

Columbia-Greene Community College  
Hudson, New York 12534  
Ichabod Crane High School  
Valatie, New York 12184

COMPOSITION  
GEN.ED SKILL AREA: BASIC COMMUNICATIONS

Course: EN 101-35  
Instructor: Melone

3 Credit Hours  
Prerequisites: none

- I. I can be reached at (518)758-7577 or [cmelone@ichabodcrane.org](mailto:cmelone@ichabodcrane.org).
- II. Course Description: This is an introductory course emphasizing the process and patterns of writing college-level expository prose. Included are reading assignments and extensive practice in writing clear, well-developed, grammatically correct essays, and a research paper.
- III. Texts:  
Flachmann, Kim and Michael. The Prose Reader: essays for Thinking, Reading, and Writing. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008.  
  
Hacker, Diana. A Pocket Style Manual. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. NY: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2004.
- IV. Course Objectives:  
In this course, students will:
1. Learn to think critically.
  2. Learn to communicate their ideas clearly and effectively verbally and in writing.
  3. Analyze the ideas of others and present written analysis
  4. Construct research plans and carry out research.
  5. Combine skills in writing, analysis and research.
- V. Course Assignments:  
3 shorter essays (1-2 pages)  
3 medium length essays (2-3 pages)  
4 longer essays (3-5 pages)  
Pop quizzes  
1 Research Paper  
1 Presentation
- VI. Tentative Schedule:
- A. Diagnostic Essay: Topic of Choice (1-2 pages)
  - B. Introduction to Brainstorming and Clustering
  - C. Thinking Critically; Understanding Details; Making Connections; Formulating Thesis Statements; revising:  
Assignment: The Prose Reader: pp. 39-43.  
"Understanding the Writing Process" (1-2 pages)
  - D. Descriptive Essay: Sense of Place  
The Prose Reader: pp.45-50; "Summer Rituals" by Ray Bradbury  
"The Pines" by John McPhee pp. 63-68  
"Dwellings" by Linda Hogan pp. 82-87  
Assignment: "My Place" (3-5 pages)

- E. Narrative Essay: Storytelling  
The Prose Reader: pp. 91-103  
 "For My Indian Daughter: by Lewis Sawaqua pp. 104-109  
 "New Directions" by Maya Angelou pp. 110-114  
Assignment: "Honoring America's Veterans" (VFW) (3-5 pages)  
Assignment: "Family Rituals" (3-5 pages)
- F. Process Essay: Clarity of Direction  
The Prose Reader: pp. 188-200  
 "Managing Your Time" by Edwin Bliss, pp. 200-206  
 "Learning to Read" by Malcolm X, pp. 224-234  
 "Getting Out of Debt (and Staying Out) by Julia Bourland, pp. 135-141  
Assignment: Practicing Process Analysis, page 243, question #1 (1-2 pages)  
 Exploring Ideas, page 243, question # 4 (3-5 pages)

ORAL CLASS PRESENTATION OF QUESTION #1

- G. Division/Classification: Thinking Critically  
The Prose Reader: pp. 245-255  
 "Memory: Tips You'll Never Forget" by Phyllis Schneider, pp.256-261  
 "Second Chances for Children of Divorce" by Judith Wallerstein and Sandra Blakeslee,  
 pp. 272-280  
 "The Ways We Lie" by Stephanie Ericsson, pp. 287-296  
Assignment: "Truth or Non-Truth?---Deceptions in Our Lives" (2-3 pages)
- H. Cause/Effect: Causality  
The Prose Reader: pp. 399-410  
 "Beauty: When the Other Dancer Is the Self" by Alice Walker, pp. 434-443  
 "Meet the Bickersons" by Mary Roach, pp. 429-433  
Assignment: Practicing Cause/Effect question #1 or question #3 page 444 (2-3 pages)
- I. Argument/Persuasive Research essay: 5-7 pages, MLA format, typed, double-spaced  
 6 Components:
1. Preliminary Library and Webquest Research
  2. Bibliography Cards (MLA format)
  3. Resource Notecards
  4. Outline
  5. Rough Draft
  6. Final Copy (5-7 pages)

Writing Assignments will follow the process of Brainstorming, Clustering, First Draft with Peer Revision, Faculty Revision of Peer Revision, Final Copy.

For every class missed beyond two, your final grade will be dropped .25 on the grade point average scale of 0 to 4. Also, please arrive to class on time. Two late arrivals equal one absence. Chronic unexcused lateness will not be tolerated. It disrupts the entire class. Chronic lateness is a disciplinary problem and will be turned over to Main Office.

There are no excused absences, but you can always complete make-up work if you miss class. It is up to you to ask me for make-up work within one week of the missed class, and the work must be completed within a week.