

Saint Louis Christian College
GEN 110-English Composition I, Section A
Professor Alice Perrey
3 Credit Hours

Spring, 2012
No course prerequisites

Wednesday and Friday
1:30-2:45 p.m

MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Louis Christian College pursues excellence in the Word and develops servant leaders for urban, suburban, rural, and global ministry.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introductory course designed to develop the writing skills of planning, drafting, and revising. Emphasis is on producing various methods of essays. Fundamental research and critical thinking skills are stressed along with excellence both in content and mechanics.

This course is designed to improve your ability to think and communicate clearly. Since good writing requires critical thinking and reading skills as well as the effective use of the English language, the course will give you many opportunities to read reflectively and write in various forms and lengths. In addition, you will practice standard grammar, punctuation, and usage because they are essential for clear and correct written communication.

COURSE RATIONALE

You are enrolled in an introductory course designed to develop your writing skills through the writing process by producing a variety of college writing samples. You will read a variety of works to provide a foundation to develop your ideas—to encourage you to think deeply before you begin to write. This critical reading will go beyond merely summarizing a passage. You must be able to apply, analyze, and evaluate the ideas of other authors as you develop your own thoughts, opinions, and beliefs into a Christian worldview. You will work to produce excellence in content, style, and mechanics.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course supports the following Expected Student Outcomes:

- Be capable and reliable communicators of the Bible.
- Engage global, pluralistic, diverse cultures from the standpoint of a robust Biblical worldview.

This course furthers this General Studies objective: Given instruction in the English language and in composition, the student will demonstrate the ability to write effectively and will be able to use a variety of research and documentation techniques.

When you finish this course, you should be able to:

1. Implement the writing process: planning, writing, revising, editing, and publishing.
2. Use common rhetorical patterns in writing to produce a variety of writing samples. These will be compiled into a portfolio which displays proficient use of content, style, grammar, punctuation, spelling, and MLA format as evidenced by the Writing Assessment Guide.
3. Recognize and use the elements of content: thesis, outline, evidence introduction, and conclusion.
4. Understand types of sources and how to choose the best sources for your purpose.
5. Use a variety of sentence constructions: simple, compound, complex, parallel.
6. Write effective paragraphs, with unity, coherence, and completeness.
7. Master the fundamentals of written English: grammar, usage, punctuation, mechanics.
8. Master the Modern Language Association (MLA) formatting style.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

COURSE TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS:

Required:

- ***In the World: Reading and Writing as a Christian, 2nd edition.*** John H. Timmerman and Donald R. Hettinga, published by Baker Academic. ISBN: 0-8010-2753-5
- ***English Brushup, 5th ed.*** John Langan & Janet M. Goldstein, published by McGraw-Hill Higher Education. ISBN: 978-0-07-742837-2
- ***What It Takes: Writing in College.*** Laurence Behrens and Leonard J. Rosen, published by Pearson-Longman. ISBN: 978-0-205-64782-8
- **Course Pack** sold in the bookstore; contains assignment descriptions, handouts, peer edits, and grading rubrics; it also contains the binder and dividers you will need for the portfolio.

Suggested:

- *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th edition.* Joseph Gibaldi, published by the Modern Language Association. ISBN: 978-1-60329-024-1. Suggested, not required.
- A good dictionary.

GRAMMAR

You will have periodic grammar quizzes, culminating in the Comprehensive Grammar Test, administered late in the semester. The quizzes and the Comprehensive Grammar Test will reflect content practiced in *English Brushup*. The quizzes and tests will be objective, and will require you to edit sentences and paragraphs that are similar in format to the work in *English Brushup*.

PAPERS

You will write several in-depth papers that demonstrate the appropriate writing style for each assignment. Each stage of the writing process for each paper must be included in the Portfolio of Completed Work. These papers will be evaluated according to the Writing Assessment Guide and your adherence to the requirements of the assignment.

Some papers will require that you consult outside sources to support your point(s). You will have computer-based tutorial exercises and worksheets to help you develop your information literacy skills.

The final grade for each paper will include prewriting, peer edits, and a reflection letter giving your evaluation of the writing process for each project. All writings related to the paper must be turned in, including all rough drafts.

1. Four essays: Narrative, Critique, Biblical Argument, Analysis
2. Summary of James and Philemon
3. Paraphrase of Psalm 51

CLASS BLOG

This class will practice the types of writing assignments that occur often in the life of a Christian worker. You will submit your assigned part of the blog as an email to the professor, ready for publication. The professor will compile and post the parts of the blog. Some blog assignments will not be posted.

