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ENG. 102 D: Freshman Composition

Mississippi College, Spring Semester 2009

3 hour lecture course, Prerequisite: Successful Completion of ENG 101

Course Catalog Description: The study of more complex problems in rhetoric with emphasis on written and oral research reports; students who demonstrate communication problems will be advised to take a course in public speaking.

Course Rationale: The purpose of English 102: Freshman Composition is to enable you to improve your research, writing, oral communication, and critical thinking skills. Students will learn to find and effectively use relevant, timely source material; read critically for central ideas and salient information; and summarize, paraphrase, quote, respond to, and integrate source material into their own essays. Students will also learn to use correct MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation. The course will help prepare students to write and conduct research across the disciplines as they continue their college course work.

Course Methods: This course involves in- and out-of-class writing exercises, readings from course texts, instruction and practice in library use and research skills, and the composition of multiple major writing assignments requiring the integration of researched material. Course methods may include discussions, lectures, group activities, conferences, quizzes, and exams. Students should be comfortable with basic computer skills, including major search engines and email communication with attachments.

Course Objectives: Students will

1. Learn to read critically and analytically
2. Learn to access library resources, including print and electronic media
3. Learn to evaluate print and electronic sources based on objective criteria
4. Learn to integrate source material into their own with their own analyses and conclusions
5. Learn and practice proper documentation and attribution and understand the ethical dimensions of using source material
6. Develop interpersonal skills that facilitate group work
7. Improve written and oral communication skills

Course Texts:

Gladwell, Malcolm, *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2005.

Gladwell, Malcolm. Selected Essays. These will be e-mailed as a .PDF file to your MC.EDU email account periodically throughout the semester.

Spatt, Brenda. *Writing From Sources*. 7th Ed. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2007.

Course Requirements:

1. **Attendance** is mandatory. Absences from class will mean missed discussion and lecture opportunities, missed assignments, and missed schedule changes. To receive credit for the course a student must attend at least three-quarters of the scheduled class meetings. Absence from class does not *mean excused from assignments*. If students know of pending absences, they should contact the instructor before the affected class period(s). Students are responsible for all changes announced in class whether present or absent. All changes announced will also be posted on the course website, so it is the student's responsibility to check this also. Students who miss a significant number of class periods should expect to receive a significantly lower grade in the course.
2. **Reading** is crucial. Students should not fall behind in the reading schedule. For *Blink*, students will complete daily "reading logs" for each set of pages. Other daily assignments during the semester may form the basis for reading quizzes that are part of the class participation grade. Along with reading, there will be homework exercises and un-researched writing assignments. These must be completed for the class period to which they are assigned. Being absent from class is not an automatic extension for an assignment.
3. **Students must be computer comfortable.** All writing assignments, including homework exercises, should be computer generated. At times, students may be asked to submit material through email or other means. Microsoft WORD is the word processing program used in this class. All other formats must be converted to WORD before being submitted.
4. **Students MUST have a campus mc.edu email address.** Periodically throughout the semester, I will send out a class-wide email through the banner web system. These emails will only be sent to your mc.edu email address, unless you have enabled forwarding of the mc.edu email account to another email address. It is particularly crucial that you check this account in order to ensure that you receive the Gladwell essays that will be sent out throughout the semester.

5. Students will assist each other in constructing good writing throughout the semester. This will take a number of forms, but one of the most important will be in the in-class workshops and “babble groups” where students will be able to talk out and talk through ideas with other students. Attendance on these class periods is essential and will be part of class participation.
6. Each student will complete three substantial essays (using sources). The essays will be 5-6 pages in length. All essays must conform to standard rules and guidelines for written English, *and those that use sources must be correctly documented using MLA guidelines*. In addition, students will also complete one annotated bibliography, and one oral presentation (with the accompanying written report and bibliography). Assistance with basic grammar, mechanics and documentation is offered through the Writing Center on the Jennings third floor (room 304).

