English 101 – Composition (MW, 12:30-1:45 Sec. # 91506) – Learning Community

Instructor: Dr. Michael Boecherer
Email: boechem@sunysuffolk.edu
Telephone: 548-2587
Office: Orient 127, Eastern Campus

Required Texts:

1. *The Elements of Style* by White and Strunk. Published by Longman.

Course Description:

Explores principles of rhetoric and stresses effective expository writing. Primarily a course of organization and 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.

Final grades will be determined in the following manner:

- Formal Papers: 50%
- Drafts/Homework: 20%
- Participation: 30%

As this is a Learning Community, assignments will play off and tie into the work being done in your Psychology and History courses.

Formal Papers:
This category consists of three or four essays, four (4) pages long. Essay assignments will be handed out early and must conform to MLA standards (i.e., usage of in-paper citation when quoting). *Papers must be handed in on time.* I will not accept papers that are more than a week late.

All essays must be typed, double spaced, and have 12 point font. Essays should include a proper heading comprising your name, my name, the name of the course, and the date that the paper is due.

You may revise your first major assignment for a higher grade. *I will not take emailed papers.*

Drafts/Homework/In-class essays:

Students will be expected to write drafts of all major papers. Drafts should be at least 1-2 pages in length. Remember – the more that you give me, the more I can comment upon.
We will also have random homework assignments as well as work on our in-class writing. These exercises will be assigned on a day to day basis. Some of our homework assignments will be posted to a blog. More info to come on this aspect of the course.

*I will not take emailed drafts/homework assignments.* Points will be taken off for late work.

**Participation:**

*Participation is big and can mean the difference between an “A” and a “C” if you are not careful.*

Participation is based on how often you choose to comment on the materials being covered. If you cannot verbalize an argument, it will be even tougher to write about one! As that is the case, share your ideas! Coming to class is not enough. You need to get involved; discussion is one way to do this.

Participation is also based on attendance. Students are allowed two (2) excused absences. Missing three (3) classes could severely alter your grade. Missing four (4) classes results in automatic failure.

Should you need to miss a class, let me know ahead of time. This is a good rule to follow for any class. Also – be sure to come to class on time! Coming to class late also impacts your participation grade.

*Texting in class is not participation. It is disrespectful. I want your full attention. Texting is detrimental to your participation grade. Don’t do it.*

Finally, participation is also based on whether or not you choose to hand assignments in. It is also based on assignment timeliness.

This syllabus is a binding contract between student and instructor. If you disagree with any aspect of this outline, drop the course immediately.

**Tentative Weekly Schedule – Students are responsible for the reading on the dates assigned**

Aug. 30th: First Day / Class Introduction
Sept. 1st: Gilgamesh / Genesis

Sept. 6th: Labor Day, No class
Sept. 8th: Gilgamesh / Genesis

Sept. 13th: Greeks – Creation Myth / Draft #1
Sept. 15th: Greeks – Creation Myth

9/20: Greeks – Story/Behavior
9/22: Plato – Analogy of Cave

9/27: Shakespeare’s J. Caesar /Act I/ Paper #1 Due
9/29: Shakespeare’s J. Caesar Acts II and III

10/4: Shakespeare’s J. Caesar Act IV
10/6: Shakespeare’s J. Caesar Act V