

English 99: Improvement of Writing



Spring 2013

Instructor: Lori Monnastes

Office: 5-158

Office hours: Daily 8:30-9:30 or by appointment

Office Phone: 533-3688

Email:

Lori.Monnastes@sfcc.spokane.edu

Important Dates

- **May 28th –English 101 Readiness Reading**
- **April 28th *Contact Academic Consultant***
- **May 26th HOLIDAY No Classes**
- **June 16th Last Day of Classes**
- **June 17th Dead Day**
- **June 18-20th Finals Days (Refer to Spring Activities Calendar)**

Overview

In English 99, the main goal is to help you grow as a more confident, capable writer. To help you achieve this, you'll learn the steps of a writing process to produce college-ready essays. Reading is also an important part of this class because the writing process integrates reading at all steps. It takes practice to become an active reader, so you'll have the opportunity for lots of it as you participate in reading and responding to a peer's essay. This class is a workshop, and we are exploring writing as a community. There will be some lecture, but most of the time, you will be working on reading and writing activities as individuals, pairs, or small groups. You'll learn how to improve your writing as well as share suggestions about how others can improve theirs. The coursework in English 99 will prepare you to become a confident, mature learner who uses writing to discover and refine ideas and to express them clearly. I ask you to take responsibility for your learning and your contributions in class. While writing can be difficult and frustrating, it **is** satisfying too, especially as you see your ideas take shape on the page. The way to improve any ability is to practice it, and this class affords plenty of opportunity for that.

Required Texts and materials

- ✓ *FEED*, a novel by M.T. Anderson
- ✓ *The Little Seagull Writer's Handbook*
- ✓ Manila file folders
- ✓ a 3-ring notebook with dividers for essays, daily journals, articles, and handouts
- ✓ Post-It notes
- ✓ Pens, pencils, paper,

Recommended Texts (or Apps as the case may be): A serious dictionary (not just a pocket version)

Coursework

The most significant work you'll complete this quarter includes three or four polished essays, each created in two week units that take you through the stages of the writing process. From active reading and brainstorming to final proofing and polishing, you will have plenty of practice with writing. Because we're sharing our essays during the writing process, each of you plays an important role in developing our classroom community. Early in the quarter, you will meet your resource group, small groups of four or five students; these teams will work together to complete the various assignments and activities that focus on the day to day lessons. Outside of class, be prepared to meet with your group if necessary.

Required English 101 Readiness Reading—for this reading, you will submit one text-based essay later in the quarter. This opportunity is a valuable resource for you because it allows you to receive objective feedback from other English 99 instructors, not just me. Other instructors will not be familiar with you or your work and will assess the essay based on the evaluation criteria the English Department has identified for English 99. (See Essay Rubric) Accompanying your essay will be scanned copies of your annotations of the text which is part of the essay's required reading. I'll explain this process several times over the quarter.

You may find times when you want additional help with your essays. Aside from our classmates, there are other resources on campus, such as the Peer-Tutoring center, located in 30-115. You may also use the library, or you can access online support through the e-tutoring.

Turning in your Essays for Instructor Feedback

Once you have worked through the writing process, you will turn in an **Instructor Draft**. Each essay must be typed, double-spaced, and submitted in a pocket folder, with a copy of the rubric. It's important that you keep everything associated with each essay as I may ask to see the process at any time. In addition, give all of your work a professional appearance, following the formats I'll detail in class. Throughout the writing process, at various times, I will provide you with verbal and written feedback in order to help you prepare your work to be the best it can be. Ultimately, however, your goal is to become an independent academic writer.

I will read your instructor draft, make minimal annotations, and give it a grade between 0.0-4.0.

- If you receive a grade below 2.0 you are required to revise** the essay.**
- If you receive a grade between 2.0-3.4, it is your option to revise**.**
- If you receive a grade of 3.5 or better, you don't need to revise. You have achieved the final grade.**

****By revision, I am referring to large scale changes, not just cleaning up the mechanics. Large –Scale Revisions pay attention to maintaining a clear focus, developing ideas with specific examples, and organizing ideas for coherence and clarity.**

Revising the essays for a better grade

After I've responded to your essay, you'll have the option of revising.

