

Advanced College Writing and Research

Introductory Lecture

I. Reading Assignment

Syllabus

UCompass Tutorial

II. Learning Objectives

- 1. Know where, when and how to contact the Professor**
- 2. Know which textbooks and materials are necessary for the class**
- 3. Have a basic understanding of the Measurable Objectives that will be used to evaluate student performance**
- 4. Understand Class Expectations and Online Conduct Policy**
- 5. Know where resources are located at HFCC**
- 6. Understand the major assignments for the course and the Revision Policy**
- 7. Understand how to utilize the basic functions of UCompass to access information about the course**
- 8. Refresh memory about the Essay**

III. Lecture

You have, by now, read some of the criteria that is necessary for you to have a basic understanding about the main objectives of the course as well as how UCompass is important to this class. Much of this lecture will give you more information about the course, as well as provide you with an understanding about how the course will be organized so that you can more easily do work that is necessary for this class.

Once again, this course is designed to develop your proficiency in argumentative writing and critical thinking skills. Throughout this semester, you will be expected to do a number of assignments such as, 1) write about works of fiction, 2) do practice exercises to strengthen your information literacy skills, 3) participate in class discussions; and, 4) write a proposal and a research paper. The skills that you learn will be beneficial for future college-level work. Because this course is a continuation course beyond English 131, it is expected that you can write an essay and incorporate in-text citations to document any sources beyond your own ideas.

Much of what you will learn in this class is more advanced strategies beyond the strategies that you learned in English 131.

Every week, you will open a new packet that will have the information that you will need for the week. Please read ALL parts of the packet. Do not assume that some of the information in the packet is less important than other parts of the packet. Also, make sure that you access the information in the packet early in the week. There will be things to do for that week, so you do not want to suffer unnecessary stress because of procrastination.

If you have any questions about the information in the packet, you can **contact me via email on UCompass** so that I can assist you. You can also call my office during my office hours, if you wish. Please understand that your questions should ask me for clarity regarding the course, my instructions or course material, assignments and readings. It is not wise to ask me questions to give you information that is in a packet or in one of your textbooks. For example, it would not be a good idea to ask me to summarize a chapter of a text for you, give you the pages that you should be reading for the week, or ask me to define vocabulary words for you. There will be a lot to do. I encourage you to ask questions since questions are a great way to help people understand complex ideas. However, it is expected that you will be able to keep up with the work and that any questions that you bring to my attention are questions that provide you with a better understanding of information that you have already accessed or read and thought about for this class.

There may be times for you to view images, watch videos or movies. Please take advantage of my requests; it will help to visualize topics and concepts. Many of the media images or weblinks can be accessed on the Internet, but there may be instances in which you must go to a venue to rent specific information, such as movies.

The Announcements page is where I will post information that may not be in your packet, on your syllabus or in your handout. It is expected that you will visit the Announcements page at least four times a week. After you visit the Announcements page, it would be wise to check your email. There are times when I will send the class an email message with information that is just as important as an announcement. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays are good days to visit UCompass for information.

Please read the Measurable Objectives on your syllabus. I do not grade in a vacuum. This means that I don't give grades to "favorites". I do not wake up in a foul mood and decide to fail the first five assignments that I read to make me feel better. I also do not give As to the people with cool names and Bs to people who do not agree with my ideas. None of what I just mentioned has any professional integrity associated with it and I do not use those strategies for grading. I do, however, use the criteria of the English Division to evaluate your work. The Measurable Objectives and the English Division Rubric (guidelines) are the

foundation of my grading practices. You must trust that I have a good understanding about how to apply these objectives as I evaluate your work. I have to assume (even if my assumption makes me an ass), that you learned in English 131 how to write different types of essays, how to read and write critically and how to think critically. The Measurable Objectives and the English 132 Rubric have been developed with the same expectation. You will practice and learn how to more effectively utilize skills for which you are already proficient. Make sure that you read both the Measurable Objectives and the English 132 Rubric for information.

Please keep up with the reading. You will do a lot of it. Your writing assignments will be about what you have read or have viewed. This is also true for practice exercises and Discussion Boards. I am sure that many of you are resourceful and will utilize various means to help you with this class. Despite what you decide to do, **please do the actual reading of the texts.** Cliff Notes, websites and other devices can be useful to get a general understanding of what you are reading and learning in the course. However, because we will do critical thinking and analysis, in which you are expected to think and answer questions beyond the obvious, it might not be wise to supplement your “resources” for the actual work. What we will read and see will be different, but I believe that you will find many of our texts interesting. You will find that the information in this class will help you to expand your knowledge, increase your vocabulary, expose you to new and different concepts, help you to view your world in a different way and help you to pass the course.

I have provided two worksheets for you regarding how to write an effective thesis statement. Please take time to do these practice exercises as a refresher. You do not have to submit your work. I am giving you the opportunity to do some practice so that you will be better prepared to write for this course.