



**Lincoln University**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE: Written Communication I**

Department and number: **English 82A**

Semester: Spring 2012 – Thursdays, 9:00-10:15, 10:30-11:45

Credit: 3 units (45 lecture hours)

Instructor: Dr. Sylvia Y. Schoemaker Rippel

Office hours and location: T, Th 11:45-12:30 and by arrangement, room 307

Phone: 510-628-8036

Email: [syrs@lincolnuca.edu](mailto:syrs@lincolnuca.edu)

Course-related email for the semester: [profsylvia@gmail.com](mailto:profsylvia@gmail.com)

**Instructional Materials and References:**

**Required Text:**

VanderMey et al. The College Writer. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2007. ISBN: 0-618-74253-0

**Student text site:** [http://college.cengage.com/english/vandermey/college\\_writer/1e/students/index.html](http://college.cengage.com/english/vandermey/college_writer/1e/students/index.html)

**Description**

**ENG 82A & 82B - WRITTEN COMMUNICATION I & II**

First term: A thorough study of grammar and the fundamentals of composition. Practice in writing themes, book reviews and other short papers is given. Particular attention is directed toward sentence structure, syntax, and general rhetorical principles. Second term: Critical reading and evaluation of selected texts and writings; composition of well-organized expository papers; a careful consideration of methods of research, organization in a clear, logical manner and other elements involved in writing research papers. (3 + 3 units)

**Course Objectives**

Students will develop their writing skills for academic, professional, and socio-cultural purposes, in mode-centered essay writing. Students will learn editing, documentation skills, use of pre, during, and post writing strategies, topic mapping and other resources

Students will demonstrate written communication skills in writing and presenting their essays for personal, peer and instructor evaluation based on established rubrics, including competencies in planning, drafting, editing, and documentation skills.

**Format**

The course sessions will include lectures, A/V-augmented presentations (text-based and other topically related slides and relevant audio/video/web resources), written and oral classroom exercises applying course concepts, small group and classroom discussions, student presentations of individual and group assignments based on course units, with emphasis on engaging students in learning by doing.

## Topical Outline

English 82A covers the aspects of composing well-organized written communications. The core of the course will emphasize practice in organizing ideas in a clear, logical manner and other elements involved in writing papers in descriptive, narrative, analytical, and persuasive rhetorical contexts. Student and professional writing models will be used throughout the units.

## Assignments Overview

Students will complete the following: Essays for 3 Units, 2 to 3 weeks each, midterm and final exams, ePortfolios/blogs/wikis, due weeks 8 and 15, notes and maps for each unit and text assignment, including reference data, in-class presentations, readings and exercises.

Assignments are due on the dates indicated in the schedule below. Additions/revisions to the schedule will be announced in class as needed. Class attendance is mandatory for content, interactions, and presentations. Appropriate classroom decorum is expected; arriving late, leaving early, or leaving the classroom at times other than the scheduled breaks is inappropriate and, if unavoidable, should be explained and kept to a minimum. Researched materials must be documented using a consistent style for both in-text and end-text citations of sources using the published standards of the most recent subject-appropriate style guide, such as APA (social sciences) or MLA (humanities), for example.

For each of the units (as well as additional assignments given in class), students will do the following:

- Read assigned materials with care and understanding,
- Create a personalized, three-level outline for assigned readings, turning text headings into questions for the first level of the outline, and developing the second and third level with your main and more detailed answers to your formulated questions.
- Reflect on the assignments in writing (a brief paragraph or two), discussing your thoughts on the primary content; include points of personal interest.
- Email your assignments to me at [profsylvia@gmail.com](mailto:profsylvia@gmail.com), with your outline and reflections written (or copied and pasted) in the body of your email. Be sure to keep a copy of the email for yourself and add it to your ePortfolios/PowerPoint presentations for midterm and final submission and sharing.

Assignments are due on the dates indicated on the schedule below. Revisions to the schedule will be announced in class as needed. Class attendance is mandatory for content, interactions, and presentations. Researched materials must be documented using a consistent style for both in-text and end-text citations of sources using the published standards of the most recent subject-appropriate style guide, such as APA (social sciences) or MLA (humanities), for example.

## SCHEDULE

Date	Session	Unit	Assignments: (The College Reader -- Each chapter contains an Intro, an Overview, Guidelines, Example Readings, and Writing Checklist/Activities)
Jan 19	1	1 Intro	I. A Rhetoric: College Student's Guide to Writing
Jan 26	2	Brief Overview Chapters	I. A Rhetoric: College Student's Guide to Writing Reading, Thinking, Viewing, and Writing
			I. Critical Thinking Through Reading, Viewing, and Writing
			The Writing Process

