

# UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN-GREEN BAY

## Course Syllabus Spring 2009

Course Number: ENG COMP 105  
Course Title: Expository Writing  
Credits: 3 undergraduate credits  
Location: Shawano Community High School, Room 1126  
Dates: Mon.-Fri. 1/27/09 – 6/11/09 (7:25-8:09)  
Instructor: Lynn Brodhagen  
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220 County Road B  
Shawano, WI 54166-7059  
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### **Required texts:**

*The Compact Reader: Short Essays by Method and Theme* by Jane E. Aaron

*Simon & Schuster Handbook 7ed.* by Lynn Troyka and Douglas Hesse

*30 Days to a More Powerful Vocabulary* by Wilfred Funk and Norman Lewis

### **Description: English Composition, Expository Writing, ENG COMP 105**

College-level writing skills and principles of logical reasoning, effective organization and development of ideas. Emphasis on research skills and on academic reading and writing.

### **Course Objectives:**

- Develop fluency in your writing
- Sharpen your critical thinking, reading, and writing skills by engaging you in crucial issues
- Strengthen your speaking skills through discussion and oral presentations
- Hone your research strategies and use material appropriately in an argument
- Develop your skills in peer revision and editing
- Utilize MLA and APA citation methods correctly

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## **Attendance:**

There will be a considerable amount of reading and writing both inside and outside of class. Because the writing process includes involvement with other students' writing, it is important that all exercises, assignments and drafts be done on time, and that you are fully prepared for discussion and group work. **Your consistent attendance and active participation will be crucial to your success.** I expect you to be in class, be on time, and be prepared. If an emergency arises, and you must miss class, it is your responsibility to contact someone from your class to find out what you missed, to get the assignment for the next class meeting, and to provide feedback for group papers reviewed while you were absent.

If you need to be excused from class for some extracurricular activities, please notify me in advance. If you are going to be absent, turn the work in before you leave. If you are ill, you may e-mail the assignment to me at brodl@ssd.k12.wi.us. A grade penalty will be incurred for any final draft that is late. Excessive absences may lower your grade. If you are frequently late, your participation grade will be adversely affected. **If you have a problem with an assignment or deadline, please talk to me. I will try to accommodate you.**

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## **Unit 1: Gender Issues; Cultural Identity: Reactions to Readings**

In this unit you will explore culture identity and gender issues and their relationship to you and the world around you. You will be required to analyze essays on these topics, work with a group to lead a discussion of the assigned essays and related issues, write a **summary-reaction paper** on your choice of an article pertaining to this issue (1-1 ½ pages, APA format), and write a **paper supporting or refuting a position** on an issue from the readings (4 pages, 2 sources besides text, APA format).

## **Unit 2: Investigative Research Essay**

This paper will be written collaboratively with a classmate on a topic of current interest (Taking a Stand or Solving a Problem). The use of primary sources such as interviews, surveys, questionnaires, etc. will be required. This paper will be preceded by an **annotated bibliography** of your sources (10 minimum) in APA format. This **research supported paper** will be done in APA format (10 pages). You and your partner will present an oral discussion of your paper.

## **Unit 3: Debating Current Issues**

In this unit you will write a research-supported essay on a topic of current interest. You will read/view current information on the topic and then produce a **persuasive essay** of 7-8 pages in APA format.

## **Unit 4: Literary Analysis**

You will choose a book, approved by me, for a **literary analysis paper**. From a close reading of the book, you will discuss your ideas and insights on various aspects of the work. You will include your response to the work and its relationship to current events and culture. Secondary sources, as well as support from the book, are required. This paper will be 5 pages and will be in MLA format. You will present an oral book review to the class.

**Unit 5: In class essay exams** – topics and dates to be announced

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## **Writing Your Essays:**

Writing is a process. Two important parts of the process are prewriting and peer critiquing. Prewriting assignments appear with each essay topic. Several days during the semester are reserved for peer critiquing, in which you will work in small groups with other students. In order for this process to work smoothly and effectively, it is essential that you distribute drafts to members of your group in class on scheduled days, or your final grade for the essay will be lowered by one letter. You will revise each paper to help refine your ability to generate interesting, effective and clear essays.

## **Grading:**

Since writing is a process that improves with time and practice, grading is based on your improvement from one draft to the next, your effort with homework and writing activities, and participation and growth in the group workshops. Major papers 80%; class participation, daily assignments, journal, quizzes, portfolio 10%; group work 10%. (Consult the rubric handout for grading criteria for papers, participation, portfolios, and group work.)

## **Plagiarism:**

Presenting all or part of another person's work as your own without giving proper credit (whether you copy it word for word or paraphrase it) is plagiarism. Students who plagiarize may receive a failing grade for the assignment or for the entire course. Students who actively or passively enable others to plagiarize are equally responsible. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, contact me.

## **Additional Information:**

- When using information from the Internet, you must attach the printout of the material with the cited information highlighted.
- Drafts for peer evaluation and final copies should be typed.
- I expect error free papers in terms of spelling, mechanics, and sentence structure.
- Neatness does count. The presentation of your paper does reflect your attitude and concern for a quality product.
- You will need a 1½" or 2" binder to keep all your drafts, critiques, final copies and journal. This will be your portfolio that will be graded near the middle and at the end of the semester. Provide a divider and label the sections **Published Works** (containing clean copies of final drafts), **Process** and **Support Materials** (all drafts, critiques, prewriting, handouts, and journal entries).