PORTFOLIO OF COMPLETED WORK

You will compile a portfolio of *all* your work from the semester into a portfolio. This portfolio takes the place of the final exam. Failure to turn in the portfolio will result in a failing grade for the course.

CLASS PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE POLICY

The professor will follow the attendance policy of Saint Louis Christian College. On your 8th absence, you will be administratively withdrawn from the course, and you will receive a failing grade.

Missing class more than 3 times will result in a 2 percentage point reduction in grade for each additional absence. For every 3 times you arrive late (after class has begun) or leave early, one absence will be assessed. You will be marked absent if you miss more than 20 minutes of class.

Walks: A walk is an excused absence, and will not be counted toward grade reduction, but each walk WILL COUNT TOWARD THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ALLOWABLE ABSENCES FOR THE COURSE. If you use a walk, you must turn in all assignments by the beginning of the next class period.

COURSE ASSESSMENT—specific requirements are in the appendix to the syllabus.

Assignment	% of Total Grade	Method of Assessment	Requirements
Blog assignments	10%	100%-meets requirements, no errors 80%-meets requirements, requires editing 70%-turned in, but not ready for publication 0%-not turned in or late	Emailed to the professor; format appropriate to the assignment
Quizzes (includes MLA assignment)	10%	Objective	NA
Comprehensive Grammar Test	10%	Objective	NA
Essays 1. Narrative 2. Critique 3. Biblical Argument 4. Analysis	50% 1.10% 2.10% 3.15% 4.15%	Rubric	MLA format 1. 3 pages 2. 4 pages 3. 5 pages 4. 5 pages
Summary and Paraphrase 1. James summary 2. Philemon summary 3. Psalm 51 paraphrase	10% 1. 5% 2. 2% 3. 3%	Rubric	MLA format 1. 2 pages 2. 1 page
Portfolio of Completed Work	10%	Rubric	All sections must be complete

COURSE SCHEDULE

Abbreviations:

EB: *English Brushup.*

WIT: *What It Takes*

ITW: *In the World.*

Date	Before class reading	Turn in	Class topics
Jan. 11			Introduction to class Devotion MLA style
Jan. 13	ITW: "The Empty Manger" EB: 2-14	Blog 1 MLA assignment	Narrative Writing Parts of Speech

Jan. 18	ITW: "My Bones are Vexed"	Narrative, draft 1	Quiz: Parts of speech Peer edit 1 Good writing: audience, purpose, persona
Jan. 20	EB: Chapters 1 and 2	Narrative, draft 2	Peer edit 2 Subjects and Verbs; More about verbs
Jan. 25	WIT: Chapter 1 EB: Chapter 3	Narrative, final draft including prewriting and all rough drafts	Writing a Summary Subject-Verb Agreement
Jan. 27	Bible: Philemon and James EB: Chapter 4	Blog 2	In-class writing: Summarizing the book of Philemon Sentence Types
Feb. 1	Boatman Leadership Conference: NO CLASS		
Feb. 3		Draft of James summary	Quiz: EB 1-4 More about summarizing Peer edit of James summary
Feb. 8	Bible: Psalm 51 EB: Chapter 5	James summary	Paraphrasing Fragments
Feb. 10	WIT: 37-57 EB: Chapter 6	Draft of Psalm 51: 1-12 paraphrase	Critical Reading Run-ons and Comma Splices Peer edit of Ps. 51 paraphrase
Feb. 15	WIT: 57-71 ITW: "Vandalism of Shalom: EB: Chapter 7	Blog 3	Writing a Critique Pronouns
Feb. 17	ITW: 31-38 EB: Chapter 8	Ps. 51:1-12 paraphrase	Thesis and Outline "The Vandalism of Shalom" Comma
Feb. 22	ITW: 39-44; "The Exact Location of the Soul"		Quiz: EB 5-8 Coherence "The Exact Location of the Soul"
Feb. 24	EB: Chapter 9	Blog 4	Quotations Apostrophes
Feb. 29	EB: Chapter 10	Critique—draft 1	Peer edit of Critique Quotation Marks
Mar. 2	WIT: 72-84 EB: Chapter 11		Explanatory Synthesis Other punctuation marks
Mar. 7	WIT: 84-115 EB: Chapter 12	Critique—draft 2	Peer edit of Critique Argument Synthesis Capital letters
Mar. 9	WIT: 115-127 ITW: "Why Get Married?"	Blog 5	Quiz: EB 9-12 Argument Strategy "Why Get Married?"
Mar. 14	ITW: "The Death of Infant Doe" EB: Chapter 13	Critique, with all prewriting and rough drafts	Analyzing Arguments "The Death of Infant Doe" Homonyms
Mar. 16	EB: Chapter 14 & 15	Blog 6	Biblical Argument Word Choice; Misplaced and Dangling Modifiers
Mar. 19-23	Lab Week: NO CLASS		
Mar. 27	EB: Chapter 16	Biblical argument—draft 1	Peer edit Parallelism