Late Paper Policy: The English Department has established the following policy for late work submitted in core English courses. This policy was established by, and is enforced by the department. Grades for papers as assigned on syllabus will be reduced according to the following schedule:

- After time due and up to 24 hours late: one letter grade;
- After 24 hours and up to 48 hours late: two letter grades;
- After 48 hours and up to 72 hours late: three letter grades;
- After 72 hours, any paper turned in will be given an “F.”

Failure to turn in an assignment will result in a grade of zero on that assignment. I follow these guidelines strictly and no exceptions will be made. Students facing special or extenuating circumstances must consult with me BEFORE the assignment is due.

Academic Integrity Statement: “Mississippi College students are expected to be scrupulously honest. Dishonesty, such as cheating or plagiarism or furnishing false information, including forgery, alteration or misuse of College documents, records or identification, will be regarded as a serious offense subject to severe penalty, including, but not limited to, loss of credit and possible dismissal” (MC *General Bulletin*). See MC Polity 2.19 for official policy.

Other Policies Specific to My Class:

- Please keep ALL electronic devices turned “off” or on “silent,” and keep them out of sight. *Texting, receiving calls during class, or otherwise engaging in any other form of behavior which is disruptive to the class as a whole will result in your participation grade being lowered.*
- **Sleeping or being otherwise preoccupied in class detracts from your participation grade.** Students choosing to sleep in class *should* expect a lowered final grade.
- Do not bring any food or drink to class that I or your classmates can smell or hear you eat.
- As per the English Department policy, food and drink are not allowed in the computer classroom.

- I have a 24 hour policy after returning graded papers. Students should wait 24 hours before contacting me with questions concerning their grade.

Conferences:

- I strongly encourage voluntary conferences during office hours and by appointment. I am available on an individual-student basis during my regular scheduled office hours which are posted on the door of my office as well as on our class website.
- I also strongly encourage you to visit the **MC WRITING CENTER**, located in **304 Jennings Hall**. There, trained tutors are available (at no charge) to help you with your writing and any questions you may have about the writing process.
- Individual conferences and group conferences will be conducted at certain times during the semester. These dates will be posted at a later time, and you will have a chance to sign up for conference times. ***Any conferences scheduled ARE MANDATORY. Failure to show up for your scheduled conference will result in an automatic absence as well as the deduction of points from your overall participation grade.***

Attendance: Your attendance is very important in this class. Roll will be taken each time class meets and a careful record of your attendance will be kept.

The English Department adheres to Mississippi College's attendance policy as outlined in the current Undergraduate Catalog:

Class attendance is an essential part of university education, and students are expected to attend regularly and punctually all classes and laboratories for which they are registered. Cumulative absences may result in a lowered grade or loss of credit for the course. Tardiness is also subject to penalty, as is any failure to complete required class work on time. Although some specific requirements may vary according to the nature and structure of the course, the following guidelines summarize university policy:

1. Class attendance is required, and accurate records are kept.
2. Students must not accumulate excessive absences.

A student receives a grade of F in a course immediately upon accumulating the following number of absences, whether excused or unexcused:

- 12 in semester classes meeting 3 times per week
- 8 in semester classes meeting 2 times per week
- 4 in semester classes meeting 1 time per week
- 4 per session in the Accelerated Degree Program (ADP)
- 6 in summer day classes

For lesser numbers of absences, the student should expect a lowered grade in the course, with the maximum penalty of one letter grade for each week of absences (in a semester) or the equivalent.

Absence Appeal. If a student misses more than the number of class periods specified in university policy and believes that there are reasonable explanations for the absences, he/she may appeal the absences to the dean of the school in which the course is being taught. Students may obtain a Student Absence Appeal Form from the office of the appropriate dean.

