

MIDSTATE COLLEGE
411 W. NORTHMOOR RD. PEORIA, IL 61614
(309) 692-4092 ~ (800) 251-4299
Summer 2019

Course number & Name: ENG 116 - Composition

Credit hours: 4 quarter hours (IAI C1 900R)

Method of Delivery: Arranged

Course Description:

A course designed to perfect composition skills with competencies in critical thinking and integration of knowledge with accurate usage, vocabulary, spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Throughout the course, students are exposed to self-discovery and source writing. A research paper is required. Course fees may apply.

Text(s) and Manual(s):

Steinbeck, John. *Of Mice and Men*. NY: Penguin, 1997. Print.

ISBN: 9780140177398

Topics:

1. Subjectivity, author's point of view, tone, voice
2. Audience awareness
3. Rhetorical skills: pathos and ethos
4. Essay writing
5. Research skills
6. Critical thinking
7. Prewriting skills
8. Proofreading, editing, and revising skills

Learning Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Through reading and writing, develop the strategies of observation and demonstrate an ability to understand information using critical thinking skills, including summarizing, analyzing, interpreting, and synthesizing.
2. Apply an understanding of tone, mechanics, and organization to various writing situations; perfect spelling and punctuation, accurate usage, appropriate vocabulary, proper grammar, through the writing process
3. Hone writing skills using a variety of invention, drafting, and revising/editing strategies in order to develop essays that are organized and coherent containing a clear thesis and purpose aimed at a specific audience.
4. Through reading and writing, demonstrate an understanding of audience, style, tone, voice, and rhetoric.
5. Develop expository writing techniques through writing essays with emphasis on self.
6. Comprehend, analyze, and critique a variety of research and source material and library resources to compose a research paper.
7. Conduct research to discover and develop new ideas and communication strategies
8. Demonstrate an understanding of documenting sources according to APA style.
9. Considering audience needs in different rhetorical situations
10. Using writing as a problem-solving process
11. Work collaboratively and reflecting on the process of collaborative learning

Midstate Grading scale:

90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
0 - 59	F

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Midstate Plagiarism Policy:

Plagiarism is using another person's words, either by paraphrase or direct quotation, without giving credit to the author(s). Plagiarism can also consist of cutting and pasting material from electronic sources by submitting all or a portion of work for assignment credit. This includes papers, computer programs, music, sculptures, paintings, photographs, etc. authored by another person without explicitly citing the original source(s). These actions violate the trust and honesty expected in academic work. Plagiarism is strictly against the academic policy of Midstate College. Its seriousness requires a measured, forceful response which includes consequences for inappropriate and/or no citation.

In courses containing writing assignments, the College promotes the use of an electronic resource which compares the student's writing against previously submitted papers, journals, periodicals, books, and web pages. Students and instructors can use this service to reduce the incidence of plagiarism. This electronic resource has been found to conform to legal requirements for fair use and student confidentiality. It is able to provide a report to the student indicating the parts of the assignment that match.

Student Success:

The Office of Student Success is available to students seeking tutoring for individual classes or who need assistance with writing assignments. Information is also available on test taking techniques, how to take notes, developing good study skills, etc. Contact Student Success in Room 110 (in person); (309) 692-4092, extension 1100 (phone); studentsuccess@midstate.edu (email).

Instructor Information:

Dr. Steve Bortolotti
Office: 226
692-4092 - ext. 2260
sbortolotti@midstate.edu

Policies and Procedures:

1. Weekly attendance is based on whether or not you submitted any gradable work for the week, such as quizzes, written assignments, and discussion forums. However, if you attend a campus session, you will be counted as present for the week even if you do not complete gradable work.
2. No assignments accepted past due dates, unless **you contact me beforehand; that is, do not miss a deadline and then ask to hand it in late.** If you know you will miss a deadline, plan on asking for an extension. I reserve the right to negotiate late submissions with students on a one-on-one basis
3. Papers and other written assignments must follow the standards of written work established in the class via lectures and examples.
4. Students' written work will be typed using Microsoft Word; Times New Roman size 12 font; default margins.
5. It is the student's responsibility to keep all copies of papers and written assignments turned in for a grade. If a paper or other assignment is lost by the student or the instructor, the student is responsible for providing the instructor with another copy of the paper or assignment. Copies of the papers written in this course should be kept until the student receives his or her final grade for the quarter.
6. Students suspected of plagiarizing will be subject to the penalties outlined in the *Midstate College Student Handbook*.

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7. Students are responsible for obtaining and keeping all handouts and notes.
8. We will maintain an environment of mutual respect and courtesy in this class. That means turning off your cell phones and treating your fellow classmates and me with respect and deference. No foul or abusive language will be tolerated.

Late Work

1. I will accept assignments, but they will be subject to late points. Refer to individual assignment sheets for deadlines and specific point breakdown.
2. Work from weeks 1-6 will not be accepted after midterm (Week 6), for any reason, even for late points. No exceptions.
3. During Weeks 7-11, the same above policies apply.
4. Work from weeks 7-11 will not be accepted after (Week 11), for any reason, even for late points. No exceptions.

