What Is Standard Freshman Composition?

A course in effective expository writing that stresses the organization of ideas and development of these ideas through use of specific information. Also deals with matters of style, sentence structure, paragraph development, punctuation and vocabulary. Introduces students to close reading of appropriate materials.

ENG101 is designed to strengthen basic writing skills and to improve a student’s ability to write effective English so that he or she may communicate his ideas with clarity and force. Students will have already acquired the basic writing abilities and are expected to know how to write and type legibly, and how to form ideas through the written word.

Required Texts:

*On Writing* is an autobiography by famed horror author Stephen King that examines the life on an ordinary man who achieved monumental success by writing in a clear, precise manner. King describes his upbringing, the events that led to his first writing attempts, and how writing is something that can be easy for the dedicated. King goes in depth regarding you as a writer, with advice on how to succeed in writing.

*Different Seasons* is a collection of four novellas, markedly different in tone and subject, each on the theme of a journey. The first is a rich, satisfying, non-horrific tale about an innocent man who carefully nurtures hope and devises a wily scheme to escape from prison. The second concerns a boy who discards his innocence by enticing an old man to travel with him into a reawakening of long-buried evil. In the third story, a writer looks back on the trek he took with three friends on the brink of adolescence to find another boy’s corpse. The trip becomes a character-rich rite of passage from youth to maturity.

Other essays may be handed out to criticize, as well.

Expected Assignments:

Short essays will be assigned on a weekly/biweekly basis. Four revised essays will be assigned throughout the semester. Revised papers are to be 2-4 pages in length, typed, doubled spaced and written in a 12-point font (preferably Times New Roman or Courier). Each essay will be revised to clearly state and fully develop your main ideas/feelings about each subject.
Essays must meet the following criteria:

- The direction and purpose are clear.
- The reasoning is sound (there are no flaws in logic).
- The essay demonstrates a working knowledge of the literature’s content.
- The ideas are fully developed with sufficient support and detail.
- Clear organization.
- Little to no mistakes in grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Short quizzes will be handed out weekly to ensure that you’re keeping up with the reading.

Late papers will lose a letter grade for each class they’re not turned in.

Students must participate in discussions of assigned readings. You will be encouraged to voice your opinions and concerns throughout the course about plot, characters, prose, etc. The more you contribute, the better your grade.

Basic Rules:

The college allows three unexcused absences throughout the semester. I allow four. Students who miss five or more classes will be asked to repeat the class. Two late arrivals will equal one absence. Sleeping will result in one absence. Students caught texting or leaving class to answer their cell phone will be considered absent.

***All electronic devices must be turned off!!!***

Please refrain from leaving in the middle of class. Use the bathroom before you come in. If you have to leave early due to prior commitments, let me know ahead of time. And please don’t talk when others are talking. A book discussion is no excuse to start your own.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or problems through e-mail. I check my account once per day and will catch up with you ASAP. Please don’t e-mail me ten minutes before the class starts. Also, I will not accept any assignments through e-mail.

Grades:

I will determine grades based on quizzes (25%) essays (25%) attendance/conduct (25%) and participation (25%). I do give out A’s to the deserving. However, I don’t issue extra credit as the class work itself should be enough to warrant a high/low grade.