Students with Disabilities:

In order for a student to receive disability accommodations under Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act, he or she must schedule an individual meeting with the Director of Student Counseling Services **immediately upon recognition of their disability** (if their disability is known they must come in before the semester begins or make an appointment **immediately** upon receipt of their syllabi for the new semester). The student must bring with them written documentation from a medical physician and/or licensed clinician that verifies their disability. If the student has received prior accommodations, they must bring written documentation of those accommodations (example Individualized Education Plan from the school system). Documentation must be current (**within 3 years**). The student must meet with SCS **face-to-face** and also attend two (2) additional follow up meetings (one mid semester before or after midterm examinations and the last one at the end of the semester). Please note that the student may also schedule additional meetings as needed for support through SCS as they work with their professor throughout the semester. Note: Students must come in **each semester** to complete their Individualized Accommodation Plan (example: MC student completes fall semester IAP plan and even if student is a continuing student for the spring semester they must come in again to complete their spring semester IAP plan).

Student Counseling Services is located in Alumni Hall Room #4 or they may be contacted via email at christia@mc.edu or rward@mc.edu. You may also reach them by phone at **601-925-7790**.

THE LAST DATE TO DROP A COURSE IS FRIDAY, MARCH 26TH 2010. STUDENTS CANNOT WITHDRAW WITH A "W" (PASSING) AFTER THIS DATE UNLESS THEY MEET THE CONDITIONS OUTLINED UNDER "WITHDRAWAL FROM COLLEGE" IN THE MC CATALOG. NOTE ALSO THAT A FULL REFUND FOR DROPPED COURSES IS PROVIDED ONLY IF THE COURSE IS DROPPED IN THE FIRST WEEK. SEE MC CATALOG FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Course Evaluation: The final grade for this course will be figured with the final percentages.
Percentages may be revised as the course proceeds.

First three substantial essays total:	<u>45%</u>
<i>Book Review –</i>	<u>15%</u>
<i>Informative Research –</i>	<u>15%</u>
<i>Interpretive Research –</i>	<u>15%</u>
<u>Researched Oral Report from sources and annotated bibliography:</u>	<u>15%</u>
<u>Revision Portfolio, with 3 revised essays:</u>	<u>15%</u>
All three essays, revised, 15% (based on the extent and effect of the revisions)	
<u>Final Exam – Integrated Research Essay:</u>	<u>15%</u>
<u>Class Participation (quizzes, discussions, babble groups, completed work):</u>	<u>10%</u>
<u>Total For all Assignments:</u>	<u>100%</u>

Grading: My grading scale is as follows: A=93-100 B=85-92 C=75-84 D=65-74 F=below 65

Undergraduate Grading System: For final semester grades, the English Department adheres to the University's Undergraduate Grading System as described in the current catalog. According to that system:

- A is reserved for work which is definitely superior in quality.
- B is given for work which is consistently good and which manifests sufficient interest, effort, or originality to lift it above average work.
- C is given for average work and shows that basic requirements in class assignments have been met.
- D earns credit but is below the standard required for graduation.
- F indicates failure and naturally carries no credit.

January 2010 Course Schedule

Course Schedule: What follows is a tentative schedule for our time together this month. All reading should be completed for the class period to which it has been assigned. Students are responsible for any changes announced in class. Reading should be completed for comprehension, retention, and understanding. Numbers following the work refer to pages in the textbooks.

January

11 – Introduction to Course, Overview of Syllabus, and general Expectations (Began reading *Blink*).

13 – Diagnostic Writing in Class – Come prepared with pencils sharpened and ready to write! **Diagnostic Reading:** Spatt ix-xiv, 2-7, 10-19, 21-30

18 – **Holiday – No Class Meeting**

20 – Ideas, questions, and research in *Blink* 1-47

25 – Ideas, questions, and research in *Blink* 48-98

27 – Ideas, questions, and research in *Blink* 99-146

Academic Writing Standards

The chart below is intended to help you understand the English Department's expectations for college-level writing. Your writing is also evaluated based on how well it adheres to the specific requirements of each assignment. Note that to earn a grade of "C" or higher, your essay *must* meet the basic requirements of the assignment; an essay that does not demonstrate a clear understanding of the assignment will earn a below average or failing grade.

