

SYLLABUS
PART I
EDISON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ENG 122S COMPOSITION II
3 CREDIT HOURS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Composition of formal essays, reviews, and reference papers, based on the study of logic and library research. Writings will stress organization, the logic of argument, referencing techniques, and the use of standard English. Prerequisite: ENG 121S. Lab fee.

COURSE GOALS

The students will:

1. Demonstrate formal research in both essay and research paper.
2. Use logic in their analysis of others' arguments and in their own writing and discussion.
3. Analyze the work of professional writers for their ability to support a claim, structure effective argument, avoid fallacy, use authority, and apply the logical processes of generalization, comparison, and causal analysis.
4. Demonstrate critical thinking through the analysis of editorials and other arguments.
5. Write a variety of research based assignments which demonstrate the ability to think critically, to evaluate sources, and to analyze content.
6. Apply critical thinking to the evaluation of a book-length work of non-fiction.
7. Accept the responsibility for finished drafts which are well developed and well edited.
8. Follow the M.L.A. guidelines for documentation of source material.

Composition II is designed to give students practice in the formal use of research and logic, making them more comfortable with using analysis and critical thinking in their writing. It is thus a reading and writing course which will be useful when applied to other courses.

With the foundation laid in Composition I, students should be ready for more rigorous writing assignments. Instead of writing a critique of a single essay, they will compare essays arguing different sides of a single issue, and they will review a book. Instead of doing a few essays requiring primary and periodical research, they will write, among other things, a research paper requiring extensive primary and secondary research. While writings will vary in length, generally they will be between 1000 and 1500 words long (the research paper may be longer). All papers will be documented according to the standards of the M.L.A.

Students continue their analysis of essays and excerpts from books, they deepen and broaden their study of logic and argument, and they might make at least one oral presentation to the class. Finally, in a capstone assignment, they exercise creativity in producing a work which ties together their textbook reading, writing, research, and knowledge of argument.

CORE VALUES

The Core Values are a set of principles which guide in creating educational programs and environments at Edison. They include communication, ethics, critical thinking, human diversity, inquiry/respect for learning, and interpersonal skills/teamwork. The goals, objectives, and activities in this course will introduce/reinforce these Core Values whenever appropriate.

TOPIC OUTLINE

1. Logic and Close Reading
 - a. Critical thinking
 - b. Support: evidence and appeals
 - c. Types of warrants
 - d. Evaluation of warrants
 - e. Reading for analysis
 - f. The power of words
 - g. Slanting
 - h. Clichés and slogans
 - i. Induction and deduction
2. The Editorial Essay
 - a. Logical fallacies
 - b. Statistics
 - c. Authority
 - d. Generalization
 - e. Comparison and analogy
 - f. Causation
 - g. Supporting a claim
3. The Book Review
 - a. Elements of a review
 - b. Close reading
 - c. Restatement of the thesis
 - d. Summary of relevant support
 - e. Reasoned evaluation
4. The Research Paper
 - a. Library research
 - b. Developing sources
 - c. E-link and O-link
 - d. The Internet
 - e. Databases
 - f. Professional journals
 - g. Researching and writing arguments
 - h. Locating primary and secondary sources
 - i. Evaluating sources
 - j. Taking notes
5. Referencing conventions
 - a. Internal documentation
 - b. MLA format conventions
6. Making an oral presentation (optional)
7. The Capstone