			2. Beginning the Writing Process
			3. Planning
			4. Drafting
			5. Revising
			6. Editing and Proofreading
			7. Submitting, Writing, and Creating Portfolios
			The College Essay
			8. One Writer's Process
	3-5	<b>Weeks 3-5 Unit I Narrative, Descriptive, and Reflective Writing</b> Feb 2 Feb 9 Feb 16	
Feb 2	3	Chapter 9. Forms of College Writing	
		Chapter 10. Narration and Description	
		Selected Reading	"Mzee Owitti" by Jacqui Nyangi Owitti
		Selected Reading	"That Morning on the Prairie" by James C. Schaap
		Selected Reading	"A Hanging" by George Orwell
		Selected Reading	"Sunday in the Park" by Bel Kaufman
Feb 9	4	Selected Reading	"Nothing" by Annie Dillard
		Chapter 11. Description and Reflection	
		Selected Reading	"The Stream in the Ravine" by Nicole Suurdt
		Selected Reading	"Call Me Crazy But I Have to Be Myself" by Mary Seymour
		Selected Reading	"None of This Is Fair" by Richard Rodriguez
Feb 16	5	Selected Reading	"Who Shot Johnny?" by Debra Dickerson
Feb 23	6	<b>Unit I (Narrative, Descriptive, and Reflective Writing)</b> <b>Paper Due -- Presentations</b>	
	Weeks 6-10	<b>Unit II -- Analytical Writing</b> <b>Feb 23 Mar 1 Mar 8 Mar 22 Mar 29</b>	
<b>Mar 1</b>	7	Chapter 12. Cause and Effect	
		Selected Reading	"Adrenaline Junkies" by Sarah Hanley
		Selected Reading	"The Legacy of Generation N" by Christy Haubegger
		Selected Reading	"Our Tired, Our Poor, Our Kids" by Anna Quindlen
<b>Mar 8</b>	8	Chapter 13. Comparison and Contrast	
		Selected Reading	"A Fear Born of Sorrow" by Anita Brinkman
		Selected Reading	"Two Views of the River" by Mark Twain
		Selected Reading	"Shrouded in Contradiction" by Gelareh Asayesh
		Selected Reading	"Like Mexicans" by Gary Soto
<b>Mar 15</b>		<b>SPRING RECESS</b>	
<b>Mar 22</b>	9	Chapter 14. Classification	
		Selected Reading	"Three Family Cancers" by Kim Brouwer
		Selected Reading	"Four Ways to Talk About Literature" by John Van Rys
		Selected Reading	"No Wonder They Call Me a Bitch" by Ann Hodgman
<b>Mar 29</b>	10	Chapter 15. Process Writing	
		Selected Reading	"Wayward Cells" by Kerri Mertz
		Selected Reading	"Downloading Photographs from the MC-150 Digital Camera" (from WFB)
		Selected Reading	"Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow" by Verne Meyer
		Selected Reading	"Campus Racism 101" by Nikki Giovanni
Apr 5	11	Chapter 16. Definition	
		Selected Reading	"The Gullible Family" by Mary Beth Bruins
		Selected Reading	"Understanding Dementia" by Sarah Anne Morelos
Apr 12	12	Selected Reading	"Deft or Daft" by David Schelhaas
		Selected Reading	On Excellence by Cynthia Ozick

		Unit II (Analytical Writing ) Paper Due –Presentations
		Unit III Persuasive Writing
Apr 19	13	Chapter 17. Strategies for Argumentation and Persuasion
		Chapter 18. Taking a Position
		Selected Reading "An Apology for Ms. Barbie D. Doll" by Rita Isakson
		Selected Reading "In Defense of the Animals" by Meg Greenfield
		Selected Reading "Apostles of Hatred Find It Easy to Spread Their Message" by Leonard Pitts Jr.
		Selected Reading "Pornography" by Margaret Atwood
Apr 26	14	Chapter 19. Persuading Readers to Act
		Selected Reading "Demystifying Multiculturalism" by Linda Chavez
		Selected Reading "To Drill or Not to Drill" by Rebecca Pasok
		Selected Reading "Soul of a Citizen: Living with Conviction in a Cynical Time" by Paul Rogat Loeb
		Selected Reading "I Have a Dream" by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
		Chapter 20. Proposing a Solution
		Selected Reading "The Media's Image of Arabs" by Jack G. Shaheen
		Selected Reading "Preparing for Agroterror" by Brian Ley
		Selected Reading "Uncle Sam and Aunt Samantha" by Anna Quindlen
		Selected Reading "The Media and the Ethics of Cloning" by Leigh Turner
		Unit III (Persuasive Writing) Paper Due –Presentations
May 3	15	<b>Final</b>

### ASSESSMENT CRITERIA & METHOD OF EVALUATING STUDENTS

Students will demonstrate their level of proficiency and achievement through appropriate and accurate application of written communication theory and skills. Assessments of improved competence in writing descriptive, narrative, informative, and persuasive essays and personal and peer evaluations and reflections are fundamental to the grades attained.

Class Work: oral and written exercises	15%
Quizzes, midterm	15%
Projects	10%
ePortfolios	30%
Presentations	10%
Final exam	20%
Total	100%

100-95	A
94-90	A-
89-87	B+
86-84	B
83-80	B-
79-77	C+
76-74	C
73-70	C-
69-67	D+
66-64	D
63-60	D-
59 or less	F

### PLEASE NOTE:

Revisions to the schedule will be announced in class as needed. Class attendance is required. Class participation is encouraged for enhanced learning through applied content, group interactions, and individual and small group presentations. Plagiarized content is strictly prohibited: Researched materials must be documented using a

consistent style for both in-text and end-text citations of sources using the published standards of the most recent subject-appropriate style guide, such as APA (social sciences) or MLA (humanities), for example. Missed exams and assignments require certified excuses (signed documentation by an appropriate medical or other official representative). With documentation, a makeup exam may be scheduled. Electronics are not allowed during exams. Cell phones should not be active during class sessions

Last Updated: 12/11  
Eng82ASyllabusYSR-Spring2011