To submit a revised essay, in a pocket folder, turn in four items:

- 1) A writer's note
- 2) The original rubric
- 3) the original instructor draft, and
- 4) the revised essay

If you do not include these four items, I will not read your revision and the progress grade will be final. Assuming all goes well, you are organized, and you have met all the requirements, I will read your revised draft and give it an updated grade.

Staying Organized

This quarter, you will need a 3-ring binder to keep ALL of your drafts in chronological order, peer feedback, graded/revised essays, daily journal entries and book club evidence-interpretation entries. It should be a separate binder, not one that is filled with your math notes, or your history handouts. I will explain how to set up this binder in class. Staying organized will help you see the progression of your writing as well as a log of thoughtful commentary related to various readings. At the end of the quarter, the final version of this binder will document your growth through the strategies and processes you've used. I hope you'll find the work invaluable and use the strategies in other college classes.

Note: please keep all course materials and texts with you every day.

Grades

Your final grade will be determined by the successful completion of all assignments in the following weighted categories:

➤ Book Club	10%
➤ Daily Journal Entries	10%
➤ Daily Attendance, which includes prepared work in order to participate in the day's events	40%
➤ Final Essays	<u>40%</u>
Total	100%

- **Success in English 99 is a 2.0 (74%) or better**

Policies

- **A Note on Respect within the Academic Community**

In order for learning to take place, students must feel safe; this safety is due **all** students, not only those who share your values, beliefs, and life experiences. For this reason, courtesy, thoughtfulness, and acceptance are essential in our discussions in and out of the classroom. Acceptance should not be confused with agreement; one need not agree with a person to listen, and one must listen well in order to disagree coherently and respectfully. Every student in this course has a voice and so deserves the courtesy of attentive listening and the freedom to express diverse ideas.

- **Attendance Policy**

This is not a lecture class; it's a workshop, so your participation is vital. Each day you have the opportunity to receive participation points, so if you are consistently absent, you won't have enough participation points to pass the class with a grade above a 2.0. If you miss 8 class days, you will not be able to pass the class because you will not be able to make up missed in-class activities.

- **Late work policy**

Nothing should ever be late. It's most important for your work to be prepared in advance and ready for the class activities. If not, you not only lose, but so does one of your group members. Late or missing work *cannot* be made up. If you know in advance that you must be absent, be proactive! You may make arrangements with me to turn your work prior to the due date.

- **Academic Integrity**

Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. According to the official Policies and Procedure of SFCC, "Cheating or plagiarism in connection with an academic program" is prohibited and subject to disciplinary action. Depending on the seriousness of the offense, such action may include receiving an "F" or a "0" on a given assignment, or receiving an "F" for the course, or being dismissed from school.

- **Other policies (the W and the Z grades)**

Your registration for this class and this class syllabus represent a contract between you, the student, and me, the instructor. If you decide to drop the class, then you are responsible for meeting the withdrawal deadline and taking the appropriate action. The **last day to transcript a W (official withdraw)** from the course is_____.

Do not assume I will give you the grade of "Z" if you stop attending. A "Z" is given only under special circumstances and by request. The 0.0 grade will be given.

Academic Consulting

If you have fewer than 30 earned credits, you will meet with your assigned Academic Consultant (AC) during the 5th week of the this quarter to-

- 1) check on your academic progress and discuss plans/resources for improvement,
- 2) review and update your education plan, and
- 3) remove your registration block.

Meeting with your AC helps ensure a smooth registration process. If you don't know who your academic consultant is, you can find his/her name and contact information in myBigfoot. You must logon to access this information, which is located under the **Personal Data** tab.

Registration usually begins around the 7th week of the quarter. Be prepared and avoid the rush.