

COMP 101, Writing and Critical Thinking

MTWTH 9:00-9:50
Flagg Hall 234

92204-section R11
92205-section 11R

Fall 2009
J. W. Cross

(An electronic component of this course exists on the college's "Blackboard" site.)

The instructor's office location is Morey Hall 209; his standing office hours are 1:00-2:00 TWTH; he is also available by appointment.*

Course texts for purchase

Language: The Basics, 2nd edition (R. L. Trask)

A Moveable Feast (E. Hemingway)

Course text for optional purchase

Keys for Writers, 5th edition (A. Raimes)

(Copies of this book may be consulted in the College Writing Center
and at the reserve desk of the Crumb Memorial Library.)

General course objectives (FW Requirement)

"Instruction in college-level writing, critical thinking and information gathering.
Attention to a knowledge of how language permits communication, shapes thought,
and changes through time."

Specific instructor objectives

This course intends to help students:

1. increase the effectiveness of their writing (and reading),
2. earn the greater respect of their readers, and
3. enhance their enjoyment of the writing experience.

Activities

1. Students will read portions of *Language: The Basics* (chs. 2-6, 8-9) and the whole of *A Moveable Feast*; additionally, they will read a selection of essays and excerpts from other book-length works bearing on topics of the course.
2. Students will execute language-appreciation exercises along with brief reading and writing assignments drawn from a variety of sources.
3. Students will produce five (5) essays of moderate length. The final drafts of these essays will benefit from revisions of preliminary drafts informed by peer and instructor critiques.

4. Students will produce five (5) installments in a project of personal writing. Preliminary drafts of these installments will be reviewed by the instructor with attention to style and clarity of expression.
5. Students will undertake the preparation in embryo of a research paper: topic selection, information gathering, creation of a working bibliography, creation of a working outline of the paper.

Evaluation

Regular class attendance and participation in course activities are determinants of an optimal outcome. The results of frequent graded short written assignments, including quizzes, are even more determining. Expect the five formal essays to each receive a grade in draft and in final version.

Attendance, participation	15%
Exercises, quizzes	30%
Formal essays	25%
Personal writing installments	15%
<u>Research project</u>	<u>15%</u>
	100%

(The attendance/participation mark may be affected by factors identified on the Smith/Williams "Irritancy Scale" survey document.)

Measurable outcomes

At the conclusion of the term students will:

1. read formal texts across a broad range of topics and registers with fair understanding;
2. write their own ideas and judgements using one or more registers in a form and with language accessible to the general reader;
3. recognize the fundamental concepts of written argumentation when these are encountered in a text and deploy the same concepts in their own written arguments;
4. conduct effective information-gathering research using traditional and newly-developed techniques, sources and strategies, and marshal that information to write;
5. display an informed awareness of human language's general characteristics (as seen from the linguist's point of view) together with a sense of English's specificity as a language.

* Experience convinces me that there is rarely a circumstance relating to the course, including personal emergency, that cannot be addressed on campus during college business hours. Also, it is not safe to assume that unsolicited telephone or electronic mail messages will draw a response from me. Therefore, I encourage students to conduct all business in person at the class hour, during office hours, or at appointment times.

COMP 101 - Cross

Fall 2009

Schedule of Work Assignments: essays, installments, research project

August	(31 Monday)	
September	1 Tuesday	
	2 Wednesday	
	<u>3 Thursday</u>	
	8 Tuesday	
	9 Wednesday	
	<u>10 Thursday</u>	
	15 Tuesday	-- Essay 1, 1st draft for peer editing
	16 Wednesday	
	<u>17 Thursday</u>	-- Essay 1, 2nd draft due
	22 Tuesday	-- <i>Installment 1, 1st draft due</i>
	23 Wednesday	
	<u>24 Thursday</u>	-- Essay 1, final version due
	29 Tuesday	-- Essay 2, 1st draft for peer editing
	30 Wednesday	
October	<u>1 Thursday</u>	-- Essay 2, 2nd draft due
	6 Tuesday	-- <i>Installment 2, 1st draft due</i>
	7 Wednesday	
	<u>8 Thursday</u>	-- Essay 2, final version due

	14 Wednesday	-- Research project, identification of topic due
	<u>15 Thursday</u>	-- Research project, library instruction session
	20 Tuesday	-- Essay 3, 1st draft for peer editing
	21 Wednesday	
	<u>22 Thursday</u>	-- Essay 3, 2nd draft due
27 Tuesday	-- <i>Installment 3, 1st draft due</i>	
28 Wednesday		
<u>29 Thursday</u>	-- Essay 3, final version due	
November	3 Tuesday	-- Essay 4, 1st draft for peer editing
	4 Wednesday	-- Research project, working bibliography due
	<u>5 Thursday</u>	-- Essay 4, 2nd draft due
	10 Tuesday	-- <i>Installment 4, 1st draft due</i>
	11 Wednesday	
	<u>12 Thursday</u>	-- Essay 4, final version due
	17 Tuesday	-- Essay 5, 1st draft for peer editing
	18 Wednesday	
	<u>19 Thursday</u>	-- Essay 5, 2nd draft due
	24 Tuesday	-- <i>Installment 5, 1st draft due</i>

December	1 Tuesday	-- Research project, preliminary outline due
	2 Wednesday	
	<u>3 Thursday</u>	-- Essay 5, final version due
	8 Tuesday	
	9 Wednesday	
	<u>10 Thursday</u>	-- Installments 1-5, final versions due
	17 Thursday	-- Research project, final submission due