

**Course: Composition and Rhetoric – ENGL 1301: E424X**

**Instructor: Melissa Wells, MA**

**Meeting Times: Tuesday/Thursday - 4–5:50**

**Meeting Place: Wilkerson Hall 207**

**Email: [mwells@odessa.edu](mailto:mwells@odessa.edu)**

**Phone: 432-335-6843**

**Office: Wilkerson Hall 211**

**Office Hours: MWF-9:00-10:00**

**W- 11:00-4:00**

**TTh- 2:00–4:00**

### **Course Description**

Consists of essentials of correctness and effectiveness in writing skills. Emphasizes reading and writing expository prose. Requires expository essays and collateral readings.

### **Prerequisite**

ENGL 0370 passed with a "C" or better or a satisfactory placement score. [3 credit hours]

### **Scans:**

1,2,9

## **Course Objectives**

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### **Learning Outcomes**

- Write a well-organized, thesis driven essay, with clear internal organization governed by a series of controlled paragraph topic sentences
- Move logically in a body paragraph from the generalization of the topic sentence to more specific clarifications
- Support assertions interesting and with depth through detailed, specific illustrations
- Maintain a logical movement through an essay with control of transitions, clarifications, and reasonable conclusions to ideas
- Analyze a rhetorical situation to determine the most appropriate writing strategy, having knowledge and control of the most commonly useful analytical writing strategies
- Analyze an audience to determine the best writing strategies to use
- Demonstrate an understanding of some basic research techniques such as quotation integration and citation
- Demonstrate some research and library knowledge
- Demonstrate some knowledge of bibliographic form
- Demonstrate mastery of conventional English

### **Encouragement**

I very much want you to succeed in this class, and I know that you can do it. I have high expectations for my students and set high standards. I want to help you develop analytical reading skills, your critical thinking skills, and to continue to develop your ability to clearly articulate your ideas. This will serve you not only in this and other classes but in your personal and professional development as well. If you have any questions, I encourage you to contact me during my office hours. If you cannot meet during that time, I will be happy to arrange a more convenient time. I look forward to a fun, interesting, and productive semester.

### **Computer Access**

You need to have regular access to a computer for this class:

**Internet** - You need to have dependable access to the internet.

**Word Processor** - All assignments should be typed, saved to your computer, and then submitted to Blackboard. If you don't have Word, most computers come with Works already loaded. Make sure to save documents in Rich Text Format. Some alternative word processors are the one on GoogleDocs or the free word processor available at [www.openoffice.org](http://www.openoffice.org).

**Blackboard** - You are responsible for any materials that can be found in our Blackboard course.

**Odessa College email** - When I send messages and reminders, they will go to this email. You are responsible for any information sent to your OC email.

**Powerpoint** - You can open Powerpoints in Blackboard. Here is a link for a free Powerpoint Viewer: <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=048dc840-14e1-467d-8dca-19d2a8fd7485&displaylang=en>.

**Adobe Reader** - If you don't have this already, you can download the reader for free at <http://www.adobe.com/>.

**Even if you do not own a computer, you do have access to computers and printers in the Student Success Center on campus. Not having computer or printer access is not a valid excuse for failing to complete assignments on time.**

### **Classroom Behavior**

I expect you to be respectful towards other students and myself during class and in any online interactions such as discussion forums or on email. When a person, whether it is me or another student, is speaking, please do not interrupt them or hold conversations about topics that are not relevant to this class. I do want you to make comments, to ask questions, and to raise class concerns, and I will give you opportunities to do so. Also, if I have given you an individual or group assignment in class, I expect you to work on it for the allotted time. We will have periodic group and class discussions, and I expect you to be respectful toward your classmates at all times.

If behavior occurs that violates this policy, I will ask the student(s) to correct the behavior. If I have to do this more than a couple times during the semester, or if the student refuses to correct the behavior at the time I ask, I will give the student an official warning, ask him or her to leave the class, and he or she will be counted absent and receive a zero for any activities done that day, even if those activities have already been concluded. This warning will be made in class, and I will also send a copy to the student and appropriate administrators.

- If a student interrupts me or another student who is contributing to class discussion
- If students are holding conversations about material that is not relevant to class
- If a student is rude, belligerent, or otherwise disruptive
- If a student has out non-course materials after I have announced the beginning of class
- If a student submits any disruptive, inappropriate, or offensive posts in the online class forums

If you violate any aspect of the classroom behavior policy again after the warning, or if there is any case of very disruptive or disrespectful behavior, the same penalties will be given (counted absent, grades for the day forfeited), and I will consult the Dean of Arts and Science about further disciplinary action.

If you have questions or concerns regarding an issue that concerns the whole class, such as a question about assignment instructions, please ask. If you have questions or concerns regarding an issue that pertains only to you, such as a question about a grade on one of your papers, please discuss that with me during office hours or some other arranged time.

