English 111–Freshman Composition

Texts: Revisiting America (Wyle) and Quick Access (Troyka).

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Office Hours: Daily 10-11 and by appointment

Overview:
The purpose of English 111 is to help you learn to write more clearly and convincingly, to help you understand the practices of good writers, and perhaps to help you enjoy writing.

Particular Objectives:
Specifically, 111 will help you learn how to respond to common writing problems:
✓ how to uncover your hidden writing voice
✓ how to adapt your ideas to particular audiences
✓ how to focus, develop, and organize your ideas
✓ how to write personably and conversationally
✓ how to revise and edit your writing
✓ how to use language precisely
✓ and how to work comfortably with library resources and formats of documentation.

Student Responsibilities:
1. You are responsible for reading, studying, and annotating all assigned readings prior to coming to each class.
2. You must carefully consider the writing assignments and their instructions.
3. You are required to participate in regular in-class workshops and discussion groups.
4. Although it is courteous to contact me by telephone or email if you’re going to miss class, I do not repeat missed class discussions. You must contact a classmate if you miss class to receive class notes or instructions.
5. You are responsible to turn in materials on time. **I do not accept late work.** (Emergencies will be carefully scrutinized.) I do accept e-mailed assignments if they reach me before class begins—use them sparingly and only for illnesses or emergencies.
6. All required assignments must be typed/word processed, unless otherwise specified. I do not accept handwritten work of any kind unless it is an in-class writing.
7. You are required to spend 2 hours studying/reading/writing outside of class for every hour spent in the classroom. This is minimal.
8. Perhaps the most relevant responsibility is the responsibility you have for your own education (as in this is your education). Please learn to take responsibility for your weaknesses, your procrastination, your work or lack of work, your absences, your studies, and your health. Late nights and early mornings make poor bedfellows and great enemies.

Requirements and Grading: Grading is based on both process and development of 6 major papers and incidental assignments: in-class writing assignments, page-length papers, workshop sessions, editing, maps, responses, and class participation.

Major Essays: Major papers will give you experience writing in situations typical of national freshman English classes. Generally, these papers should be 2-3 pages long and double-spaced. Each assignment comes with easy to follow, snap together instructions.

Responses: The response acts like a quiz: its worth hovers around ten points, unless it’s an obvious guffaw. It suggests to me that you have read the assignment and are prepared to participate in a discussion. Make them personal and informal, and allow them to fill at least a page–keyboarded. Please don’t dash these off: I’ll be searching for fresh ideas, mature thought, wisdom, metaphors, personableness, and attitude. Perhaps making notes as you go, revising, changing, deleting, thinking: these are the necessary steps. **Do not SUMMARIZE the essay.**

Workshops: Pacing yourself through each essay assignment is essential. Often we will gather in small groups to discuss essays in progress. Your participation in these workshops is essential to our class work.

Attendance: Our class work emphasizes your participation, not my lecturing. I encourage your presence and preparation even though I don’t take roll. A pattern of missing class will adversely affect your grade. My hope is that you’ll desire to be more than just a student, to become a scholar. As J. Bonner Ritchie explains:

“In the student-scholar model, the individual students not only accept responsibility for their own learning, but for contributing to the quality of the class. They read and communicate to learn and to grow, not just to fulfill an assignment or to get a grade. They define learning objectives and activities beyond the course requirements. They do not continually ask if a reading assignment or discussion ‘is going to be on the exam.’ . . . Scholar students can make almost any class a worthwhile learning experience for themselves and class members.” (Brigham Young Magazine, August 1996)

Texts and Materials: Your papers are the principal text for this class; we will spend much of our time evaluating and reworking your writing. In addition, you will need the texts listed above.

Submitting Papers: Each time a paper comes due we’ll read and edit them. Type (keyboard) all essay assignments according to the format of your chosen discipline. Most of you will follow either the APA or MLA format.

Late Work: I don’t accept late work. In most cases you’ll know when you won’t be to class. Just turn the work in before you leave. Please call my phone mail if you’re ill; perhaps I’ll make an exception.

Caveat: I reserve the right to make changes in course content and policy at any time during the semester or term.

Academic Honesty: “To be in compliance with the BYUI Code of Honor, students are expected to be honest in all academic work and to help others fulfill the same responsibility. One serious form of academic dishonesty is plagiarism, i.e., presenting another person’s writings or ideas as if they were one’s own. To avoid plagiarism, care must be taken to accurately identify and credit information that is not original with the student.
“Minor offenses will result in an ‘F’ on the exam or assignment. It may also be necessary to repeat the work and still receive a reduced grade for the course. Major offenses involving premeditated cheating will result in an ‘F’ for the course and action by the Dean of Students Office such as probation or dismissal from school. Some offenses may also have legal implications.

“Accused students will always have the right to know the specific charge, hear the evidence, and have an appropriate hearing, if needed.” (BYUI Catalog, 2002-03, p. 42.)

Special Limitations: To accommodate students with special learning, physical, emotional, mental, social, or other limitations, the student must notify me (the instructor) the first week of class. By law, BYUI is only required to assist those students who make these issues known during the first week of class.

Summary of Graded Stuff:
Papers
Paper Draft Checks
Responses/In-class Writings
Workshops
Grammar Oral Report
Research Paper
Portfolio

Collect and keep all your class materials. Occasionally I and the computer make mistakes.

Oral Reports (OR): you are required to read and annotate the material that will be reported in each oral report prior to coming to class. This is particularly important if you know you have a particular weakness in any given area.

Revisiting America=RA
Quick Access=QA

Tentative Schedule:
The following essay readings include author’s name and beginning page number in parentheses (14).

January
6 T Roll, papers, responses, quizzes, process and development, etc.

February
3 T QA OR: 14a-c. Paper One Due.
10 T QA OR: 16a-e. Stegner (202). Paragraphing.
19 Th QA OR: 18g-19a-b. R&A Gutierrez (343).
24 T QA OR: 40a-d. Paper Three Draft Workshop.

March
2 T QA OR: 41a-e. Paper Three Due.
9 T QA OR: 41k-m. R&A McCarthy (647) and Kennedy (650).
11 Th QA OR: 41o-r. Paper Four Draft Workshop.

April
1 Th Spring Break. No classes.
6 T QA OR: 55a-e. Documentation.
8 Th QA OR: 57a-c. Reference Page.

Papers: When a major paper comes due, you have two options: (1) sign up for a 15 minute conference with me, wherein we will grade your paper together, or (2) see a tutor in the Writing Center. I will receive from the WC a written confirmation describing your tutorial there; either of these options allows you full credit for the assignment. This grading must be accomplished within a week of the paper’s due date.

You can then rewrite, revise, and rework your papers if they’re headed to the portfolio or shelve or forget them if not.

The Research Paper Proposal, due November 20, cannot be considered or used in the Portfolio; I will collect it on the due date and return it the same day in class.