	A-level / superior	C-level / acceptable	F-level / unacceptable
Content and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central idea/thesis is clear and sophisticated. • Key assertions/points are insightful, clear, and consistently develop the central idea. • Evidence/support is consistently insightful, specific, and relevant. • Proportion and emphasis consistently contribute to effective development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central idea/thesis is apparent, but it may be elementary or somewhat unclear. • Key assertions/points are generally clear and related to the central idea, but they may be elementary. • Evidence/support is present and somewhat insightful, but it may sometimes be simplistic, repetitious, or lacking in relevance. • Proportion and emphasis may sometimes undermine progression. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central idea/thesis is lacking or unclear. • Key assertions are elementary, unclear, and/or unclearly related to the central idea. • Evidence/support is simplistic, repetitious, and/or lacking in relevance. • Proportion and emphasis undermine development.
Organization and Progression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure is consistently clear and purposeful. • Paragraphs are unified and have clear overall points. • Logical progression is evident from paragraph to paragraph and from sentence to sentence. • Strong transitions help create a sophisticated progression. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure is usually clear but may be elementary. • Paragraphs are generally unified and usually have clear overall points. • Logical progression may occasionally be lacking from paragraph to paragraph and/or from sentence to sentence. • Transitions may be elementary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure is unclear and/or elementary. • Paragraphs lack unity and/or have unclear overall points. • Logical progression is lacking from paragraph to paragraph and/or from sentence to sentence. • Transitions are elementary or lacking.
Style and Polish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentence structures are varied and grammatically correct. • Diction and style are appropriate, sophisticated, and clear. • Errors are avoided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentence structures are generally varied and grammatically correct. • Diction and style may be elementary, inappropriate, and/or occasionally unclear. • Errors are generally avoided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentence structures lack variety and/or are grammatically incorrect. • Diction and style are elementary, inappropriate, and/or unclear. • Errors are frequent.

Note that individual instructors will have various methods of communicating their evaluations of your work. Some may use rubrics specific to the assignment; some may write comments on your papers; some may type their comments; and some may use other methods. However, all evaluations are based on the academic standards described above.

MC Writing Center

304 Jennings Hall
601.925.7289

What is the Writing Center?

The MC Writing Center is an important resource for MC students and faculty. We offer interactive, one-on-one writing tutoring free-of-charge to MC students. Students writing for any discipline are encouraged to visit.

Who are the Writing Center Tutors?

The MC Writing Center is staffed by qualified undergraduate students, from a variety of disciplines, who have excelled in an extensive tutor preparation course and by English Graduate Teaching Assistants.

What do students and tutors work on during a session?

Our tutors work with students writing for any discipline, and we encourage visits from students during any stage of their writing processes. In general, we focus on helping students:

- Understand the writing assignment
- Brainstorm ideas and “get started” on a text
- Examine drafts-in-progress for strengths and weaknesses (especially involving organization, development, and clarity)
- Devise plans for revising and improving their drafts

Will a tutor proofread or edit my students' work?

We are not a proofreading service, and our tutors can not simply “fix” a student's text. We are happy, however, to help students find (and learn to correct) patterns of error in their writing—and to help them improve their own proofreading and editing skills and strategies.

When is the Writing Center open?

Our hours vary each semester and will be determined as soon as tutors' class schedules are finalized. Our upcoming semester schedule will be publicized soon.

Must students make appointments?

Appointments are encouraged, but drop-ins are welcomed.

Whom do I contact for more information?

Dr. Steve Price directs the Writing Center; you may contact him by calling 601.925.3333 or by emailing SPrice@mc.edu.

MC Writing Center: Weekly Appointments

**304 Jennings Hall
601.925.7289**

At the MC Writing Center, you can schedule a weekly appointment, with the same tutor, to work on writing from ENG 101, ENG 102, or any of your other courses. Some students prefer the weekly appointment because it helps them get to know the tutor better and they find that the meetings helps their writing to develop more over the semester.

If you'd like to schedule a weekly appointment, please fill out the form below and give it to your professor, or drop it off at the English Department office (Jennings 301).

See you in the Writing Center!