Participation Requirements: Principal Writing Assignments

There are four principal major writing assignments due in the class, two of which are considered research papers. The major writing assignments are as follows:

➤ **Personal Essay – 20 points**

"I am myself the matter of my book." ~ Michel de Montaigne

- The personal essay is a self-exploratory, subjective essay, the intent of which is working out the possible relationships between the subject and the author.
- The focus of the essay is honesty, openness, with particular attention given to audience.

➤ **Movie Essay – 150 points**

"The opinion of the strongest is always the best." ~ Jean de la Fontaine

- The Movie Essay is an essay in which the student is asked to move beyond reinforcing existing personal opinions, and to test ideas against evidence or discover new ways of thinking about a topic.
- Using a logical progression in the essay, the author is expected to present evidence in support of a controlling purpose in an attempt to persuade, with particular attention given to audience.
- One purpose of the Movie Essay is to introduce basic research (APA) documentation and research skills.
- This essay assignment includes documented, multi-source writing. 2-3 sources (Internet sources).

➤ **Persuasive Essay – 150 points**

"He who has truth at his heart need never fear the want of persuasion of his pen." ~ John Ruskin

- The Persuasive Essay is an essay in which the student persuades the reader to consider his perspective of a controversial issue. It is not an Argument Essay, but rather an essay in which the student is asked to support his stance on an issue through credible source material.
- The Persuasive Essay relies on interview for information; the voice of the subject of the essay should clearly be heard in the essay.
- The focus of the Persuasive Essay is on details, communication, openness, with particular attention given to audience, as well as reinforcing basic research (APA) documentation and research skills.

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- This essay assignment includes documented, multi-source writing. 2 sources minimum (Internet and print sources).
 - This research paper is a major part of the grade and students must receive a "D" or higher on it to get a "C" in the course.
- **Critical Review Essay – 150 points**
“From the moment I picked up your book until I laid it down, I was convulsed with laughter. Someday I intend reading it.” ~ Grouch Marx
- The Critical Review Essay is an essay in which the author is asked to write a judgment of value, going beyond gut-reactions and assumptions.
 - Using a logical progression in the essay, the author is expected to evaluate the subject from inner feeling outward into reason and self-expression, with particular attention given to audience.
 - Another purpose of the Critical Review Essay is to establish basic research (APA) documentation and research skills.
 - This essay assignment includes documented, multi-source writing. 3 sources minimum (Internet and print sources).
 - This research paper is a major part of the grade and students must receive a "D" or higher on it to get a "C" in the course.
- **Quiz #1– 10 points**
Library Resources Quiz
- **Quiz #2 – 10 points**
Of Mice and Men Slideshow Quiz.
- **Quiz #3 – 32 points**
Of Mice and Men Quiz (book)
- **6 Discussion Forums – 60 points**

Total number of points: 582 points

582 – 524 = A

514 – 466 = B

465 – 407 = C

406 – 349 = D

348 = F

Note: Students will learn valuable revising/editing techniques throughout the duration of the class.

Week 1:

Objectives:

- File naming conventions

Assignment:

- Create folder on H:drive to store files
- File naming conventions
- Library Resources Quiz

Week 2:

Objectives:

- Understanding the essay

Assignment:

- Personal Essay

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Week 3:

Objectives:

- Writing the five paragraph essay
- Outline parallelism
- APA documentation and citation skills

Assignment:

- First draft Movie Essay

Week 4:

Objectives:

- Revising a draft
- APA documentation skills

Assignment:

- Final draft Movie Essay and Outline-WC
- Final draft Movie Essay

Week 5:

Objectives:

- Persuasion: Logos, Pathos, Ethos
- APA documentation skills

Assignment:

- Final draft Movie Essay
- Choosing a Persuasive Essay topic

Week 6:

Objectives:

- Expanding on structural basics of five paragraph essay
- Incorporating expert opinion in an essay

Assignment:

- Developing an outline

Week 7:

Objectives:

- Drafting Persuasive Essay

Assignment:

- First draft Persuasive Essay

Week 8:

Objectives:

- John Steinbeck
- Historical context of *Of Mice and Men*

Assignment:

- Revising Persuasive Essay
- Final draft Persuasive Essay
- *Of Mice and Men* Slideshow quiz

Week 9:

Objectives:

- Goals of the Critical Analysis
- Historical context of *Of Mice and Men*

Assignment:

- Final draft Persuasive Essay

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- *Of Mice and Men* quiz (book)

Week 10:

Objectives:

- Drafting Critical Analysis

Assignment:

- Developing an outline
- First draft Critical Analysis

Week 11:

Objectives:

- Revising Critical Analysis

Assignment:

- Final draft Critical Analysis

Week 12:

Finals week