

ENGL 165 Advanced Composition / “The Tragedy of the Commons” Learning Community Spring 2006

3.0 units (letter grade) transfer: CSU, UC prerequisite: ENGL 100

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Section CA (32190)

MWF 12:10-1:00

Room 18-202

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Office hours MTWThF 10-11 (or by appointment) Bldg. 17-134

1. Course Description

English 165 is a second-semester, transfer-level advanced composition course, with an emphasis on critical thinking skills. It is a demanding course, intended to prepare your thinking and writing abilities for the courses ahead in your college career and for the jobs ahead in your working career. It assumes you have solid essay writing skills and are prepared to read extensively, think and question deeply, and write laboriously.

This section will participate in “The Tragedy of The Commons” Learning Community, a rich opportunity to learn from and share with different professors and students. We will look at a common reading from different disciplinary perspectives, to help make connections in your educational experience, and, we hope, to make your learning more meaningful. The readings are controversial and intended to challenge your ideas (and mine!). You will be expected to question, examine, understand, and analyze opinions that may be different from your own. You will have the opportunity to respond--and an obligation to do so logically. As a class we will strive to become "critical thinkers"--through questioning skills that give us the tools to approach any subject. I invite you to help make this class both stimulating and challenging.

2. Texts (all required)

Barnet, Sylvan and Hugo Bedau. *Critical Thinking, Reading, and Writing: A Brief Guide to Argument*. Fifth Edition. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2005.

Jon Krakauer. *Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster*. New York: Anchor Books, 1997.

McEwan, Ian. *Amsterdam*. New York: Anchor Books, 1999.

Steger, Manfred B. *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2003.

“The Tragedy of the Commons” Course Reader.

3. Procedures

Your grade is based on 5 formal writing assignments, a midterm and a final (another essay), in-class work, miscellaneous homework exercises, and an hour-by-arrangement assignment. The grade will be computed as follows:

First Four Essays	48%	In-class work & misc. homework	8%
Researched “Tragedy” Argument	16%	2 Midterms	10%
Final (1 essay)	12%	Hr. by arrangement	6%

Since ENGL 165 is a college transfer course, accreditation agreements require each student to complete at least 8,000-10,000 words. All essay assignments are requirements, so **if you miss one,**

4. Policies

Late Papers: Assignments are due on the dates shown on your syllabus. Because I know all of you work under a great deal of pressure and emergencies do come up, each of you will be able to turn in one paper late, if you need to, without penalty. A second late paper and any other late work must be turned in in order to pass the class, but will receive a grade no higher than "D." **All rewrites, late work, and extra credit (max. 40 pts.) must be turned in by Monday, May 8. Please don't even ask for an exception to this policy,** for any reason. The last paper may NOT be turned in late. Plan ahead in order to get your work in on time.

Plagiarism: All writing must be your own work, and the development of your essays must be evident to me in the notes, outlines, and rough drafts that are turned in with every essay. A rough draft should be rough; don't worry about neatness on the developmental material and do not copy it over after you have completed the final draft. **Any essay that does not have appropriate developmental material attached, which must show me how you developed your paper, will be handed back without a grade. Any cases of plagiarism may result in failure in the course.** If you work directly on a computer, you must simply print out rough drafts at each stage of development. You may not hand in essays that you have written for previous classes, as the whole point of this class is to develop your writing further.

Revision: Rewriting is an excellent way to improve your writing, and your essays should be thoroughly revised before you hand them in. You may revise **two** papers that have already been graded. Please turn in the **original and the revision** within approximately two weeks of the date you received the originally graded paper. **No revisions may be handed in after Monday, May 8.** Your grade for the assignment will be the average of the two grades. Revising does not guarantee a higher grade, so I suggest you talk to me if you're not certain what improvements should be made. Usually you will need to get appropriate help to improve your papers. I recommend that you make use of the Writing Center.

