

# ENG. 101, INTRODUCTION TO EXPOSITORY WRITING

## SYLLABUS FOR SUMMER 1999

Instructor: Prof. Stephen Byrnes  
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REQUIRED TEXTS: *Writing with a Thesis* by David Skwire; The *Holt Handbook* (Fourth Ed.) By Laurie Kirsznner and Stephen Mandell.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course, students will learn the literary and grammatical skills to write coherent essays of various types, each focused on a clear, arguable thesis.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Since this is an accelerated session, attendance is a virtual MUST. Attendance is also required due to the large volume of work done in class. Other requirements are:

Two essays on various topics and of various types, due on the dates noted in the syllabus.  
Reading of all assigned material. Unless otherwise instructed, skip all exercises in your texts.  
Class participation as required.  
Midterm and Final.

Your grade will depend on your essays, midterm, and final exam (30% each), with 10% of your grade being determined by your in-class work and participation. Be aware that if you exceed three (3) absences, you will begin losing points off your final grade (3 points each additional absence). If you are absent on a test date, or date when work is due, you MUST either make up the test or turn in the work due ON THE DATE OF YOUR RETURN. I do not accept late papers.

## COURSE SYLLABUS WITH ASSIGNMENTS

NOTE: WT stands for *Writing with a Thesis* and Holt refers to the *Holt Handbook*. All assigned essays must be TYPED. HW stands for homework.

- 7/6 Intros; course outline; planning and organizing an essay; the thesis statement. Holt, pp. 2-41; WT, pp. 3-9. In class essay. HW: Read Holt, chap. 2.
- 7/8 Revising an essay. Holt, chap. 3. Revision of essay of 4/6. "The Lottery" by Jackson. In class essay on this story. HW: Read "Torture" in WT, pp. 293-296.
- 7/13 Reviews of essay on 7/8. Paragraphing, Holt chap. 4. Arguing effectively in an essay. Holt, chap. 7. Review of "Torture." HW: read Holt. Chap. 21. 1 st essay assignment given.
- 7/15 Nouns and Pronouns, Holt, chap. 22. Verbs and Tenses, Holt, chap. 23. Common sentence problems, Holt, chaps. 15-17. HW: Read Holt, chaps. 24-25.
- 7/20 Review of adjectives and adverbs and agreement. The narrative essay, WT, chap. 2. "Salvation" by Hughes; "Foul Shots," by Gomez; "A Crime of Compassion," by Huttman.

- 7/22 The descriptive essay, WT, chap. 3. "Be Scared for Your Kids" by Sicherman. "I am a Catholic" by Quindlen. In class descriptive essay. HW: Read Holt, chaps. 27 and 28.
- 7/27 1st essay due. Review of end punctuation and the comma. Reviews of essay of 7/22. The semicolon, Holt, chap. 29. HW: Read WT, pp. 97-103 and "Couple Lies" on pp. 105-107.
- 7/29 Exemplification. WT, chap. 4. "Dad, I'm HIV Positive" by Schoch. "Darkness at Noon" by Krents. Holt, chap. 30; in-class video from the BBC.
- 8/3 Holt, chaps. 31 and 32. The process essay, WT chap. 5. "Cornbread with Character" by Lundy; "How to Take a Job Interview" by Stanat.
- 8/5 Midterm. Bring your own paper!
- 8/10 Review of midterm and essays. Write a short process essay on a topic of your choosing. Holt, chaps. 32-34.
- 8/12 WT, chap. 6- Comparison/contrast essay; block/alternating pattern. "That Lean and Hungry Look" by Britt; "The Lowest Animal" by Twain. 2nd essay assignment given. HW: read Holt, chap. 9.
- 8/17 In class comparison/contrast essay. Compound and emphatic sentences- Holt, chaps. 9-10. Combining sentences, Holt, pp. 235-236. HW: read Holt, chap. 11
- 8/19 Review of concise sentences. WT, chap. 8, division/classification. "Mother-In-Law" by Latvala.
- 8/24 ~~2nd essay due~~. Cause and effect essay, WT, chap. 7. "The Decisive Arrest," by King; "Why We Crave Horror Movies" by King; "The Best Years of My Life" by Rollin.
- 8/26 Holt, chap. 20. Using words effectively. Holt, chap. 18. Using the dictionary and thesaurus. Holt, chap. 19.
- 8/31 In class readings.
- 9/2 The definition essay, WT chap 9. "My Way" by Kaufman; "Fatal Reaction: The Horror of Stevens-Johnson Syndrome," by Byrnes.
- 9/7 Review sheets for final exam distributed.
- 9/9 Final, part 1
- 9/14 Final, part 2

**GOOD LUCK AND I HOPE YOU ENJOY THE CLASS**