ENGL 100: English Studies: Critical Thinking and Writing—Fall 2013

Texts:  
*The Sundance Writer, 5th edition* by Mark Connelly  
*Mort,* by Terry Pratchett  
The McGraw Hill Handbook Connect 2.0 (online handbook)

Other Requirements:  
- Computer disk, jump drive, or other storage media.

Course Description:  
Provides intensive practice in the college level treatment of texts. Predominately a skills course that requires students to think critically, to respond in writing to a variety of readings, and to generate, revise, and edit texts of their own. Three classroom hours and one hour lab. ENGL 100 must precede and may not be substituted for ENGL 110. In order to advance to ENGL 110, students must complete ENGL 100 with a grade of C or higher.

- Students will identify different kinds of written discourse (narration, analysis, argument, comparison), and where to use it.
- Students will distinguish, in reading and writing, among opinions, facts, and inferences.
- Students will write thesis-directed essays that develop major points in a logical and convincing manner.
- Students will use steps of the writing process (reading, drafting, revising) to develop ideas into coherent sentences, paragraphs, and essays.
- Students will study language usage including: syntax, grammar, diction, usage, and mechanics.
- Students will study writing for various situations including classroom settings (timed essays, exams, out-of-class assignments), and settings outside the university.
- Students will learn how to incorporate information gathered from multiple sources.

Assignments:  
You will write four writing assignments during the semester of various lengths. These assignments will be typed, double spaced, with 1 inch margins, using the 12 point Times New Roman font, following MLA guidelines. The assignments will have rough drafts which you will bring to class to have peer-edited. Each week there will be required readings. You will also be required to complete 15 hours throughout the semester at the Writing Center. The semester will end with a cumulative final exam. Additionally, there will be other daily assignments assigned throughout the course of the year, some of which will be online assignments from *The McGraw Hill Handbook Connect Plus 2.0*

Due dates:  
Due dates for all essays are given in the course calendar. These assignments are due at the beginning of class. It is your responsibility to bring drafts and final drafts on the dates listed. Being absent is not an excuse for a late assignment. If a major assignment is turned in late, your grade for the assignment will be dropped one letter grade per day late. No credit will be given for major assignments over a week late unless there are extreme extenuating circumstances.
Attendance: You are required to be in class on all days listed on the syllabus, however, you may miss three days from class without penalty or explanation. You are, however, still responsible for any assignments missed. Since all major assignments are submitted online, you can still submit your work from home. Remember, however, that any quizzes or daily assignments missed due to absences may NOT be made up. If you are absent for more than three days, your grade will be effected. Missing nine days or more of the class results in automatic failure of the class unless there are extreme extenuating circumstances.

Additional Help: You may contact me outside of class via email with minor questions or concerns or visit me in my office during office hours. Additional help is also available by making use of the friendly staff at the Writing Center, located at Humanities 209. You will be required to spend 15 hours at the Writing Center throughout the semester. They are open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Conduct: As a courtesy to myself and other students, please make sure all cell phones, pagers, and similar electronic devices are turned off before class begins. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty: In accordance with the Student Handbook's Code of Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty includes writing another student's essay, using another student's writing as one's own, or using writing obtained from an online paper mill; obtaining or providing in an unauthorized manner "any material pertaining to the conduct of a class, including but not limited to tests, examinations, laboratory equipment, and roll books"; and engaging in plagiarism: the undocumented use of words and/or ideas from sources such as books, articles, and the World Wide Web. Academic dishonesty is punishable by an F in the course and will be reported to Academic Affairs.

Accommodations: It is the policy of the university to provide reasonable accommodations (academic adjustments and auxiliary aids) to assist students with disabilities in negotiating the university system. The Office of Disabilities (in 203 Clement Hall) serves students with learning disabilities and ADD. For additional information on services to students with disabilities, call the coordinator of disability services at 731-881-7744.

