

# **COURSE OUTLINE**

**ENGL-121**

**College Composition**

**3 Semester Credits**

## **HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

### **Description**

ENGL-121 guides students through the expository writing process through close reading of contemporary critical discourse and teaches the rhetorical arts of argument and persuasion through critical thinking, reading and research. Students will develop an understanding of themselves as readers and writers of world cultures who participate with others in responsible public discourse and have moral and ethical responsibilities in that discourse; students will also examine the relationship among writer, audience, and purpose, and practice writing prose through a recursive process. Students completing this course should be able to write persuasive, researched and documented essays (of at least 1,000 words) demonstrating the conventions of standard written English and manuscript presentation. Prerequisite: Eligibility to enroll in ENGL-121 is based on English placement test scores or the successful completion of required developmental English course work. (3 hours weekly).

### **Statement on General Education and Liberal Learning**

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

### **Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of various writing invention strategies for generating ideas and gathering information;
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the relationships among writer, audience, and purpose;
3. Formulate clear thesis statements;
4. Organize ideas logically and appropriately to support the thesis statement;
5. Edit, revise, and proofread to achieve more effective communication of ideas;
6. Provide constructive feedback to another student's writing in a workshop setting;
7. Use study skills and techniques for answering in-class essay exam questions;
8. Employ critical thinking skills as a writer;
9. Apply various editorial and revision strategies to enhance communication;
10. Demonstrate in writing awareness of an appreciation for other world cultures.
11. Demonstrate the ability to use word-processing, appropriate software programs, and electronic resources for writing and revision;
12. Effectively locate, evaluate and incorporate several sources of information using library resources and electronic media;
13. Demonstrate the primary principles of scholarly inquiry and research;
14. Demonstrate advanced conceptual skills and knowledge of researched essay conventions and documentation (MLA or APA).

## **Major Topics**

- I. Writing as a Recursive Process
- II. Creating the Expository and Persuasive Essay
- III. Employing Effective Library and Electronic Research Techniques
- IV. Documenting Sources
- V. Writing the Effective Research Paper
- VI. Writing with Authority and Integrity

## **Course Requirements**

Specific assignments and procedures for evaluating student performance in the class (i.e., grading) will be described in the individual class syllabus, but all sections will include the following:

- Students will produce 15-20 pages of formal writing in at least four discrete essays, including one researched, documented essay of at least 1,000 words.
- Students will write, at least, one in-class essay in response to an exam prompt or question.
- At least 80% of the final grade will be based upon writing, both formal and informal.
- ENGL-121 approaches writing as a continual process of learning in which assignments are interdependent; therefore, students must complete all formal assignments to successfully complete the course.

## **Other Course Information**

ENGL-121 is a Composition Core course and an Arts and Sciences elective.

On HCC's main campus, this course is taught in a networked, computerized environment.