### **Non-Course Materials**

I ask that you only have course materials out during class time, even if you have completed class work early. Non-course materials include other books (unless we are working with research materials for this class), other publications, planners, puzzles, etc. Electronic devices (computers, PDAs, cell phones, games, etc) should be turned

off and put away when class begins. If I have given you time to work on the computers, either writing or doing research, only programs immediately relevant to the assignment should be open on your computer. If you need a device because of a disability, please bring me the proper documentation (see ADA Policy below). You will be subject to the Class Behavior policy (see above) if you have out non-course materials during class time.

## **Attendance**

Regular attendance is critical for your success in this class. If you are ill or have an emergency that causes you to miss class, please let me know the nature of your problem. More than four absences may cause a grade reduction. More than ten absences will cause an F in the course. I count three instances of arriving late or leaving early as one absence.

**It is YOUR responsibility to get class material you have missed when you were absent.** You may ask me or a classmate for the information.

## **Withdrawing from Class**

April 14<sup>th</sup> is the last day you will be able to withdraw from a class with an automatic W. After that, you will receive the grade you currently have in the class.

## **Required Readings/Materials**

- Readings as assigned (Posted on Blackboard or distributed in class)
- Access to a computer - Internet, word processor, Blackboard, Odessa College email, Powerpoint
- A computer file storage device (preferably a USB drive)
- Folder or notebook (recommended)
- Thesaurus and dictionary (recommended)

## **Course Assignments**

**Each week you will have readings along with various activities, and you will generally have a paper you will be working on, so make sure to plan carefully.**

Personal Essay	12%
Movie Review	12%
Learning Process Essay	12%
Exploratory Essay	14%
Proposal Essay	20%
Class Activities and Quizzes	8%
Reading Activities	12%
Final	10%

## **Assignments**

Assignment due dates are outlined on your class schedule. You will need to submit a hard copy of the assignment and turn it in on Blackboard on this date. Your final grade will be determined by the average of 5 essays, daily activities and quizzes, and a final exam. In class activities cannot be made up; however, I will drop three of these grades.

If you are absent on the day an assignment is due and you have legitimate, serious documentation, please include this when you turn in your assignment. Otherwise, you will lose 10 points for every day your assignment is late. Please contact me as soon as possible if you have any questions or cannot turn in an assignment on time. If you know you will be absent on a due date ahead of time, contact me as soon as possible to make arrangements.

## **Plagiarism**

**I have zero tolerance for plagiarism. Plagiarism is turning in work that you claim to be your own that is actually from another source. Give credit where credit is due and document your sources correctly. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will receive a zero on the assignment. If you are caught plagiarizing a second time, you will receive an F in the course. Additionally, this incident will be reported to the appropriate administrators. Plagiarism is simply not worth it. If you need help documenting a source, let me know. I am more than happy to help you.**

## **Grading Policy**

### **Assignments**

Make sure to follow specific assignment instructions carefully.

For major assignments, you will be asked to submit a paper copy and a copy on Blackboard.

Both copies are due on the date given on the assignments sheet, on your class schedule, and in the Assignments section. If you have questions about any assignment, please contact me as soon as possible.

I would like all assignments submitted in Rich Text Format.

Late assignments will lose 10 points each day they are late.

If you have a legitimate, documented reason why you need more time on an assignment, please contact me. The documentation must be included with the assignment.

<b>Percentage %</b>	<b>Grade</b>
90-100	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
59-below	F

### **Summary of Assignments & Activities** See Course Calendar for specific dates.

<b>Item(Name)</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
Assignment Instructions	Lecture/ Discussion	Presentation of the instructions for each essay assignment as it is assigned.
Reading Discussions	Lecture/ Discussion	Discuss readings and their relevance to the class assignments and lessons

Parts of Speech	Lecture/ Discussion	Review of the parts of speech
Sentence Structure	Lecture/ Discussion	<i>Discuss fused sentences, comma splices, fragments, awkward wording</i>
Similar/Confusing Words	Lecture/ Discussion	Discuss homonyms that students frequently misuse
Pronouns	Lecture/ Discussion	Review pronoun usage rules
Capitalization	Lecture/ Discussion	Review capitalization rules
Punctuation	Lecture/ Discussion	Review essential punctuation rules
Essay Strategies	Lecture/ Discussion	Review/discuss various strategies for effectively conveying ideas in an essay
Writing Process	Lecture/ Discussion	Discuss the steps involved in writing an essay effectively
Verb Tense - Narration	Lecture/ Discussion	Review the rules for using the proper verb tense when writing a narrative
Verb Tense - Textual Reference	Lecture/ Discussion	Review the rules for using the proper verb tense when referring to an outside work
Transitions	Lecture/ Discussion	Discuss the effective use of structuring an essay and focusing it around the thesis idea by using transitions
Library Overview	Lecture/ Discussion	Introduce the resources available to Odessa College students through the Odessa College Learning Resource Center

MLA Documentation	Lecture/Discussion	Review/discuss the rules for properly and effectively using the Modern Language Association documentation system for research essays
Source Credibility	Lecture/Discussion	Present some criteria to apply to source material to evaluate each source's level of credibility
Evaluating Source Material	Lecture/Discussion	Present some criteria to apply to source material to evaluate each source's relevance and usefulness for a writer's particular discussion
Incorporating Source Material	Lecture/Discussion	Discuss some methods for effectively incorporating source material into a research essay
Argument Strategies	Lecture/Discussion	Discuss some strategies for persuading an audience to take an interest in one's subject and one's perspective on that subject

## Special Needs

### ADA Policy

Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability Services at 335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.

