Welcome to English Writing 51: Fall 2018!

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Required Textbooks and Supplies (to be brought to class each day):
The Dolphin Writer, Book 2: Composing Paragraphs and Crafting Essays
A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier – by Ishmael Beah
Binder with standard sized loose-leaf paper
A dictionary

Course Description:
This course focuses on basic writing skills, emphasizing the connection between writing and reading. It offers individualized and group instruction for students who need to improve their ability to write increasingly complex and varied short essays. Each student writes a minimum of 4,000 words divided into at least five essays (at least three of which will be written entirely in class and some of which may be in response to readings). The course includes principles of basic grammar, effective sentence structure, paragraph development, and analysis of and response to reading. Students will read at least one book-length work.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:
• demonstrate an understanding of the principles of grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation, and apply these in written assignments.
• demonstrate correct and varied sentence structure.
• summarize and evaluate readings.
• write competent paragraphs and essays in response to assigned readings.
• employ critical thinking skills at the sentence, paragraph, and essay levels.
• Detect weaknesses or errors in his/her own writing.

Methods of Evaluation:
Formal in-class and out-of-class writing assignments.
Informal writing assignments, homework and quizzes.
Assignments and Grading Criteria/Weight of Total Grade:
NOTE: All out-of-class paragraphs and all final drafts of essays for Packet One and Packet Two MUST be typed and double-spaced. These writing assignments will be graded on an A-F grading scale.

The Following Assignments will be given over the course of the semester:

In-Class Diagnostic Paragraph (must be taken)
In-Class Midterms and Final exams (must be taken)
Four Formal Outside-Class Writing Assignments
  1 Paragraph (150 words) – 15%
  1 Character Analysis (250 words) written on the novel – 15%
  2 Essay Packets (1500 words: includes in-class rough drafts) written primarily in class over several weeks but final draft (750 words) is typed up at home— 25% each

Assigned Grammar Handbook Homework—10%
Final Exam—10%

Note: If I assign you extra outside work, such as more grammar practice or work in the Writing Center on campus with a tutor, you MUST do these assignments or I may not pass you for the course even if your grades are passing. Most if not all of you will be assigned to the Writing Center and be working with a tutor all term; I encourage you to go ASAP to the Writing Center and set up for yourself standing weekly appointments with the same tutor—1 hour a week—during a time you know you can be there each week. This way, you will reserve your time with the Writing Center and your tutor now before the center gets really busy.

Late Writing Assignments: I will not accept late assignments without a valid medical reason which must be documented by a hospital ER or your family physician; If I agree to accept your late assignment, it is your responsibility to get it to me as close as possible to the original due date.

Your Course Grade:
In order for you to pass English 51 with a grade of C or better, please note the following requirement: You must AVERAGE a 70% or better on all graded work, and you must pass either your midterm or your final essay exam with a 4 or higher (the numerical value will be explained to you at some point during class). For instance, if you have an 85% on all graded work, but you get a 2 or 3 on your midterm and final exams, you WILL NOT pass this course.

Quizzes and Homework:
There will be regular quizzes in response to assigned readings. Only those students who are seated and ready to begin at the given class time will be allowed to participate. I will also assign grammar homework exercises on a regular basis. I do not accept late homework, nor do I offer make-ups quizzes: NO EXCEPTIONS.
Class Attendance:
I am allowing you four (3) absences during the semester. Students who accumulate 5 or more absences for any reason will be dropped from the course. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Class Participation:
Because students cannot learn to become better writers by listening to an instructor talk about writing, there will be many class discussions and activities in this course. In order for these lessons to be effective and beneficial, the participation of ALL students is necessary. If you would prefer to sit idly in class, you may wish to look for another section of English 51.

General Class Rules:
1) Please arrive in the classroom BEFORE the scheduled time because the class will start promptly and roll taken.
2) Respect your peers.
3) Participate fully in all group work.
4) Although I encourage student participation in discussions, I will not tolerate students’ talking while the instructor or other students are speaking. Persistent offenders will be warned, separated, and finally may be dropped from the course.
5) Students who sit on the periphery of the classroom so that they can sleep, do homework for other classes, talk to neighbors, or engage in other immature behavior will be promptly moved to the front of the classroom or asked to leave.
6) Turn off all cell phones, pagers, and beepers BEFORE entering the classroom.
7) Although listening to music can be soothing and enjoyable, it is not appropriate in the classroom. Leave your entertainment at home or buried deep in your backpack.