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

ENG 101 Section: _____

ENG 101 Instructor: _____

Please list below times that you are available for a weekly appointment:

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOURTH SESSION 2009-2010

SPRING SEMESTER 2010

January 7, Thursday, 2:00 p.m.	Residence Halls Open
January 8, Friday	Orientation / Advising for new undergraduate students
January 11, Monday	Day and Night Classes Begin
January 18, Monday	Martin Luther King Holiday, No Day or Night Classes; Offices Closed
January 19, Tuesday, 5:00 p.m.	Last Day To Enroll or Add A TRADITIONAL Class
January 19, Tuesday, 5:00 p.m.	Last Day To Enroll or Add An ADP SESSION I Class
January 19, Tuesday, 5:00 p.m.	Last Day to Drop an ADP SESSION I Class with 100% Tuition Only Refund
January 20, Wednesday	Graduate Student Deadline to make Application for May 2010 Graduation
January 21, Thursday, 5:00 p.m.	Last Day to Drop a TRADITIONAL Class with 100% Tuition Only Refund
January 22, Friday	Undergraduate Student Deadline to make Application for August 2010 Graduation
February 5, Friday	Last Day to Drop an ADP SESSION I Class (No Tuition Refund)
February 26, Friday	Undergraduate Student Deadline to make Application for December 2010 Graduation
March 3, Wednesday, 3:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m., Anderson Hall.	Writing Proficiency Exam
March 8, Monday	Classes Begin for ADP Session II
March 12, Friday	Last Day To Enroll or Add A 2 nd Session ADP Class or Drop a Class with 100% Tuition Only Refund
March 13-21, Saturday – Sunday	Spring Break (Day classes meet on Friday, March 12. Residence halls close at 6:00 pm on Friday and reopen Sunday, March 21, 2:00 p.m.)
March 22, Monday	Classes Resume
March 26, Friday	LAST DAY TO DROP A TRADITIONAL CLASS (No Tuition Refund)
April 5, Monday	Easter Holiday - Offices Closed (No day classes; night classes <u>will</u> meet)
April 6, Tuesday	Last Day To Drop an ADP Session II Class (No Tuition Refund)
April 6, Tuesday	Pre-Registration for Summer and Fall 2010 Semesters Begins
April 28, Wednesday	Last Day of Classes; Night Exams Begin
April 29, Thursday	Study Day
April 30 – May 4, Friday, Saturday , Monday, Tuesday	Final exams
May 7 – 8, Friday and Saturday	Graduate and Undergraduate Spring Graduations
May 14, Friday	Law School Graduation

FALL and SPRING ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 pm.

2010 SUMMER TERM (Tentative Dates)

10-Week Session: June 1– August 5, 2010
1st 5-Week Session: June 1- July 1, 2010
2nd 5-Week Session: July 6 –August 5, 2010
Graduation - August 7, 2010

Check BANNER WEB Frequently for Schedule Changes

EXAM SCHEDULE (SPRING SEMESTER 2010)

Day classes

9:00 a.m. MWF or MW classes, Friday, April 30	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m. MWF classes, Friday, April 30	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
12:00 p.m. MWF or MW classes, Friday, April 30	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
9:25 a.m. TR classes, Saturday, May 1	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
12:00 p.m. TR classes, Saturday, May 1	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
1:30 p.m. MW classes, Saturday, May 1	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
8:00 a.m. MWF or 7:30 a.m. MW classes, Monday, May 3.....	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. MWF or 10:30 a.m. MW classes, Monday, May 3	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m. MWF classes, Monday, May 3 (all MWF or MW classes beginning between 3:00-5:00 p.m.)	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
8:00 a.m. TR classes, Tuesday, May 4	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
1:30 p.m. TR classes, Tuesday, May 4	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m. TR classes, Tuesday, May 4 (all TR classes beginning between 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.).....	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Night classes

Wednesday night classes (any class beginning after 5:00 p.m.)	Wednesday, April 28
Thursday night classes (any class beginning after 5:00 p.m.).....	Thursday, April 29
Monday night classes (any class beginning after 5:00 p.m.)	Monday, May 3
Tuesday night classes (any class beginning after 5:00 p.m.)	Tuesday, May 4