

Boyce College – Spring 2009
EN 101A: English Composition I
Monday 11:30 – 2:15
Dr. Jim Orrick
Carver 125

Contact information: My office is Carver 200A; phone: 897-4409

Course Content: A study of English composition skills, including grammar and sentence structure

Required Text: *Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace*, 9th ed. Joseph M. Williams.

Course Goal: To help the student improve his or her reading, writing, and speaking skills

Course Requirements (mingled with a little pep talk):

1. Lots of writing. There will be a lot of writing required in this course, but not all of it will receive a letter grade. This non-graded writing is very important and may sometimes count toward your class participation grade. You will learn that good writing is almost always a process that involves a number of prewriting exercises and often entails one or more rough drafts. Writing is work! But once you have gained the skills to write confidently, many of you will find great joy in writing.
2. A fair amount of reading, since thorough reading skills often enhance competent writing skills. Our textbook not only informs how to do a particular assignment, it also often provides several examples of how students and professionals have admirably executed the particular method of development under consideration. Many of these example essays will be assigned reading, and we will discuss their content and style in class. Sometimes I will give a quiz over the readings, and the quiz grades will count toward your class participation grade.
3. Punctuality. No late papers will be accepted. If you have a bone fide emergency, contact me immediately, and perhaps an extension can be arranged in exceptional cases.
4. Attention to detail. All final drafts are to be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point *Times New Roman* font. If the assignment consists of multiple pages, the pages are to be stapled (not paper-clipped) in the upper left hand corner. If the assignment is not stapled, it will not be accepted until it is stapled.
5. Grammar quizzes. This is an opportunity to brush up on all that grammar stuff you feel awkward about. Quizzes will be given on a daily basis. Come prepared to take the next one. The answers to the quizzes appear in the back of the book, but if you rely on the answer section to help you pass the quizzes, it will catch up to you on the final exam, which is all grammar.
6. Reading your papers aloud in class. Class size dictates how often this happens.
7. Responsibility. It is the student's responsibility to keep informed of and abreast of all assignments.

A valuable resource, and incentive to take advantage of it: In most cases, composition skills are most readily learned through one-on-one instruction. Regrettably, with the large number of students in most Composition classes, this is impractical. Quality individualized instruction is available, however, through the Boyce College Writing Center. To encourage students to take advantage of this valuable resource, I will add three points to the grade of any paper that the student has taken to the Writing Center for help. To receive credit, simply write on the title page, "Writing Center: Yes." Unless notified otherwise, there is no penalty for not taking your paper to the Writing Center.

Components of the final grade:

1. The average score of the final drafts of the various composition assignments will determine 80% of the final grade. The test near the beginning of the semester will be equivalent to one composition assignment, and your score will be averaged in with your composition assignment grades.
2. 20% of the final grade will be determined by class participation. Let me explain what I mean by *class participation*. As stated under *Course Requirements* above, not all writing and reading that you do for this class will receive a letter grade; sometimes I will simply check to make sure that you have actually done the assignment. If you have done all the assignment on time, you get a happy checkmark; if you have not done all the assignment on time, you get an ugly blank space where your happy checkmark ought to have been. At the end of the semester the happy check marks you have received will constitute a certain percentage of the number of those that were possible, and that percentage will determine how much credit you will receive for class participation. The quizzes are graded on a pass/fail basis; if you pass, you receive a happy checkmark.

Grading Scale:

94-100: A
90-93: A-
87-89: B+
83-86: B
80-82: B-
77-79: C+
73-76: C
70-72: C-
67-69: D+
63-66: D
60-62: D-
59 and below: F

Boyce College Attendance Policy (see Boyce College catalog):

Class attendance is required for Boyce College students. Attendance will be checked at each class session. A student who misses more than 25% of class meetings will forfeit credit for the class and receive a failing grade. Students are also expected to be in class on time. If a student is late to class three times it will count the same as an absence.

If a student has a legitimate reason for missing class for an extended period of time (such as an illness or accident) it is the student's responsibility to notify the professor so that missed tests and assignments may be made up.

Important note: In this class you are permitted without penalty to accumulate 3.3 absences for any reason whatsoever, no excuses necessary. If you accumulate any fraction of an absence beyond this limit, you automatically fail the course, no excuses accepted. Use your allowed absences discreetly. Students who miss class sessions due to having registered late will be counted absent for the days missed.

For instructional purposes the professor may employ the use of film, readings, and outside guests. This use does not, however, constitute an endorsement by Boyce College of these sources.

Classroom Policies:

1. Do not play with any electronic gadgets in this class. Computers are to be used only for note taking. If your cell phone rings or vibrates, I will pause, look at you sadly, and shake my head in disappointment.
2. No food or drinks are allowed in class, except water.
3. Guidelines for papers submitted in this course are found in the Southern Seminary Manual of Style available in the LifeWay Christian Bookstore located in the Honeycutt Center.
4. In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g., tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the course.

Class Schedule

Week:

1. Introduction to class, editing exercise
2. Lectures from chapters 1-5
3. Test over chapters 1-5, bring a dictionary to class
4. Descriptive week
5. Individual instruction. Bring a typed, rough draft of descriptive paper.
6. Final draft of descriptive paper due. Narration week.
7. Narrative papers due.
8. Example week
9. Example papers due. Comparison and Contrast week.
10. Comparison and Contrast papers due. Cause and Effect week.
11. Cause and Effect papers due. Definition week.
12. Definition papers due. Argumentation week
13. Final exam. Argumentation papers due.