Plagiarism:
Plagiarism is a very serious offense in the academic world and will be dealt with severely. Plagiarism is defined in the “Student Code of Conduct” as “representing the work of someone else as your own and submitting it for any purpose.” Plagiarism includes the following:
1) Submitting an entire essay or paragraph that has been written by someone else.
2) Submitting an essay or paragraph that contains parts of another’s work.
3) Incorporating the ideas, works, sentences, paragraphs, or parts of another person’s writings without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as your own work.

Consequences of Plagiarism: The “Student Code of Conduct” cites the following consequences. Please note that I will take appropriate action depending on the seriousness of the infraction. Students may: receive a failing grade on the test or paper; or have a course grade lowered; or be placed on disciplinary probation or suspension or be expelled
**Accommodations:**
During the course of this class, some students will utilize prearranged accommodations. If you are a student with a learning disability, physical disability, or other special needs, please let me know as soon as possible if you need special accommodations. You can expect confidentiality and cooperation regarding any circumstances and needs that have been verified through the disability centers on campus.

**Class Set-Up:**
Most of the time you should have your desks arranged in either a semi-circle facing the board or we will sit in groups of four. I will put up on the board either a “U” for the semi-circle shape or an “X” for the group shape; please move your desks according to the shape for the day. On movie days, we can simply sit in rows.

**Class Contacts:**
Since you are responsible for getting any missed notes from lecture/discussion, please use this space to write down two or three of your classmate’s names. It is best to have one of two people you can rely on all semester to get you missed information.
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August 28: Intro to course; class expectations; in-class paragraph

30: Read Chapters 1 and 2 in *Dolphin Writer* (hereafter: DW) and do all the exercises

Sept 4: Read Intro and Chapters 1-3 in *A Long Way Gone* (hereafter: LWG)
Read and do all exercises regarding “Parts of Speech” in DW, pages 417-430

6: Read Chapters 3 and 4 in DW and do all exercises
‘Read and do all exercises regarding “The Basic Sentence” in DW, pages 430-457

**September 11:**  **WRITING ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE to me: Paragraph**
(This will be based on the culmination of your work in DW chapters 1-4)

**In-Class Exam Writing Tips**

13: **In-Class Diagnostic given – Formal In-Class Writing One**

18: Read DW Chapter 7 and do the following exercises:
   7.1; 7.2 (one only); 7.3 (one only); 7.4; 7.5; 7.6; 7.7; 7.8

20: Read LWG chapters 4-6
Read and do all exercises regarding “The Basic Sentence” in DW, pages 457-487

25: SKIM DW Chapters 11, 13 and 14
   Class will vote on which of these to write in class as Essay Packet One!

**In-Class Essay Packet One Begins Today**

27: Read and do all exercises regarding “Coordination” in DW, pages 487-498

**In-Class Essay Packet One Continues**

Oct 2: Read LWG chapters 7-9

**In-Class Essay Packet One Continues**

4: Read DW Chapter 17: Definition

Oct 9 and 11: **MOVIE: The Last King of Scotland**

**WRITING ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE OCT 5: Essay Packet One**

16: Read and do all exercises regarding “Subordination” in DW, pages 498-508

18: Class Self-Assessment: Progress and Pitfalls

23: Character Analysis explained

25: **Formal In-Class Writing Two: Midterm**
30: Read LWG chapters 10-12
   Read and do all exercises regarding “Parallelism” in DW, pages 508-514

Nov 1: WRITING ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE to me: Character Analysis
   SKIM DW Chapters 15 and 16
   Class will choose which of these to write as Essay Packet Two!

6: In-Class Essay Packet Two Begins

8: Read LWG chapters 13-15
   Read and do all exercises regarding “Combining Sentences” in DW, pgs 514-523

13: In-Class Essay Packet Two Continues

15: Read LWG chapters 16-18
    Read and do all exercises regarding “Mechanics” in DW pages 523-532

20: In-Class Essay Packet Two Continues

27: WRITING ASSIGNMENT 4 DUE to me: Essay Packet Two
    MOVIE: Class will select one of three appropriate films

29: OPEN DAY

Dec 4: Preparing for the Final Exam

Dec 6: In –Class Final Exam

Dec 11: Read LWG chapters 19-21

Dec 13: MOVIE: Hotel Rwanda