Essay Format: Essays written outside of class **must** be typed, double-spaced, one side of the paper only, with 1" margins all around (MLA format). The first page of each essay should have your name, the date, and the course number at the left-hand top, and a title (**not** underlined, italicized, or in quotes) centered above the first paragraph. Again, always attach **all** preparatory work to the back of the final draft.

Absences: I consider attendance crucial to learning and your grade can be lowered because of poor attendance, as work done in class cannot be made up if you are absent. I may, in some cases, drop you from the class without warning if you exceed six absences. **However, it is your responsibility to withdraw from the class if you stop attending.** I may issue a failing grade if you do not withdraw yourself. If you are absent, **you** are responsible for finding out what you missed before the next class. Always come to class prepared. You may leave messages on my voice mail if you need to reach me.

Behavior: College behavior is expected at all times. To spell it out, come to class on time, with all necessary materials and assignments. Avoid coming in late or leaving during the class hour. **Turn off and put away all phones, pagers, iPods, and other electronic devices.** Treat your classmates and me with respect. **Do not eat in class!** Please do not whine and complain—this is college! Of course, do come and talk to me if you have a question, problem, or issue.

Office Hours: Please come see me or call me if you have any questions or problems or just want to discuss your work. Most good students talk with the instructor at least once during the semester. I hope to see you even more often than that.

Syllabus

Amsterdam= *Amsterdam*

Air= *Into Thin Air*

Critical= *Critical Thinking, Reading, & Writing*

Reader= *"The Tragedy of the Commons" Reader*

Globalization= *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction*

The reading is to be completed for Monday on the week it is assigned, unless I indicate otherwise. You must keep up with the reading in order to participate in class discussions. If the class is not prepared to discuss the work, I will substitute a quiz without notice.

Week of Jan. 17

Introduction to the course: syllabus, requirements, texts, policies

Counseling on placement

Reading: Critical ch. 1 pp. 3-18

Week of Jan. 23

Monday: Student Writing Samples

Wednesday: Library Research Class: Go directly to the library

Reading: Critical ch. 2 pp. 30-41
Amsterdam pp. 3-81

Week of Jan. 30

Reading: Amsterdam pp. 81-193

Week of Feb. 6

NOTE: We will meet in the Theater Friday, February 10: "Tragedy" Lecture/ Discussion 1

Draft Workshop Monday: Amsterdam paper

Assignment due Wednesday, Feb 8 : Amsterdam paper (See handout)

Reading: Critical ch. 3 pp. 65-78
Reader "The Tragedy of the Commons"

Week of Mar. 27

Reading: Critical ch. 8 pp. 327-335

Draft Workshop Friday: *Into Thin Air* Argument

Week of Apr. 3

Assignment due Monday, Apr. 3 : *Into Thin Air* Argument (See handout)

Reading: Critical ch. 9 pp. 336-355

Week of Apr. 10 Spring Break--no classes

Week of Apr. 17

Please note: Friday, April 21 is the last date to withdraw from a class with a "W."

Reading: Critical ch. 9 pp. 355-366

Week of Apr. 24

NOTE: We will meet in the Theater Friday, April 28: Paul Ehrlich Lecture

Reading: Critical ch. 10 pp. 376-385
Reader Ehrlich, Intro to One With Nineveh

Week of May 1

Reading: Critical ch. 11 pp. 421-428
Globalization pp. 1-55

Week of May 8

Reading: Critical ch. 12 pp. 458-466
Globalization pp. 56-112

Draft Workshop Monday: "Tragedy" Research Paper

2nd midterm Wednesday, May 10

Assignment due Friday, May 12 : "Tragedy" Focused Research Paper (See handout) NO LATE PAPERS ALLOWED!

Week of May 15 (last day of classes Friday, May 19)

Reading: Globalization pp. 113-135

NOTE: We will meet in the Theater Friday, May 19: The Commons Fair!

FINAL ENGLISH 165 CA (MWF 12:10-1): Wednesday, May 24, 11:10-1:40