Grading of Writing: Students can expect their writing to be assigned grades based on their performance on the following kinds of criteria:

- Ideas, including elements that might be called subject, purpose, main/central idea, focus, thesis, and audience awareness.
- Development, including elements that might be called details, examples, points, reasons, evidence, arguments, critical/logical thinking, and tone.
- Organization, including elements that might be called structure, paragraphing, coherence, unity, plan, and transitions.
- Style, including elements that might be called sentence structure, word choice, diction, and vocabulary.
- Grammar, including elements that might be called usage, mechanics, editing, punctuation, spelling, conventions, and Standard English.
- Format, including elements that might be called presentation, Modern Language Association (MLA) style, and documentation.
Academic Calendar

Aug 26 Introductions & Syllabus
Aug 28 “How to Say Nothing in 500 Words” (available online via Blackboard)
Aug 30 Plagiarism Lecture

Sept 2 Labor Day—no classes
Sept 4 “Narration” 186-197
Sept 6 “The Fender Bender” 203-205, “A Doctor’s Dilemma” 211-213

Sept 9 “Revising and Rewriting” 112-124, Essay 1 Peer Editing,
Sept 11 “The Writing Context” 20-35
Sept 13 Concise Writing (in class activities)

Sept 18 “Critical Thinking” 36-43, “Becoming a Critical Reader” 141-49
Sept 20 “Developing Paragraphs” 90-98

Sept 23 “Mexicans Deserve More Than La Mordida” 245-247, “Attacking Student Load Debt” 251-253,

Sept 30 “Compare and Contrast” 300-314
Oct 2 “The Case of Walking Away” 495-496, “Filing for Bankruptcy is Not a Smart Financial Move” 498-499
Oct 4 Evaluating Online Sources

Oct 7 “Grant and Lee” 319-32, “Reinventing the American Dream” 330-334
Oct 9 “38 Who Saw Murder and Didn’t Call the Police” 207-209, “Death and Justice” 410-413
Oct 11 Essay 2 Due, Mid-Term Exam

Oct 14 Fall Break—no classes
Oct 18 “Too Dangerous Not to Regulate” 452-453, “End the Demand, End the Supply” 455-456

Oct 25 “A Fable for Tomorrow” 323-324, “Communication Styles” 335-336

Oct 28 Essay 3 Peer Editing, “Definition” 264-274
Nov 1 “Writing the Research Paper” 544-553

Nov 4 MLA citation (skim pages 554-569)
Nov 8 “Writing about Literature” 603-613, “How to Mark a Book” 354-357

Nov 11 Essay 3 Due, In-class movie.
Nov 13 In-class movie
Nov 15 In-class movie, discussion

(Personal Learning Plan ends at 11:59pm Nov 17th. Must have done by this date!)

Nov 18 Mort
Nov 20 Mort
Nov 22 Essay 4 Peer Editing, Mort

Nov 25 Mort
Nov 27-Nov 29 Thanksgiving Break—no classes

Dec 2 PowerPoint Presentation
Dec 4 PowerPoint Presentation, Essay 4 Due.
Dec 6 PowerPoint Presentation

Final Exam, TBD

The above schedule may be altered at any time by the instructor in order to best serve the class. You will be notified if there are any changes.
Writing Assignments

**Essay 1**: In this first writing assignment, you are asked to write a narrative fictional story centered on a particular moral. It is suggested that you decide ahead of time what the moral of your story will be, and how it will end, before you begin writing. Your narrative can be told in either first or third person. Your narrative should include dialogue between characters. Please make sure that your final draft is typed and follows MLA guidelines. Your final draft should be around 800 words.

**Essay 2**: In your second writing assignment, you will explore the subject of family to answer the question: why is family important? To support your answer to this question, you will interview members of your own family, and use examples from your own life. For this essay, write in first person, and include quotations from the family members you have interviewed. I will also be requiring you to include a visual into your essay. Please make sure that your final draft is typed and follows MLA guidelines. Your final draft should be around 1000 words and include a works cited page.

**Essay 3**: In this essay, you will compare and contrast two essays that we have read in class. When picking essays to write about, it is suggested that you try to pick essays that discuss a similar idea or theme. Compare and contrast what the two authors have to say about the idea or theme. What makes one essay stronger than the other? Finally, end with which essay you, personally agree with and why. This essay should be written in third person, with the exception of the end where you discuss your own personal opinion. Please make sure that your final draft is typed and follows MLA guidelines. Your final draft should be around 1000 words and include a works cited page.

**Essay 4**: In your final essay, you will write about your growth as a writer, concentrating specifically on your growth this semester. What did you learn this semester that you didn’t know before hand? What works that we read connected the most with you? What do you feel you still need to work on? Please make sure that your final draft is typed and follows MLA guidelines. Your final draft should be around 1200 words and include a works cited page.