

BASIC COMPOSITION

English 105, 2 Units

October 28 – December 2, 2009 ■ 10am - noon, MWF

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Text: *College Writing Skills with Readings* by John Langan

Website: www.acreativemoment.com

English 105 focuses on critical thinking and writing skills helpful for college. During the course you will:

- brainstorm, collaborate and develop your writing practice
- analyze assigned readings
- critique your own and your classmates' work
- strengthen grammar and editing skills
- expand your vocabulary

PREREQUISITE: English 101

ATTENDANCE is important. **NO MORE THAN THREE ABSENCES** are allowed. Unscheduled circumstances (e.g., medical, death in the family, new baby) will be handled case by case. Your grade for participation reflects times absent, times tardy, and times that you left class early.

Platt College does not tolerate plagiarism, the unacceptable act of presenting work that is not your own without giving the author credit. Your work must be original; every source needs to be cited.

Students with disabilities or any disadvantage who may need accommodations are encouraged to notify me, so accommodations can be made as soon as possible.

GRADING: 60% Assignments, 20% Participation, 15% Presentations and Quizzes, 5% Final Portfolio. Late papers are automatically lowered one grade. Missing papers receive a failing grade.



**When genuine passion moves
you, say what you've got to say,
and say it hot.**

D.H. Lawrence

CALENDAR

#	Date	Topics	Assignments/Readings
1.	10/28	Rhetorical Modes Critical Thinking The Writing Process	Langan, pages 3-8, 12-19
2.	10/30	Revision. Structure and Patterns Subject/Verb Agreement Le Mot Juste	Chapters 2 and 9
3.	11/2	Description and Narration Response to readings Fragments	Chapter 3
4.	11/4	Critiques. Peer review: Narrative. Run-ons Be Succinct!	#1) Narrative draft due Chapter 6
5.	11/6	Oral History Writing paragraphs Pronoun Agreement	#1) Narrative Final due Chapter 18
6.	11/9	Introductions and Titles Paraphrasing Apostrophes	Chapter 4
7.	11/11	Peer review: Oral History Commas	#2) Oral History draft due
8.	11/13	Comparison and Contrast Response to readings Dangling Modifiers	#2) Final Oral History final due Chapter 13
9.	11/16	Freewriting Parallel Construction	#3) Compare and Contrast Topic due Chapter 15
10.	11/18	Peer review: Compare and Contrast. Quotation Marks.	#3) Compare and Contrast draft due
11.	11/20	Field Trip	#3) Compare and Contrast final due Chapter 12
12.	11/23	Cause and Effect Grammar Quiz	
13.	11/25	Peer workshop: Cause and Effect draft. That vs. Which	#4) Cause and Effect draft due
14.	11/30	Tips for taking essay exams "Sleeping dogs don't lay."	#4) Cause and Effect Final due Chapter 17.
15.	12/2	Conclusions	#5) Final

Assignments

Writing Practice: The best way to become a skillful writer is to write, write some more and revise. Throughout the module, you will be asked to write short essays, either in-class or as homework, responding to topics derived from the readings, our discussions, and current events. You are encouraged to take risks with your writing practice; individual assignments are checked, but not graded. Be sure to save all your work for your Final selections.

Essays: There are four major assignments, listed below. For each, type the final draft, with double spacing, 11-point Arial typeface, and one-inch margins. When the final draft is due, also turn in a copy of your pre-writing and at least one rough draft.

1. **Narrative:** After reading and critiquing various short narratives, write a narrative describing either yourself or someone close to you. (2 pages)
2. **Oral History:** Interview a person you admire and write their story. Oral history is a collection of living people's testimony about their own experiences. Your writing will capture and distill the spoken word and memories of those that you interview. (2 pages)
3. **Compare and Contrast:** Compare two seemingly similar topics. What are the main differences? What conclusions can you draw? (3 pages)
4. **Cause and Effect:** Write a cause-and-effect essay with a specific purpose and for a specific audience. (1-2 pages)
5. **Final:** includes selections from the practice writing you composed in class one new work, a writer's statement (#5). For this, write a paragraph that evaluates your writing process and the work you include in the portfolio. You are responsible for saving copies of all essays and writing practice. The Final is required in lieu of a final exam and is due on the last day of class.
6. **Show and Tell Presentation:** Show the class something that inspires you. (5 minutes)
7. **Group Project: Organic Style Guide:** Choose a topic from a list provided. (2 minutes)