
COURSE GUIDELINES: ENG 098

Course Description

ENG 098 R • PREPARATORY COMPOSITION (03.0 credits)

Prerequisite: Accuplacer testing recommended.

An intensive course designed to develop writing skills. A step-by-step review of grammatical relationships, sentence patterns, punctuation and usage with concentration on the writing of expository paragraphs and essays. Student writing will primarily be generated from the critical reading of texts taken from across the disciplines. Upon successful completion of the course, the student may move directly into English 101.

General Aims of the Course

English 098 is a pre-university transfer course for students who score between 50 and 86 on the Accuplacer Reading test. English 098 is primarily designed to develop skill sets for students to succeed in ENG 101 and academically beyond English courses. This course will approach grammar and mechanics in context of writing for the purposes of clarity, and the writing assignments will challenge student writers as they begin to learn academic discourse.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course students will be able to:

- Write clear and purposeful paragraphs leading to overall essay development
- Develop a clear thesis
- Analyze texts and present their meanings in writing
- Write a persuasive argument using textual evidence
- Find and fix grammar and punctuation errors.

Student Population

At Truckee Meadows Community College, student populations in College Preparatory Composition represents the range of students admitted to the community college. Most students are freshmen, but not all.

Reading Requirement

In developing student abilities to read and critically analyze college-level prose, students should read a minimum of 12 essays or their equivalent. Readings should be discussed in class, with analysis focusing on what the author says (content and purpose), how he or she writes it (organization, voice/style, diction, rhetorical strategies), and whether it is effective/appropriate for the intended audience (critique). Some instructors may require reading annotations or visual analysis of websites and/or texts. These are completely appropriate for the course.

Writing Requirements

During the semester, students will write the equivalent of four (4) essays developed through multiple drafts, revisions, in-class writings, and reading responses. Instructors have the option of substituting one paper for other forms of writing, such as daily journals, etc. Writing assignments should grow organically out of course readings, discussions, and thematic elements of the course. Assignments should be reasonably challenging, aimed at developing the intellectual maturity of students by encouraging critical thinking skills, self-reflection, and analytic skills. Students will not pass the course without submitting all major essays for this course.

Computer Skills

Students are expected to have some skills with technology. (It is not unusual for instructors to have elements of the class embedded in the online Angel program) Papers for this course will need to be typed, and some online research may occur.

Library Skills

There is one required library assignment to acquaint students with research resources. Students will review an online tutorial and visit the library to explore the Elizabeth Sturm Library.

Textbooks

Textbooks for part-time faculty are decided by a committee of faculty from the English department. Full-time faculty have the right to choose their own texts for their classes. Students should check with their instructor before purchasing their texts.

Syllabus

An English 098 syllabus should include the following:

- Course title and course number
- Course description
- Learning Outcomes
- Topics covered in the course
- Instructor contact info and office hours
- Suggested texts and other instructional materials needed
- Course requirements
- Methods of evaluation, including grading criteria
- Tentative schedule of assignments for the semester
- Participation/attendance policy
- Statement of policy regarding plagiarism
- The ADA statement
- Information about The Learning Center and Smartthinking