

English Composition 102

Spring 1995

Required Text:

Schilb, John., Elizabeth Flynn and John Clifford. *Constellations*. 2nd. ed. New York: HCP, 1995.

In addition, all students must have a standard spiral ringed notebook with at least 100 lined, blank pages by the second day of class.

Course Description

As the UNCW English Department states, "The goal of English 102 is to facilitate the transition from writing and reading based on personal experience to writing and reading for academic purposes. Involved in that transition is the gradual acquisition of the conventions of academic writing. These include an inquiring, balanced, informed voice and a tolerant intellectual stance." More specifically, this course is designed to reinforce the process of critical thinking, reading, and writing which was begun, on the university level, in English 101. We will be examining a number of different issues this semester and students will be asked to respond to these issues in a critical, often analytical manner and support their responses from documented texts. Proficiency in summarizing, paraphrasing, and quoting from texts to support a particular position is prerequisite for this course; however, we will continue to use these skills as it relates to our present goals. This course emphasizes independent research to support a myriad of positions of the student's own choosing on a number of selected social, academic, and cultural issues and an aspect of this course is devoted towards research techniques and skills. As is the case with all writing and critical modes of thought, it is somewhat unrealistic to expect to "get" everything this course offers in a single semester. However, what you can learn here are the foundations upon which to build a credible and academically acceptable style of writing you will use, daily, in your academic and post collegiate careers regardless of the field or occupation.

Course Requirements

1) Students will be assigned 4 formal papers, 2 of which focus strongly on the analysis of a given text, and 2 of which focus on the incorporation of independent research to support an analysis of a particular issue. Students will be informed well in advance of the due dates of these papers and time will be allowed for peer editing and review of drafts. Students are welcome to schedule appointments with me to discuss specific aspects of their papers at any time during the writing or creating stage.

2) In addition to the aforementioned formal papers, students will be responsible for keeping a journal in which they will respond to specific assignments relevant to the reading and writing process. These assignments will be given daily and it is up to the student to keep their journal current and bring it to class with them every meeting. Your journals will be collected 2 to 4 times during the semester; however, the dates of their collection will not be announced.

Each entry in your journal should be clearly dated and numbered at the top of each page (i.e. JE 23 3/26). This journal should be used exclusively for ENG 102. Do not take notes for this class or any other in this journal! Use a separate notebook for class notes. It has been my experience that if students stay up to date on their journals and provide consistently thoughtful responses, they score very high on this component of their final grade. Correspondingly, missing entries and less than attentive responses hurt. Badly. The criteria for journal grades are listed below.

3) Completion of daily reading and writing assignments and exhibiting proper preparation and participation in class discussions comprises a vital unit of your final grade. To be brief, always come to class, always do the required readings, and always come with your writing assignments.

Attendance and Grading

Don't skip class. Period. There are no excused absences. For each absence over 4, your final grade will drop a letter. Every three times you are late, it will be recorded as an absence. If you miss this class 7 or more times for any reason you will fail. In instances of extended hospitalization or close familial crisis, it may be possible to withdraw from this class without an "F". See me if this occurs.

Though this may be viewed as strict and it may be possible (though in my experience extremely unlikely) that you could, by grades alone, pass this course after missing 7 classes, bear in mind that discussion, peer input and peer editing comprise the majority of what we will be doing this semester. If you don't come to class, not only are you not participating in the ongoing discussion and critical process, you are denying your classmates valuable input and insight. Simply put, come to class, if not for yourself, for your peers.

Final Grade Average (10 point scale)

Attendance/Participation, Daily Assignments, Journals	20%
Paper 1	15%
Paper 2	20%
Paper 3	20%

Paper 4

25%

Criteria for Journal Grades

An "A" journal will include:

- all journal entries, appropriately dated, numbered, and arranged in chronological order
- entries which exhibit significant critical and personal interaction with the material being discussed. These entries will usually be a page in length
- where revisions are assigned, the entry will reflect a careful reevaluation of the original draft with significant additions and attention to editing

A "B" journal may include:

- all or almost all entries, appropriately dated, numbered and arranged in chronological order
- entries which exhibit a high degree of critical and personal insight into the material being discussed. These entries may/may not be a page in length
- Where revisions are assigned, the entry will reflect a reevaluation of the original draft with limited additions and limited attention to editing

A "C" journal may include:

- almost all entries, dated, numbered, and in chronological order
- entries which exhibit some limited interaction with the material being discussed, usually less than a page in length
- Where revisions are assigned, the entry will reflect some reevaluation of the original text and some attention to editing and additions

A "D" journal may include:

- a high number of missing entries
- significant absence of interaction with discussed material
- Where revisions are assigned, the entry will reflect little reevaluation of the original draft and little attention to editing and additions

A "F" journal is no journal at all or one which is not turned in when requested.

The average of your journal grades (anywhere from 2 to 4) will make up your final journal grade. If you have questions about the content of your journal from an evaluative standpoint, please see me at any time during the semester for direction and a preliminary status estimate.

Combined with attendance/participation and daily assignments, your final journal grade comprises 20% of your overall final grade.