

ENGL 131--FIRST YEAR ENGLISH I (3 credits)
Civic Memorial High School
Fall 2022

INSTRUCTOR: Christiann Wiest **OFFICE:** Room 200
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CONTACT HOURS: I am available to meet with students before and after school.

Course Description: Focuses on practicing, through the writing process, skills in creating clear, concise, and carefully edited essays and summaries. Essentials of grammar, mechanics, and punctuation are stressed. The course also introduces/reviews MLA format, writing with sources, and critical thinking to prepare students for analytical writing. *Prerequisite: Minimum 3.0 GPA*

Required Texts: *Successful College Writing*, 7th ed., by Kathleen T. McWhorter

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to perform these tasks:

1. Plan, write, and revise (using various rhetorical patterns) unified, coherent, logically reasoned, and well-developed essays of approximately 1000 words
2. Create a summary in response to a reading.
3. Complete a 1250-word research project
4. Demonstrate an understanding of rhetorical context and academic discourse.
5. Edit essays to avoid repeated errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, and usage.
6. Produce clear, specific, and logical prose through repeated practice in the writing process.
7. Critically evaluate and analyze the writing of others.

Methods of Instruction

Readings & various assignments related to those reading
Lecture
Discussion
In-class writing and classroom analysis of student essays
Individual conferences

Evaluation

The course work is evaluated with a point system using criteria listed in the above "Learning Objectives" and the attached "Composition Evaluation" form. Students must earn at least a "C" in ENGL 131 to advance to ENGL 132.

Letter Grades: 90% and above = A; 89% to 80% = B; 79% to 70 % = C; 69% to 60% = D; and 59% and less = F. **Course assignments are weighted, with essays at 60 percent, a research project at 20 percent, and all other assignments/quizzes being worth 20 percent.** The final exam is worth 20 percent of the semester grade, and each quarter is worth 40 percent of the final grade, per CM policy.

Late work policy

This course focuses on the writing process. Rough drafts and revisions are an important part of that process, and if you are late with those rough drafts, it makes it difficult for you to fully participate in class. A hard copy of the rough draft is due at the end of the class period on the rough draft due date. **Ten percent of the assignment total will be deducted from the final score of an essay if the rough draft is not submitted on the due date. You may ask yourself the following: But what if I am absent? If you are absent from class on a rough draft due date, you must email me a copy of your paper by 2 p.m., or else you will incur a late penalty. It's important that you get used to the idea that being absent from school is not a way to avoid responsibility. Will there be exceptions to this? Of course. If you are hospitalized or have a major family emergency, I will make an exception. You need to be communicating with me about the situation.**

Ten percent will be deducted for **each school day** (not class period) that a final draft is late. **Every essay must be completed in order to pass the course. Being absent from school is not an excuse for not turning in a paper. If you are absent on the day a final draft is due, you must email me your final draft by 2 p.m., or else you will incur a late penalty. Essays and assignments will not be accepted after two weeks past the due date. The assignment will be scored as a zero at that point, and the student will no longer be eligible to receive college credit.** Obviously, in the case of serious illness or other circumstances, the due date for papers will be extended.

Extension request

Students will be granted one extension request per semester. An extension request should be submitted to me via email sometime prior to the due date of the paper. This will give the student a 48-hour grace period before the late-work policy kicks in. (So, if the paper was due Monday at the end of the hour, it will now be due Wednesday at the end of the hour.) This extension request may be used on rough drafts or final drafts.

Plagiarism

Assignments that have been copied from another student or another source will not be scored. “Academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and forgery, violate the Student Conduct Code and will lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion” (*LCCC Online Catalog*).

Attendance, Promptness, and Participation

Preparation for class and participation in class discussions are noticed. See the Civic Memorial student handbook for attendance and make-up work policies.

Cell Phones/ Email

Civic Memorial’s policy on electronic devices will be adhered to.

Writing Help

A link to the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) is available on my school webpage. This is a valuable resource and offers information on MLA format, as well as many aspects of writing.

The writing desk at LCCC accepts papers electronically 24/7 at OPS@lc.edu. The OPS (Online Paper Submission) requires at least 24 hours turnaround time.

Course Projects:

Weeks 1-3	Description
Weeks 4-6	Classification/illustration
Weeks 7-10	Causal Analysis w/ Research (research paper)
Weeks 11-13	Compare/Contrast
Weeks 14-16	Argumentative
Weeks 17-18	In-class essay (included in the final exam grade) & prep for multiple-choice portion of final

****By remaining in this section of English 131, you are indicating that you agree to abide by these policies.**