Semester/Year: Fall 2006

Lecture Hours: 3  Lab Hours: 0  Credit Hours: 3

Class Time: Online  Days: Online  Room: Online

Instructor's Name: Patrick Amelotte

Instructor's Contact Information: Please feel free to email or call my office any time. Remember, if you don't leave a message, I don't know you called. You can also meet with me during office hours and by appointment.

Office Phone: 268-2729  Email: pamelotte@caspercollege.edu

Office Hours: T/Th 3:30-5:30 and by appt

Course Description: In this course we will develop and hone the writing, reading, and thinking skills that you will need in order to succeed in academic discourse. At its most basic level, this is a writing course, as the subtitle implies. Thus, you should expect to write often (about 30 pages) this semester.

Statement of Prerequisites: A grade of "C" or better in English 0610 or ACT score of 18 or Compass score of 75.

Students who have met the pre-requisites for English 1010 will find this course challenging (and fun); students who lack such preparation will find this course impossible (and the opposite of fun). So, if you know you don't meet the pre-requisites, please contact me. I'll be more than happy to help you find a course that adequately prepares you to come back and have fun with us in English 1010.

Goals: To gain a better understanding of and appreciation for the most common language in this country. To become more adept at writing clearly, reading carefully, and thinking critically. To see various practical and personal applications of the writing, reading, and thinking skills we're working on, and to see how those skills can enrich our lives.

Outcomes: You will find the Casper College Outcomes for Writing Courses in the Vital Information folder. Please read the outcomes carefully; they are the performance standards that you will need to meet in order to pass this course.

Methodology: Online course requiring active engagement in discussions, responses, papers, quizzes, and exams.

Evaluation Criteria: While I want you to devote a maximum effort to all your papers, I am aware that some (if not all) of the material in this course will be new to you. Therefore, you will find the expectations of your performance to be lower in the early
goings. I do allow students to rewrite their papers, but you must arrange a conference with me so we can set goals and agree on a new due date. I will not accept rewrites that we haven’t discussed beforehand.

Remember that by semester's end you must demonstrate the skills listed on the Outcomes for Writing Courses (and you must have a C or better) in order to fulfill the requirements of this course.

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**Required Text, Readings, and Materials:**
- A good dictionary (e.g. Webster's New World College Dictionary or Dictionary.com)

**Class Policies: Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade:** November 3rd.

All papers, drafts, and other out-of-class writing assignments must be typed/word processed, double-spaced, with one-inch margin and no larger than 12-point font. If you try to push this, I will return your paper to be retyped.

I will accept late papers, but not late homework assignments. A late paper will drop one grade per day after the due date. Please email late papers to me the day you finish it. The paper is not officially done (and "off the clock") until I receive it in my inbox.

One of the keys to avoiding late paper problems is to let me know what's going on. The sooner I know about a problem, the better. I am not against granting extensions for good reasons -- as long as I know about the problem before the due date.

If you fail to turn in a paper, or if you turn in a paper that is 10 or more days late, you will not pass this course.
An Axe to Grind: This is not a course where I give you my politics and expect you to parrot my ideology. Instead we'll be looking at how to think well (rather than what to think), because good thinking leads to good writing. To that end, in response to your postings, you may find me advocating for different sides of an issue. My goal is to get you to slow down and fully consider all sides; I'm not recruiting you for a cause.

While we're on the subject, let's remember that many of us come from different faiths and belief systems. For that reason (and several other good reasons), we will not be engaging in religious arguments.

Common Courtesy: Writing is basically about connecting with others. Let us therefore make our class a sanctuary wherein the needs and feelings of others matter as much as our own. Our two rules are as follows:

BE RESPECTFUL
USE YOUR COMMON SENSE

There may be a temptation to abuse the distance and anonymity offered by an online discussion environment. Yet that's no excuse to break the courtesy rules of the course. Since this is a course that stresses the art of arguing, we must learn to do so in a way that avoids personal attacks (the ad hominem logical fallacy). There are no winners or losers in our class discussions. We're just a group of people engaged in an open exchange of ideas. Therefore, let's just focus on the arguments themselves and save the personal attacks for the Ricki Lake show. Students who violate the "No Flame" policy will be warned once. If they continue to attack or insult their peers, they will face disciplinary action including dismissal from the course.

Response Papers: Each student in this class will write one response paper this semester. A response paper is simply a 1-2 page typewritten response to a reading assignment. Instead of summarizing, a response paper analyzes; it argues a point. We will use response papers to kick start our discussions this semester. In the next couple of weeks, I will provide you with more detailed information on when and how to write a response paper. I just want you to be aware that you will be writing one at some point during the semester.

Conferences: You will need to schedule at least one individual conference with me (either face-to-face or by telephone) so that we can discuss your writing. This is an opportunity to locate and address specific issues related to your craft. It is also an opportunity for you to discuss any questions or concerns you have about the course.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

Chain of Command: If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor in order to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take your problem through the appropriate
chain of command starting with the department head, then the division chair, and lastly the vice president for academic affairs.

**Academic Dishonesty - Cheating & Plagiarism:** Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct.

"The term plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of papers or other academic materials."*


You may not legally use another person's idea or words without acknowledging him or her. Consider this your first and final warning. If you are found to be engaged in this or any other form of academic dishonesty, you will fail the entire course. In addition, a cheating report will be sent to the Vice President of Student Services, who will establish a discipline file for you. This discipline file will be shared with anyone who investigates your background -- including universities and prospective employers.

If you have any questions about how to cite your sources, please ask. If you are absent on the days we cover MLA Style, it is your responsibility to get the information. You may consult The Brief Handbook MLA Section (page 179) for general questions about how to cite sources both within the text (as parenthetical references) and at the end of the text (as a Works Cited page).

Keep in mind that plagiarism is not an accident or a mistake; it's a decision to deceive -- and it will catch up with you. Sooner or later, the truth always comes out.

**ADA Accommodations Policy:** It is the policy of Casper College to provide appropriate accommodations to any student with a documented disability. If you have a need for accommodation in this course, please make an appointment to see me at your earliest convenience.