Course Description and Goals

English 96 provides college-level training and practice in critical reading and in writing argumentative essays. Emphasis is on reading and writing analytically and developing research and documentation skills. We will focus primarily on the analytical reading of, and writing about, non-fiction essays and full-length texts. Since this is a writing course, you will need to show that you can respond thoughtfully to the works that we will be reading as you focus on establishing your own sophisticated writing voice as an essayist and critic.

Because one learns to write by writing, this course will require a great deal of writing and reading, both on the formal and informal level. Enrolling in this course requires a commitment on your part to keep up with a challenging syllabus, to come to class regularly, and to participate actively in class.

Required Texts

- *English 96 Coursepack* Available at CopyEdge, 1508 Ocean Ave, SF 94112
- *Fast Food Nation* Eric Schlosser
- *Writer’s Options* 8th Ed

Optional (but HIGHLY RECOMMENDED) materials:

- A good paperback – or at least a pocket – dictionary
- A 3-ring binder at least 1 1/2” wide, capable of holding a generous amount of 8 1/2 X 11” sheets; lined binder paper; five dividers for the binder labeled: 1) Notes; 2) Homework 3) Handouts; 4) Vocabulary; and 5) Essays;
- A stapler. If your papers are not stapled together, I will not accept them. Small staplers are found easily at Walgreens, are inexpensive, and VERY useful.

Semester’s Work

- Six essays
- Rough drafts for each out-of-class essay
- Participation in peer response for each essay
- Homework: grammar, summaries, journals/critical responses, proofreading exercises, etc.
- Reading: a number of essays and articles and one full-length book
- In class work: quizzes, regular in-class writing and responses to readings
- Midterm and final exam
Writing Success Project

This section of English 96 is part of the Writing Success Project. This means that we have the wonderful assistance of a tutor throughout the semester. Our tutor (either Arnie or Tehmina) will be able to help you inside of the classroom if you have questions or concerns, and in addition, Arnie and Tehmina will each hold 2 study groups per week that you may attend. (This means there are a total of 4 groups per week being held.) There are study groups specifically for this section, but if you wish to attend the study group for the other section of English 96, this is ok, too. Tutors and study group times are as follows:

MWF class tutor: Arnie Warshaw; Study groups: Weds at 1pm, Fridays at 10. (location tba)
TR class Tutor: Tehmina Khan; Study groups: Tues at 11am, Th at 12:30. (location tba)

Essay Format (MLA)

Essays must be in MLA format: typed, double-spaced, and stapled with 1” margins. They must be typed or printed on a computer, and must have your name, date, my name and course name in the upper left-hand corner of page 1. Last name and page number goes in the top righthand corner of each page. (See handout, attached.)

Again: Correct MLA format is REQUIRED for all essays. This counts as 1/3 of a grade!

To put your name in the header, double click in the margin of your paper, type your last name and then click the # button in the pop-up bar. Highlight both and hit the right align button in the Word toolbar.

Grading

Essays: 75%

Class Participation and Attendance: 25%
This includes peer response, quizzes, journals, and homework.

Your letter grade corresponds to its equivalent percentage, as noted below:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 – 100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>80 – 89</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>70 – 79</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>60 – 69</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>less than 60</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The grading scale will also include +s and -s for all graded work: 90-93=A-, 94-97=A, 98-100=A+

Late Essays

I do not accept late essays. However, I do understand that situations arise that may prevent you from turning in a paper on time. Therefore, I have provided you with ONE Late Paper Coupon (in class). With this coupon, you may turn in one paper up to one week late (see attached, last page). If you have missed peer review, you may NOT use the coupon. Simply fill it out and attach to your paper when you turn it in. You may NOT use this coupon on the last out-of-class essay.
Revisions

I do not accept revisions on papers. However, each paper counts more than the one before it. In other words, the last paper counts the most, while paper #1 counts the least. This allows you to improve your grade as the semester progresses.

Homework

All homework assignments must be complete and must show evidence of your having taken them seriously in order to receive credit. I do not accept late homework, unless you have an excusable reason and have talked to me first.

Absences

Absences will cause you to miss assigned readings, class discussion, peer feedback, and a host of other important things. If you are absent more than 4 times, you will risk being dropped from the class.

Participation

Because your essays will arise from class discussions on the readings, and because working on your writing depends on classroom and peer activities, participation is essential in this class. This class is meant to be a safe environment where you can grow as a writer and thinker, and your participation fosters this environment of mutual respect for individuals and the writing process through the sharing of ideas and giving feedback to each other. This means that simply being in your chair does not count as participation—you must be prepared for class and take part in the class activity and discussion. Not being prepared for class may be considered as an absence, and thus you are expected to ALWAYS bring your books to class. If you do not have the relevant text(s) you may be asked to leave or counted as absent.

Active participation also includes the following: no cell phones on in class (and therefore no text-messaging), and no food or eating (water is allowed in a sealable bottle). This list is not exhaustive; I therefore reserve the right to ask you to put away anything that is not conducive to class activity.

Lateness

I take roll every class, and I expect you to come to class on time, as coming in late is a distraction to everyone. Two “lates” equal one absence. If you are 20 minutes late, you will be counted as absent for the day. In addition, if you leave class early for any reason you will be counted absent (unless you have approved your leaving early with me).

Peer Review and Revision

Because revising – or “re-seeing” – a piece of writing is such an important aspect of the writing process, each paper has two due dates. You will receive feedback and suggestions on each paper from your peers, and you will have several days to revise.

Important note: Workshop days are very important, and therefore if you miss peer review, your final essay grade will go down one final grade. In other words, if you miss peer review and receive, for example, a B on your final paper, that paper will be reduced to a C.
Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

DSPS provides services to students with a wide range of disabilities, such as: learning disabilities, mobility impairment, visual impairment, and hearing and speech impairments. DSPS also provides personal and academic counseling. If you think you would benefit from these services, talk to me or contact them directly: Rosenberg Library, Room 323, ph: 452.5481. These services are confidential.

How to Pass This Class

1) complete all of the graded writing assignments
2) earn a C or higher in the writing portion of the class, and
3) have a total semester grade average of a C or higher

A Word About Plagiarism:

I realize that not everyone clearly understands what constitutes plagiarism. The simplest definition is taking the ideas and/or words of someone else and representing them as if they were your own. This includes copying someone else's words without setting off the passage in quotation marks, or including someone else's ideas without citing the source. It also includes having other people write or extensively edit your paper for you. I realize you may get some help on your writing from family, friends, or co-workers, as well as in the Writing Lab. That's fine, but NOBODY should write your papers for you. If you are caught plagiarizing or cheating in any class, I may give you a failing grade on that assignment, or fail you in the course. If you are ever unclear about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask me.

Final Words…

The intention of this class is to support and enhance your experience as a writer. Writing is both an individual and a social process, and this class is meant to be a place where you can explore both aspects of the process. My intention is to make sure you get the practice and knowledge you need in a safe environment where you can take risks confidently, pushing yourself to explore your talents as a thinker and as a writer.