ENG 103 Composition and Literature I  
Fall 2010

Section 40  
12:30-1:50 T/Th in M 116  
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Office: 310d Mawhinney Hall  
Office hours: 1:30-2:30 M/W &  
11:00-12:30 T/Th or by appointment

Texts and Materials:

You can get this book only at the bookstore in the Gordon Student Center.  
$10 for Michael Pollan’s lecture on October 5th (required)  
A handy dandy notebook to carry around  
Ready access to a dictionary

Why we are here:

This course is designed to help you become more comfortable and fluent at putting your ideas into words and getting those words down on paper. You should leave this class understanding how to organize and present your ideas in a way that your various audiences will find clear, logical, interesting, and convincing. In addition, you will be introduced to academic research and methods of source documentation.

Grading:

Class participation and group work  
20%  
Short assignments (on-line and in-class writing)  
20%  
Essays (four)  
60%

The worth of lively, informed discussions in a college class can not be stressed enough; thoughtful participation can make a class inspiring, while dreary, fearful, and unprepared classmates can make a class an ordeal. Please come prepared for every session, and bring your sense of humor and point of view. Your PARTICIPATION GRADE will rest on your thoughtful participation in class activities. If you believe you will not be able to participate, please go do something else with your time. Quizzes can drop form the sky, you know.

In-class and on-line SHORT ASSIGNMENTS exist so you will drill dull but key rules into your memory. If you do not have Internet access at home, plan on some time every week in the computer lab. Other assignments will involve short written meditations and responses based on our daily readings. ESSAYS will be graded according to the attached rubric.
Late papers will be assessed a grade penalty of five points (1/2 a letter grade) for each late day unless you have arranged an extension with me prior to the due date. **If you fail to have an essay draft ready for a workshop, you will lose 1/2 a letter grade for that essay.**

Unless you hear differently—**type it.**

Unless you are otherwise notified, I will always be **available in my office during my office hours** to help you in any way that I can. That’s part of my job, too. Onondaga provides reasonable accommodations for individuals with **documented disabilities** that could affect academic performance. If you have a disability that may require special accommodation, please contact Student Central, as soon as possible. If you have already met with a Disability Services Officer, please see me with your accommodation sheet so you and I can make any necessary arrangements. Your meeting with me will help both of us to accomplish our goals for this class. The Writing Skills Center offers all sorts of free writing assistance. For instance, for those late night writing questions and grammar emergencies, email NightWriter at write@sunyocc.edu Sunday through Thursday, 9 p.m. to midnight.

**Extra credit options**

If you utilize the Writing Skills Center three times over the course of the semester for any type of assistance with your writing you will receive an extra 10 points to your total essay points for the semester. **Ask about title contests!**

If you attend a “scholarly event” (broadly defined) across the course of the semester — such as one of the lectures or films in the Arts Across Campus series — and write a minimum of 300 words reacting thoughtfully to the event, you will receive extra credit points toward your participation points.

**Schedule of assignments (what pages to read, where, and what else to do)**

8/31 T Introductions

**WRITE HERE. WRITE NOW.**

9/2 Th In-class writing on Chris Hedges “American Psychosis” hand-out

9/7 T READ WELL
Mortimer Adler “How to Mark a Book” pp. 7-21 in Mercury Reader: Write Well

9/9 Th TRICK BAG
Paul Roberts “How to Say Nothing in 500 Words” pp. 1-14 in Mercury Reader: Write Well
Do thesis statement exercise 2-1 at www.dianahacker.com/rules
9/14  T  PLAGIARISM
Scott Jaschik “Winning Hearts and Minds in War on Plagiarism” pp. 22-30 in Mercury Reader: Write Well
Do plagiarism exercise 53-1 at www.dianahacker.com/rules

9/16  Th  REVISING
Donald Murray “The Maker’s Eye: Revising Your Own Manuscripts” pp. 31-36 in Mercury
Do peer review exercise 3-1 at www.dianahacker.com/rules

Last day to drop a class is Sunday 9/19 (that is, erase it from your transcript)

9/21  T  WORKSHOP
draft of first essay due—bring three copies to class
In-class exercise on using Rules for Writers (so bring it to class!)

ARGUMENT: WHAT’S ON THE END OF YOUR FORK?

9/23  Th  First essay due
Begin watching Food Inc.

9/28  Th  continue film
Michael Pollan from “The Omnivore’s Dilemma” pp. 91-107

9/30  T  ARGUMENT I
“Argument: Non-traditional Models” pp. 45-90 in Mercury

10/5  T  ARGUMENT II
“Argument: Non-traditional Models” pp. 45-90 in Mercury
7:30 attend Michael Pollan lecture: Mulroy Civic Center downtown Syracuse

10/7  Th  DISCUSSION and WRITING

10/12  T  Eric Schlosser “Food Product Design” pp. 108-123


10/19  T  INTROS, TITLES, CONCLUSIONS lecture + WORKSHOP
draft of second essay due—bring three copies to class

10/21  Th  PRONOUN PROBLEMS
Second essay due
Casey Miller and Kate Swift “Who’s in Charge of the English Language?” pp. 44-50 in Mercury
After class: sexist language exercise 17-2 and pronoun exercise 22-1 at www.dianahacker.com/rules
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>10/26</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>Laurence Behrens and Leonard J. Rosen “Analysis” pp. 207-228 in <em>Mercury</em></td>
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<td>10/28</td>
<td>Th</td>
<td>Michael Moore “Idiot Nation” pp. 162-182</td>
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<td>11/2</td>
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<td>Neil Postman “Future Schlock” pp. 186-198</td>
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| 11/4  | Th  | PROBLEM PUNCTUATION  
*Rules for Writers* pp. 291-294, 296-298, 311-315  
Do punctuation exercise 35-1 and apostrophe exercise 36-1 at [www.dianahacker.com/rules](http://www.dianahacker.com/rules) |
| 11/9  | T   | WORKSHOP  
draft of third essay due—bring three copies to class |
| 11/11 | Th  | INTRO TO WEB RESEARCH  
Third essay due  
SYNTHESIS: LET’S WRAP THIS UP |
| 11/16 | T   | Malcolm Gladwell from “The Tipping Point” pp. 199-209 |
| 11/18 | Th  | Naomi Klein “Disaster Capitalism” pp. 344-361 |
| 11/23 | T   | WORKING WITH MULTIPLE SOURCES  
*Rules for Writers* pp. 418-426 |
| 11/25 | Th  | Thanksgiving—no class |
| 11/30 | T   | BIBLIOGRAPHY WRITING  
*Rules for Writers* pp. 426-435 (skim section) |
| 12/2  | Th  | TBA |
| 12/7  | T   | WORKSHOP  
draft of fourth essay due—bring three copies to class |
| 12/9  | Th  | REVIEW  
Fourth essay due |