

Geoffrey Dyer
English 50 09 Offline

Course Syllabus

Welcome to English 50, a course designed to allow you to experience college writing, reading, and research. Although you will write constantly in this class, the development of your critical thinking skills is equally important. We will study English grammar constantly. This course emphasizes writing in various rhetorical modes, and the assignments have been tailored to provoke you to do a great deal of thinking through rereading and rewriting. Although this class aims to improve your writing abilities and style, an “A” student will leave this class with heightened abilities to read analytically, evaluate the ideas of others objectively, and articulate developed analysis of texts in essay form.

Because you have elected to take this class as a summer course, you will be responsible for completing assignments in one week which would normally take place in two weeks during Fall or Spring Semesters. Additionally, because this is a distance learning course, you are responsible for managing your own time and meeting all deadlines without classroom instruction. Expect to devote an average of ten hours per week to reading, studying, and writing. If you ever need assistance or clarification regarding your assignments, contact me.

Contact Information

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday from 10:00am to 11:00am
or by appointment

Office is: In the C.A.S.A. building (the old counseling center that adjoins the cafeteria)

Required Texts (available in the bookstore)

Flachmann, Kim. *Mosaics: Focusing on Essays*. 4th Edition. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 2005.

Steinbeck, John. *Of Mice and Men*. New York: Penguin Books, 1994.

A dictionary in English

Supplemental Resources

I encourage you to log in to our class in ETUDES (go to <https://etudes-ng.fhda.edu/portal>). It is not required, but it will streamline our communication and be a powerful tool.

Your *Mosaics* textbook (through the bookstore) includes login information for an online program called *My Writing Lab*. Although using this resource is not required, it is encouraged. It allows you to test your learning, at any moment, and get instantaneous feedback. Using this resource can allow you to better prepare for assignments.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, a passing student will be able to do all of the following:

- 1) Use correct grammar, syntax, and punctuation.
- 2) Organize written expression in formal, clear language.
- 3) Demonstrate correct and varied sentence structure.
- 4) Demonstrate concrete evidence of an increased vocabulary.
- 5) Demonstrate the ability to interpret and analyze written passages of increasing difficulty.
- 6) Effectively self-evaluate written work.
- 7) Compose coherent essays.

Course Requirements

Grammar and Vocabulary Exercises (135 points) At least once a week, you will submit an exercise of approximately 10 sentences. The sentences will show your understanding of vocabulary words or grammar concepts we have been studying. You will receive specific directions for each. If you are staying current with the reading and learning the concepts as you go, these should not take very much time. If you postpone the required reading until attempting these assignments, they will be incredibly challenging and time consuming. To prepare for these assignments, implement the vocabulary words and grammar concepts as you read them. Read the textbook actively (don't space out), take notes, and quiz yourself as you go. You also may work through supplemental materials on My Writing Lab (internet) if you would like instant feedback on how well you are learning the concepts in advance of completing the grammar exercises. For each sentence of each exercise, you will use a skill or word from grammar study or vocabulary lists. If you use the word or skill correctly, you will receive one point. If you do not use it correctly, you will not receive that point.

Midterm Exam (100 points) Your midterm will be in the LRC (check Assignment Schedule for dates open). You will write a five paragraph essay. The essay is open note and open book. You may bring a dictionary. You may not use a computer or your phone. A grading rubric will be provided with the test prompt, and 25 % of your score will be correct usage of all grammar concepts to date in the course.

Final Exam (100 points) You will write an argumentative essay in the LRC. You may bring your texts, a dictionary, a thesaurus, as much paper, and as many pens as you like. You will not know what the topic is on which you will write until the exam begins. The best way to prepare for this exam is to learn as much as you can about critical thinking and essay writing over the next eight weeks. 25% of your score for this essay will be correct grammar usage of all concepts in the course. If you stay committed to our classroom activities and essays, remain aware of things that are hard for you, and seek help from myself and/or tutors in the learning center, you **CANNOT GO WRONG!** No one will fail this exam, so long as we all make the commitment to begin preparing for it right now.

Essays (730 points) Our essays are the finalized manifestation of our critical thinking and writing. You will be given a rubric containing the specific expectations for each essay. Many of the essays have worksheets that must be completed for points. The first essay, a descriptive narrative, requires a freewrite and outline (due the first week of class), a rough draft, and a final draft. The research paper requires a thesis submitted in advance of the actual essay, a bibliography, and a final draft. Except for the worksheets, freewrite, and outline, all essays must be typed, double spaced, and in MLA format. 25% of your score for each essay will be correct grammar usage of all concepts to date in the course.

Late Work Policy

No late work will be accepted. If you have a **documented** emergency that conflicts with an assignment deadline, I may grant you a very short extension, at my discretion.