### Academic Support

You can always come to my office hours or arrange a meeting with me if you need help on an assignment. I will also give feedback via email, but it may take me a while to respond.

Free tutoring services are available in the Student Success Center, which is located in the LRC building. Tutoring services are available free of charge to OC students, and use of the Student Success Center is encouraged. The Center is located on the first floor of the LRC (Library Bldg).

Phone Number: 432-335-6878

Director Phone Number: 432-335-6714

Please refer to their website for more information about the Center. <http://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/index.htm>. Both walk-in and pre-arranged sessions are available. When you go see the English tutor, please take a copy of the assignment so that the tutor will know what you are working on. Also, try to go with some form of draft and/or specific questions - the tutor can give you more effective assistance if you have specific material to work with.

## Helpful Links

Here are some web dictionaries which may also be helpful:

<http://www.onelook.com/>

<http://www.m-w.com/netdict.htm>

As a substitute for a grammar text, some of the following websites are very helpful:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/grammar/index.html>

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://www.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/errors.html>

<http://webnz.com/checkers/GramSentences.html>

<http://www.chompchomp.com/menu.htm>

## Schedule Adjustments

I reserve the right to adjust the schedule and policies if necessary. You will be notified of any changes and will be responsible for information that has been emailed and/or posted.

## Cancellations

If for some reason I cannot be in class, I will arrange for a substitute. If a substitute cannot be found, I will have a note officially cancelling class posted on the door. I will leave any relevant instructions with the note, and I will also email these instructions to you.

## Course Schedule

### Week 1: Jan. 17- Jan. 21

- Getting Started
- Parts of Speech, Sentence Structure, Confusing Words

### Week 2: Jan. 24-Jan. 28

- Pronouns, Capitalization, Punctuation
- Grammar Review 1 due Jan. 28
- Read "The Crummy First Draft" by Anne Lamott, "How to Say Nothing in 500 Words" by Paul Roberts, "Love, Death, and the Astrodome" by Larry McMurtry
- Essay Strategies

### Week 3: Jan. 31-Feb. 4

- Essay Strategies cont.
- Thesis Statements
- Read an excerpt from *Salvation on Sand Mountain* by Dennis Covington, "Trying to Save Piggy Sneed" by John Irving
- Assign Personal Essay

### Week 4: Feb. 7- Feb. 11

- Reading Activity 1 due Feb. 9
- Grammar Review 2 due Feb. 11
- Write Personal Essay in Class

### Week 5: Feb. 14-Feb. 18

- Assign Learning Process Essay

- Read "Learning to Read and Write" by Frederick Douglass, "Writing and Reading" by Richard Wright

**Week 6: Feb. 21-Feb. 25**

- Read "Arriving at Perfection" by Benjamin Franklin, "Benjamin Franklin" by D. H. Lawrence
- Reading Activity 2 due Feb. 23
- *Learning Process Essay Due Feb. 25*
- Assign Movie Review

**Week 7: Feb. 28 -Mar. 4**

- Movie Review Film - *Rocky*

**Week 8: Mar. 7-Mar. 11**

- *Movie Review Due March 9*
- Read "The Insufficiency of Honesty" by Stephen L. Carter, "The Woman Who Loved Water" by Kathleen Alcalá
- Assign Exploratory Essay
- Research Methods

**Week 9: Mar. 14 – Mar. 18**

- **SPRING BREAK**

**Week 10: Mar. 21-Mar. 25**

- Quality Sources
- Plagiarism
- Reading Activity 3 due Mar. 23
- Grammar Review 3 due Mar. 25

**Week 11: Mar. 28-Apr. 1**

- MLA
- Library Time
- Read "A Modest Proposal" by Jonathan Swift, "Television: The Plug-In Drug" by Marie Winn

**Week 12: Apr. 4-Apr. 8**

- *Exploratory Essay Due April 6*
- Assign Proposal Essay
- Film – *Killer at Large: Why Obesity is America's Greatest Threat*

**Week 13: Apr. 11-Apr. 13**

- Read "Letter from Birmingham Jail" by Martin Luther King, Jr., "Lessons of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." by Cesar Chavez
- Ethos, Logos, Pathos
- Grammar Review 4 due Apr. 15

**Week 14: Apr. 18-Apr. 22**

- Reading Activity 4 due Apr. 20
- April 22, Good Friday Holiday

**Week 15: Apr. 25-Apr. 29**

- *Proposal Essay Due April 29*

**Week 16: May 1-May 6**

- Final Review

**Final: May 9 (Mon.) – 8:00 am – 10:30 am**