

## College Writing

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Study Hall: 4AC, Room 731

### Course Description

This course provides a foundation in academic discourse by developing effective communication skills with an emphasis on expository writing. Students use electronic environments to write multiple essays, including a researched and documented paper; they also deliver an oral presentation. This course involves discussion of works, and students are expected to participate in class.

### Course Objectives

- To advance and refine ability to communicate ideas clearly and concisely both in written and oral communications
- To learn and practice critical thinking skills
- To sharpen the ability to analyze and define
- To develop effective organization skills for writing and speaking
- To refine and strengthen the skills of persuasion and argumentation
- To develop practical and effective research techniques, including the evaluation of sources and the proper use of citation and documentation
- To advance coherent descriptive and narrative skills
- To strengthen and expand vocabulary
- To provide students with a variety of writing experiences
- To develop skills in self-criticism and peer criticism in relation to writing

### Texts Used for Class

- Bullock, Richard, Maureen Daly Goggin and Francine Weinberg. *The Norton Field Guide to Writing with Readings and Handbook*. New York: W.W. Norton.
- Graff, Gerald and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say/I Say*. New York: W.W. Norton.

### Grading

- Four shorter papers, 50% of final grade
- One longer research project, 25%
- Vocabulary quizzes, homework, other quizzes and tests, 25%

### Academic Integrity

Plagiarism, the act of passing off another person's work as one's own, is a serious breach of academic ethics and will not be tolerated. Plagiarized assignments will receive a zero and may result in a failing grade for the entire course. A comprehensive departmental policy regarding plagiarism will be shared with you at the start of the semester.

## **Classroom Etiquette**

- All school rules will be followed in the classroom, with particular emphasis placed on academic integrity.
- Cellphones have become a big source of distraction in the past few years. Students are asked to observe the following rules of cellphone etiquette to prevent this distraction from compromising everyone's educational experience.
  - Cellphones must be put away during class. If your phone is visible, I will ask you to put it away. If I have to ask you a second time, you may be required to put it on the desk at the front of the classroom to be picked up when class is over.
  - You may not charge your cell phone in the classroom. Please don't ask, please don't do it.
  - If your cellphone rings during class and you have reason to believe someone is trying to contact you due to an urgent matter, please step out of the classroom to take the call. It is assumed that this is a circumstance that will happen infrequently if at all.
- You must listen when another person is addressing the class, whether this person is the teacher or another student.
- Through common courtesy, show respect for the principles, property, and pursuits of other class members.
- Students wishing to use the restroom may take a pass and do so without needing to ask the teacher. Please do not use this privilege when it is not necessary. Unless there is some medical issue that you are experiencing, I can't imagine it would be necessary more than a few times per semester, if at all.
- Please remove sunglasses and earphones/buds devices when class is in session.
- Please be ready to give your full attention to the teacher when the bell rings.

## **Schenectady County Community College Credit**

- Students successfully completing this class will earn college credits through SCCC that are accepted there and at many other institutions. There are requirements regarding registration and residence that have to be met to earn credit above and beyond the academic requirements. Information and assistance will be provided in ensuring that all students are properly enrolled in order to receive credit.