Submission of Work

I prefer that you submit work through the ETUDES system because it will expedite feedback. If this is impossible because of your computer system, you may email work to me. If this is impossible, you may mail your assignments. **If you must use the mail, the postmark deadline must be the same or earlier than the due date for the work.**

Checking Your Grade

Your grades for all work will be constantly posted and updated through the online ETUDES system. To check your grade at any time, go to <https://etudes-ng.fhda.edu/portal>

Log in and click on “Gradebook” to see your current grade.

If you cannot do this or have difficulty with it, contact me by phone or email, and I will be happy to give you an update.

Students with Learning Disabilities or Irregular Processing Patterns

Students with disabilities or students who think they may have a learning disability and who may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Student Support Services (763-7841 or 763-7927) as soon as possible to better ensure that any reasonable accommodations are emplaced in a timely manner. Student Support Services provide many useful accommodations to students who qualify for additional resources, including extended time for tests, spellcheckers, audio technology, and other useful services. If you have difficulty staying focused, respond more strongly to spoken language than written language, or suspect that you may be disadvantaged academically by the means with which you process classroom material, I urge you to contact Student Support Services. Do not be shy or ashamed—it is impossible to have a learning disability if you are below average intelligence. Steven Spielberg, Isaac Newton, Beethoven, and Albert Einstein are just a few geniuses with learning disabilities.

Add/Drop Deadlines

The last day to add June 19

The last day to drop this class is June 26

The last day to elect credit/no credit for this class is June 30

The last day to withdraw from this class July 16

Adding and dropping is your responsibility. Don't assume that if you stop coming to class I will drop you. If you stop coming to class (totally) and never drop, you may receive an "F" on your transcript, which is much worse than a "W."

Plagiarism

All work must be original. If you use the ideas or words of someone else as your own, you will receive an "F" and could be placed on academic probation. If you commit plagiarism twice, you will receive an F in the course. All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Vice President of Student Services and the Vice President of Instruction. Consistency of weeklies and proctored exams will give me a viable index of your writing and style. Furthermore, I reserve the right to check any assignment through **turnitin.com**.

Assignment Schedule

All assignments are due on the date listed, by 11:45 pm.

The midterm will be open from Monday, 7/7 to Thursday, 7/10 in the LRC.

The final will be open from Monday, 8/4, to Thursday, 8/8 in the LRC.

Date	Reading Due	Assignment Due	Test	Points
M 6-16	Syllabus, 511-528 (Parts of Speech)			
W 6-18	665-671 (Apostrophes) 157-165 (Narration)	Descriptive Narrative Outline & Freewrite Vocabulary 1 Sentences		30 10
M 6-23	531-537 (Subjects and Verbs) 123-130 (Description)	Grammar Exercise 1 (subjects and verbs)		10
W 6-25	<i>1-16 Of Mice and Men</i>	Descriptive Narrative Rough Draft		50
M 6-30	538-547 (Fragments)	Vocabulary 2 Sentences		10
W 7-02	548-554 (Fused Sentences and Comma Splices) <i>17-37 Of Mice and Men</i>	Descriptive Narrative Final Draft Grammar Exercise 2 (fragments and run ons)		100 20
M 7-07	190-198 (Illustration) <i>38-65 Of Mice and Men</i>	Vocabulary 3 Sentences		10
W 7-09	556-564 (Regular and Irregular Verbs) <i>65-83 Of Mice and Men</i>	Example Essay		100
Th 7-10			Midterm	100

			Exam in LRC or through proctor	
M 7-14	565-577 (Verb Tense) 328-335 (Definition)	Vocabulary 4 Sentences		10
W 7-16	352-353 (Definition) <i>Complete Reading Of Mice and Men</i>	Definition Essay Vocabulary 5 Sentences		100 10
M 7-21	578-589 (SVA) 590-594 (Verbs)	Grammar Exercise 3 (verbs, verb tense, subject verb agreement)		15
W 7-23	595-605 (Pronouns) 606-612 (Pronoun Reference)	<i>Of Mice and Men</i> Essay Vocabulary 7 Sentences		100 10
M 7-28	389-399 (Argument) 613-619 (Pronoun Agreement)	Grammar Exercise 4 (pronouns, pronoun reference, pronoun agreement)		10
W 7-30	654-664 (Commas) 438-445 (Research) (skim) 485-495 (Research)	Argument Essay Vocabulary 8 Sentences Research Thesis Statement		100 10 10
M 8-04	448-452 (Research) 641-645 (Modifier Errors)	3 Source Bibliography Grammar Exercise 5 (commas, modifier errors)		20 10
W 8-06		3 Page Research Paper		120
Th 8-07			Final Exam in LRC or through proctor	100