SYLLABUS

Daniel Wilkinson

English Composition I

3:30-4:45 TR, Arts & Sciences 1-67

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**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Bryson, Bill. *A Walk in the Woods*. New York: Anchor. 2006. Print.

Eschholz, Paul and Alfred Rosa, eds. *Models for Writers: Short Essays for Composition*. 11th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2012. Print.

Hacker, Diana and Nancy Sommers. *A Pocket Style Manual*. 6th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2012. Print.

Be on the lookout for extra materials on GeorgiaVIEW throughout the semester.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES & EXPECTED OUTCOMES:**

• To acquire an ability to write organized, clear, correct, and purposeful prose;

• To understand the principles and strategies of argumentation and analysis;

• To acquire sensitivity to written and oral language as a means of understanding how we relate as individuals to the larger community;

• To grasp the essential nature of research and how to synthesize research in writing so that the insights and documentation are logical and clear;

• To understand through the use of textual models how writing and reading are means for connecting the writer to contemporary culture and its diverse problems and conditions.

All students, regardless of their degree program, must earn a grade of C or better in English 1101, as it, along with English 1102, fulfills the Area A/Essential Skills requirement in the Core Curriculum.

**GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

Cultural Critique—20%

Personal Narrative—15%

Research Paper—35%

Response Essays—10%

Presentation—10%

Participation & in-class assignments—10%

In-depth details on these assignments will be given in class and available on GeorgiaVIEW. Students will receive feedback on their grades prior to midterm.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Students are allowed 3 absences without penalty. The 4th absence and each one thereafter result in a 5% reduction in your final grade. Although it is recognized that absences will sometimes be necessary, students are expected to attend classes regularly. It is the responsibility of students to be cognizant of their own record of absences and to consult the instructor regarding work missed. The decision to permit students to make up work rests with the instructor. If a student is representing the University in an official capacity, as verified on a list released from the Office of the Provost, the instructor will not penalize the student for those absences. However, students should consult their instructor before anticipated absences. Students who wish to have their instructors notified of a medical or family emergency necessitating their absence from classes, or who wish to provide documentation in support of a request for excused absences, make-up work, or grades of "W" or "I" due to an emergency, may contact the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. The Student Affairs staff will inform students about procedures, assist with communication to instructors, receive and file documentation, and advise students regarding their own self-advocacy; however, the final determination of excused absences, make-up classwork, and grading is determined by the instructor.

**CONCERNING YOUR PARTICIPATION GRADE:**

First and foremost, a student must be present to participate. However, participation is more than simply being in class on time. To that end, your participation grade is affected by more than just your contributions to in-class discussions and assignments. The use of cell phones in class is, of course, strongly discouraged and will result in a poorer participation grade; if emergencies dictate using of your cell phone, please do so outside the classroom. Barring a request to the otherwise from the university’s Disability Office, your instructor reserves the right to restrict the use of laptop computers in class to peer-editing days as shown on the course calendar.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS:**

Assignments turned in after the due date receive a 5% penalty per day late.

**OFFICE HOURS:**

While we can discuss good writing in theory during our class sessions, the most improvement in your writing will come as a result of our working one-on-one with actual writing samples. I am available from 1:00-3:30 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays in A&S 1-53. The Writing Center in Lanier Hall is open daily for conferences with trained writing tutors.

**RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE POLICY:**

Students are permitted to miss class in observance of religious holidays and other activities observed by a religious group of which the student is a member without academic penalty. Exercising of one's rights under this policy is subject to the GC Honor Code. Students who miss class in observance of a religious holiday or event are required to make up the coursework missed as a result from the absence. The nature of the make-up assignments and the deadline for completion of such assignments are at the sole discretion of the instructor. Failure to follow the prescribed procedures voids all student rights under this policy.

**ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

If you have a disability as described by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, you may be eligible to receive accommodations to assist in programmatic and physical accessibility. Disability Services, a unit of the GCSU Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity, can assist you in formulating a reasonable accommodation plan and in providing support in developing appropriate accommodations to ensure equal access to all GCSU programs and facilities. Course requirements will not be waived, but accommodations may assist you in meeting the requirements. For documentation requirements and for additional information, we recommend that you contact Disability Services located in Maxwell Student Union at 478-445-5931 or 478-445-4233.

**STUDENT OPINION SURVEYS:**

Given the technological sophistication of Georgia College students, the student opinion survey is being delivered through an online process. Your constructive feedback plays an indispensable role in shaping quality education at Georgia College. All responses are completely confidential and your name is not stored with your responses in any way. In addition, instructors will not see any results of the opinion survey until after final grades are submitted to the University. An invitation to complete the online opinion survey is distributed to students near the end of the semester. Your participation in this very important process is greatly appreciated.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

The integrity of students and their written and oral work is a critical component of the academic process.  The submission of another's work as one's own is plagiarism and will be dealt with using the procedures outlined in the GC Catalog.  Remember that allowing another student to copy one's own work violates standards of academic integrity and the GC Honor Code. There is a great deal of difference between an essay with poor documentation and the outright stealing of another’s work and passing it off as your own. The former, while nevertheless doing great harm to your grade on that assignment, will likely not result in the involvement of the Student Affairs Office. Egregious cases, in which major portions of someone else’s work are passed off as the student’s own, will be dealt with according to the policies of the Student Affairs Office.

**FIRE DRILLS:**

Fire drills will be conducted annually. In the event of a fire alarm, students will exit the building in a quick and orderly manner through the nearest hallway exit. Learn the floor plan and exits of the building. Do not use elevators. If you encounter heavy smoke, crawl on the floor so as to gain fresh air. Assist disabled persons and others if possible without endangering your own life. Assemble for a head count on the front lawn of main campus or other designated assembly area. For more information on other emergencies, please visit <http://www.gcsu.edu/emergency/actionplanmain.htm>.

**TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR:**

JANUARY

T 8: Course Introduction

R 10: Your first assignments; readings list HW due

T 15: TBA—from student reading lists

R 17: TBA—from student reading lists

T 22: TBA—from student reading lists

R 24: Peer editing and conferences: Personal narrative

T 29: TBA—from student reading lists

R31: **Personal narrative assignment due**

FEBRUARY

T 5: TBA—from student reading lists

R 7: TBA—from student reading lists

T 12: TBA—from student reading lists

R 14: TBA—from student reading lists

T 19: TBA—from student reading lists

R 21: Peer editing and conferences: cultural critique

T 26: (Midterm)

R 28: **Cultural critique due**

MARCH

(M 4: Last day to drop a course without penalty)

T 5: TBA—from student reading lists

R 7: TBA—from student reading lists

T 12: TBA—from student reading lists

R 14: Peer editing and conferences—first revision

T 19: TBA—from student reading lists

R 21: **First revision due**

T 26: SPRING BREAK

R 28: SPRING BREAK

APRIL

2 T: TBA—from student reading lists

4 R: TBA—from student reading lists

9 T: Library research

11 R: Library research

16 T: Peer editing: research paper

18 R: Peer editing: research paper

23 T: Office conferences—see sign-up sheet

25 R: Office conferences—see sign-up sheet

30 T: **Research projects due, one revision accepted**

Note: this calendar is subject to change as the semester progresses. Please consult GeorgiaVIEW for calendar change announcements.