English 100 Syllabus

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Online Office Hours: MWF 11a.m. – 12 noon
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Welcome

Are you ready for a stimulating and challenging semester of online composition? In English 100 online you will learn how to write clearly, confidently, and accurately while reading about and discussing an issue of concern to many in the Western world, the problem of over-consumption. The course explains and offers practice in how to participate in academic discourse and will also suggest ways to motivate positive behavior. Finally, you will research and present a report on one specific anti-consumption effort that interests you, explaining to the class how and why this initiative offers promise.

Welcome to our online community. I'm looking forward to getting to know you.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course you will:
- Know how to express and support your ideas in response to others
- Know how to compose a cogent thesis
- Know how to use evidence to support an argument
- Know how to use MLA style for the writing of research papers

Hours Required

This is a 17-week course. Course completion, which includes readings, online discussions, and assignments, will take approximately 6-10 hours per week. Throughout the semester you will be required to post at least two, and usually more, assignments per week. These assignments (discussion postings, essay drafts, responses to peers, etc.) will be based on the required readings (3 books) and short videos. The assignments and due dates will be posted each Monday; the way you "attend" the class is by participating in the online forums.

Note: Since this is an online course, we will not be meeting in person. HOWEVER, this course is not self-paced.   Instead, you must progress regularly by completing weekly assignments in order to pass the course. These assignments build upon one another and must be completed by the due date/time.

Don't mistakenly assume that online courses are easier or less time-consuming than regular courses. Online courses place more responsibility on you, so you must expect to spend at least as much time on the course as you would a regular class. Successful online students are highly motivated, disciplined, and independent learners.

Grading

Essay 1: 10%
Essay 2: 15%
Essay 3: 20%
Essay 4: 30%
Activities (timely participation in discussion forums; peer review; short quizzes; etc.): 30%

Required Texts

De Graaf, John, David Wann and Thomas Naylor, *Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic.*
     Berrett-Koehler, 2005.
Graff and Birkenstein. *They Say/I Say*. 2nd ed.
Thaler, Richard and Cass Sunstein. *Nudge: Improving Decisions about Health, Wealth, and*
     Happiness
Videos and other online resources, TBA.

Recommended Skills

- Basic computer skills (use of word processor, email, organize files)
- Basic internet skills (use of browser, searches, uploading and downloading files)
- Familiarity with discussion boards and posting images a plus
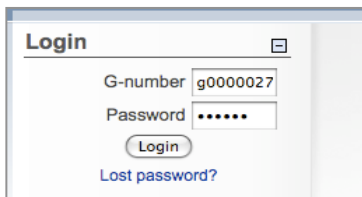
Technical Requirements

- Modern (not over 5 years old) Mac or PC, with a current operating system and current browser (Internet Explorer 5.5+ or Firefox). Mac users: Use Firefox, **not** Safari.
- Internet connection, preferably broadband (DSL or cable speeds).

How to Login to and Use WebAccess

Go to: http://smccd.mrooms.net
Note the login area at left. At G-number, type in your G number
At Password, type in your six-digit birth date – mmddyy (no hyphens or spaces). Click Login.

The page that follows lists the course(s) you are enrolled in. Click the link for this course. If you don't see your course listed at left, search for it by course name (ie., PSCI 200) or CRN. You're now taken to the main course site.

Main Course Site

At left you will see the subheads People, Activities, and Administration. Basically, the links within these areas provide access to resources you'll use in this class. In the main window at right, you'll see course and instructor information, as well as links to helpful tutorials and support sites.

Weekly Outline

Below the course and instructor information you'll find the course lessons, organized by week. Each week's instructional material appears in blocks within this main section.

People

Clicking on the Participants link under the People subhead takes you to the class list, where you can see your classmates. Clicking on your name here allows you to edit your class profile.

Activities

This area builds to show the various activities being assigned/used in your course over the semester. You can click on an activity and be taken to it from this menu.

News Forum

Announcements to the class may be posted in the **News Forum**. For each post to the **News Forum,** you and others enrolled in the course will receive an email of the message.

Assignments

The requirements and details of your assignments will be posted by week. Most writing assignments will be submitted to the corresponding drop box on turnitin.com whereas discussion assignments will be posted in the 'forums' area on WebAccess.   A course overview schedule will be posted with details of due dates for all assignments, including discussions. I suggest that you print out the schedule and post it near your workspace, so you can check off assignments as you complete them.

Discussions

This class makes use of various online tools to facilitate learning. You are required to participate in each assigned online discussion topic. Click on a discussion forum to read the discussion prompt and posts from others. Sometimes you will be prompted to "Add a new discussion topic" to post your own contribution to the discussion forum; more often you will click on a student's post to participate.

How to Succeed in this Online Course

Use your my.smccd.edu email for this class. All instructor and administrative emails will be sent there.

Block out time in your schedule to do the work, and follow the schedule.

Check in on class discussions regularly, preferably daily.

Contribute to discussions early in the week to allow others the opportunity to respond. For most discussion forums, you are required to respond to at least one classmate's post each week, with comments to expand the discussion.

Treat your fellow course participants' learning efforts with respect; have patience and a sense of humor with technology.

Ask for help when you need it, and assist others when you can help. The 'open forum' box near the top of our WebAccess page is for clearing up confusion. Please post general questions about the course or assignments there. I will check it regularly, and posting publicly will allow your classmates (some of whom are guaranteed to have the same question) to see my responses. Also, if you know the answer to a classmate's question, please chime in. Extra credit goes to those who help others in this course.

If you have suggestions for me, please share. I've taught online for several semesters now and get better every time, primarily by incorporating the excellent suggestions of my students.

For general help with online learning, check out http://www.smccd.edu/degateway/