**ENGLISH 120**

Beginning Composition

 Spring 2019

#1391 MWF 9:10-10:25 LIB 210

#1397 MWF 10:45-12:00 AU 111

Instructor: Angela Morales

Class website: [http://www. angelamorales.net](http://www.angelamorales.net/)

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Office Hours: Tuesdays-Fridays 1-2pm

**Required Texts/Supplies:**

***Patterns for College Writing*** with MLA Update, Edition: 14th by Laurie Kirszner and Stephen Mandell

***Stitches***, by David Small

**WRITING JOURNAL**. Your writing journal can be any sturdy 9x11 lined notebook. This notebook should be used ONLY for daily class journal writing and should not be used for other notes. I will collect it twice during the semester. Each journal entry is worth 5 points maximum.

**GRADING:**

English 120’s final grade is PASS/FAIL only. Although your final grade will consist of a “P” or a “NP,” I do grade each assignment with both comments and letter grades. Final grades of A, B, or C will receive a passing notation, and final grades of D or F will receive a no-pass notation.

**Course Overview/Workload:**

Essays and shorter writing assignments 50%

Reading Journal 20%

Final Essay Exam 20%

Class Participation 10%

**WRITING JOURNALS**

The journal is a very important part of this class. Each class period at the beginning of the hour, you will write freely for 10-15 minutes on a given topic. Journals ARE NOT graded for grammar/punctuation, but they are intended for you to explore your ideas freely and get unstructured writing practice.

1. Each entry is to be clearly labeled/numbered with the assignment’s title and date.

(example: Journal #1: My Bucket List)

1. Bring your notebook to class each meeting, as we always begin class with a brief writing assignment. Please do not use this notebook for general class notes—only for assigned journal topics.
2. Each journal entry is worth TEN POINTS maximum. Short or off-topic entries may receive fewer or zero points.
3. Each entry should be a minimum of one full page. A “full-page” is referring to a standard notebook page, 8x12 size.
4. I will not grade grammar and punctuation on journals. Please write freely and have fun with these assignments. Also, please know that you may write freely without censoring yourself. Be honest and speak your mind. Often this is the best writing!
5. I will collect journals TWICE during the semester.
6. If you are absent, you are still responsible for getting the day’s journal topic and completing it before you submit your journal for grading.

**FREE Workshops:**

Both the Library and the Learning Center offer free one-hour workshops daily throughout the semesters. These topics are relevant to our class and very helpful and include subjects like grammar, writing skills, and research skills (See the GCC website for workshop times and sign-up links.)

\*\*\*I will give you extra credit (2 points) for each class that you complete this semester. You may take as many classes as you like, no limit. When you attend the class, you will give your student ID number which will allow me to see your completed classes online. No need to tell me about it…I’ll check your account at the end of the semester!

**COURSE RULES**
1. Regular attendance is required. If you miss 6 classes (or the equivalent) you will be dropped from the class. (Excused absences are illness with doctor’s note and jury duty).

2**.** Arrive on time; depart on time. Arriving late is very disruptive to the class. Please be respectful of fellow classmates.

3. Cell phones, laptops, and mp3 players must be shut off and put away before you come to class. Please note that use of such devices and text-messaging during class is very distracting and counterproductive to a healthy classroom environment.

4. Bring books and supplies every day. If you come to class unprepared I will excuse you and mark you absent. Textbooks are mandatory.

5. All homework and paper assignments are due on the due date at the beginning of class. Late essays are marked down a letter grade per day.

6. All work should look neat and professional. Papers and homework should be typed unless otherwise specified. All work must be proofread carefully. Note: If I can’t read something, I won’t grade it.

7. Come to class with something to say. Come with a list of questions about the reading material. Bring some observations about an event related to one of the essays you’re writing. Take an active part in your education!

8. Sometimes I’ll alter assignments or change the syllabus to suit the needs of the class. You are responsible for keeping current with assignments. Generally, I will post updates on the class website.

c9. I do not accept papers via e-mail.

You may give papers to me in person or put papers in my mailbox located in the mailroom in the Administration Building.

10. Guests are not permitted to sit in the classroom; this includes children and pets.

**Plagiarism Policy: (See separate handout)**

In academia, plagiarism is a *very serious offense*. If you are caught copying, stealing, cheating, or “borrowing” someone else’s ideas, you may receive an “F” for the assignment, and in some cases, an “F” in the class. (In some cases, you may even be expelled). I do not tolerate plagiarism or any form of cheating. Please ask me if you have any questions about a specific assignment.

**Students with Disabilities:**

All students with disabilities requiring accommodations are responsible for making arrangements in a timely manner through the Center for Students with Disabilities. Please let me know how I can help to improve your learning experience.

**Need extra help? Check out the Learning Center!**

The Learning Center, located in AD 232, provides registered GCC students with a variety of free materials and services, including tutoring, electronic and print exercises, handouts, workshops, and instructional videos. Please remember that the goal of tutoring is to enable students to work independently – not to complete, correct, or proofread their work. Please ask your instructor, a counselor, or a librarian for a referral to the Learning Center if you would like tutoring assistance for this course. If you have any questions, please call the Learning Center at (818) 240-1000, extension 5333.

**Course Description: (GCC Course Catalogue)**

English 120 prepares you for college level writing. This is a course in critical reading and writing skills, especially useful for students intending to transfer to a university. Through reading and discussion of selected prose works, students learn to identify problems, examine possible solutions, recognize unstated assumptions and values, appraise evidence, evaluate arguments, draw inferences, and test conclusions. Through their writing, students learn to analyze, synthesize, organize information logically, and propose original ideas.

# Student Learning Outcomes

**Reading:** Analyze and synthesize information from a series of related articles, as demonstrated by summary, paraphrase, and quotation. **Assessment Method:** Holistic Final Exam**.**

**Writing:** Write a multi-paragraph length argumentative essay which addresses the topic, applies knowledge of essay organization conventions and basic MLA citation form, displays a command of standard English grammar, and demonstrates a growing awareness of critical thinking through its development of ideas and cited, logically applied evidence derived from a series of related readings. **Assessment Method**: Holistic Final Exam

**Interpretation and Evaluation:** Assess a composition for unity, development, coherence, strength of evidence, proper integration of reading sources, and correct citation.

 **FINAL EXAM**: Your final exam is in in-class essay to be given according to the date on the Final Exam Schedule. Please note the time and date early in the semester to avoid any work/schedule conflicts.

About one week before the exam, you will receive a packet of photocopied essays. You’ll read these essays and bring them with you to the exam. Then you will write an argumentative essay in which you use these essays as support and source material.

You will also need a bluebook for the exam (available at the bookstore, costs 75 cents or so)

*Welcome to English 120! I look forward to working with you this semester!*

*--AM*