

COURSE OUTLINE
ENGL-121
College Composition I: Expository Writing
3 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

ENGL-121 is the first of a two-semester sequence of college-level composition courses. (ENGL-122 is the second course in the sequence for most HCC degree programs. ENGL-121 transfers as university-parallel freshman English.) 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 culture as they participate in public discourse about writing; 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. Demonstrate the primary principles of scholarly inquiry and research;
6. Perform basic research in the library and in electronic media;
7. Correctly incorporate source materials into essays;

8. Document sources using content-appropriate format (APA and MLA);
9. Edit, revise, and proofread to achieve more effective communication of ideas;
10. Provide constructive feedback to another student's writing in a workshop setting;
11. Use study skills and techniques for answering in-class essay exam questions;
12. Employ critical thinking skills as a writer;
13. Demonstrate the ability to use word-processing and appropriate software programs for writing.

Major Topics

1. Writing as a Recursive Process
2. Creating the Expository and Persuasive Essay
3. Employing Effective Library and Electronic Research Techniques
4. Documenting Sources
5. Writing the Effective Research Paper
6. 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:

1. 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.
2. Students will write 1-2 in-class essays in response to an exam prompt or question.
3. At least 80% of the final grade will be based upon writing, both formal and informal.
4. 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.
5. Students will have in-class (as well as out-of-class) writing assignments.

Other Course Information

ENGL-121 is a Composition Core course and meets the university freshman composition requirement. On HCC's main campus, this course is taught in a networked, computerized environment.