVE THINKING. It would be a great mistake and misfortune to forfeit the one voice you have by using another’s.

**Writing Tutors:** If you need extra help, basic tutoring is available for you in the Academic Skills Center in Orient 220. Call Donna Frey at 548-2594 for an appointment. If you do not understand an assignment or need more guidance, contact me at dzahm72@yahoo.com.
**Dates to Remember:**

**NO CLASS** Tuesday, September 15  
**NO CLASS**  
**NO CLASS**  
PORTFOLIO DUE —Thursday, December 10—NO EXCEPTIONS  
**LAST DAY OF CLASS** Tuesday, December 22

**Tentative Schedule:**

9/8 Intro to course, syllabus, email exchange, Writing Center, and intro to essay one: The Narrative

9/10 Narrative work. Beginning, middle and end.

9/15 NO CLASS

9/17 Flow of details. Intro & conclusion. Revision & Editing sheet. HW: Rough draft due M for workshop

9/22 Group workshop. In-class readings & revision. HW: Revise using comments from others & do second draft of essay one—type, proofread, develop—due M.

9/24 Intro to essay two: Writing about Literature. Photo exercise.

9/29 Collect The Narrative. Lit: Go over photo results. Trusting your gut, taking a guess and choosing the right details from the story to develop. Backing up guesses with examples from the text. HW: Song lyrics


10/15 Intro to essay three: Cause and Effect. HW: Draft, develop, proofread, and type LIT paper—due M.


10/22 C& E writing. Connecting the right dots. Organization. Leading the reader to a definite conclusion.

10/27 C& E

10/29 Workshop The Mistake in groups. HW: Revise, draft, proof, and type—due M.

11/5 **Timed writing.** HW: Draft, proof, type—Definition essay due M.


11/12 Process: Fully developing steps—Instructional or information driven? Appropriate topics.


11/19 Process: Workshops. HW: Revise, draft, type & proof—due M.


11/26 NO CLASS

12/1 Letter format. Dear Portfolio Reader…Signed an EG10 Student. Intro, developing details, conclusion. Class discussion: choosing the two strongest essays to revise fully for portfolio.

12/3 **Timed writing.**

12/8 Group workshop. Revision of essays conferences. HW: Draft, type, proof—Letter due M.


11/28 Revision. Portfolio prep.

12/3 **Final In-class writing. Attendance mandatory. No exceptions.**

12/10 **PORTFOLIO DEADLINE! Attendance mandatory. No exceptions.**

12/15 TBA

12/17 Class discussion of EG10 & EG11 expectations. Student conferences.

12/22 Last day of class. Student conferences.