Mar. 30		Biblical argument—draft 2	Quiz: EB 13-16 Peer edit
Apr. 4	WIT: 145-164 EB: Chapter 23	Blog 7	Analysis—part 1 Mixed Constructions
Apr. 6	Good Friday: NO CLASS		
Apr. 11	EB: Chapter 25 & 26 WIT: 164-171	Biblical argument paper, with outline, drafts, and peer edits	Analysis—part 2 Even more about verbs; subject/verb agreement
Apr. 13	EB: Chapter 27	Analysis—draft 1 Blog 8	Peer edit More about run-ons and comma splices
Apr. 18	EB: Chapter 28	Analysis—draft 2	Peer edit More about the comma
Apr. 20		Blog 9—the Easter blog	Comprehensive Grammar Test
Apr. 25	NO CLASS: Prof. Perrey will be in her office for individual consultations about analysis paper from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.		
Apr. 27		Analysis—final draft, with all prewriting, rough drafts, and peer edits	Wrap-up Portfolio instructions
May 3	No final exam. Portfolio due in my office by 3:00 p.m.		

COURSE RESOURCES:

Adler, Mortimer, and Charles Van Doren. *How to Read a Book*. Touchstone, 1972. ISBN: 0671212095
Bible Gateway www.biblegateway.com

Searchable bible reference, with many versions

Dictionary of the English Language

<http://www.bartleby.com/61>

Fogarty, Mignon. *Grammar Girl's Quick and Dirty Tips for Better Writing*. Holt, 2008. ISBN: 0805088318

Foster, Thomas C. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: a Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines*. Harper, 2003. ISBN: 006000942X

Online Writing Assistant www.powa.org useful tips and explanations of grammar, thesis statements, and types of essays.

Purdue University's Online Writing Lab

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu>

Saint Louis Christian College

www.slconline.edu

Strunk, William. *The Elements of Style*. Coyote Canyon Press, 2007. ISBN: 0979660742

Zinsser, William K. *On Writing Well, 30th Anniversary Edition: the Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction*. Collins, 2006. ISBN: 0060891548

COURSE POLICIES:

1. Courtesy and a positive regard for the learning of others is expected at all times. If you display disrespectful conduct toward other students or the professor, one verbal warning will be given. A second infraction will result in dismissal from that day's class. A third infraction will result in a report to the Dean of Students for discipline.
2. Academic dishonesty, whether intended or unintended, is not acceptable. Turning in work that is not your own, in whole or in part, will result in a failing grade for the assignment. Consult the College Catalog under in the Academic Information section for the College's Academic Dishonesty policy.
3. You may not use cell phones, Blackberries, MP3 players, Gameboys, etc. in class. Cell phones must be either off or turned to "vibrate". Text messaging during class is not allowed.
4. Laptop computers are not necessary, but will be allowed for in-class writing assignments. Such assignments must be emailed to the professor as soon as possible after the class.
5. No food or drink other than plain water is permitted in the classroom. This is a school rule.
6. Sleeping in class is done at your own risk.

7. Come to class prepared. This means that you need paper, pens, textbooks, and all class materials with you for each class. The professor will not provide these. If you have to leave class to get any of these, you will be counted tardy.
8. Late work: Part of being successful in any class is to submit assigned work on time. Blogs and rough drafts will not be accepted past the due date. Final drafts of papers will be accepted up to one week, but with a 50% penalty. (Translation: you may take extra time, but it will result in a failing grade. However, you will fail with a grade higher than 0.)
9. Rough drafts which are not ready for peer review will result in your being dismissed from that day's class and counted absent. You will not be allowed to make up the rough draft. Students on athletic walks on peer review days must have their papers reviewed in The Hundred.
10. All e-mail communications from the professor will be sent to the student's SLCC e-mail address. All documents not distributed in class will be put in the student's SLCC mailbox.
11. If you have a diagnosed learning disability, please present your documentation to Professor Karen Duffy (office upstairs in the Keystone Building, extension 1521), and see the professor privately to discuss accommodations that would enhance your ability to learn.
12. The professor reserves the right to modify this course plan by changing topics, due dates, or assignments to enhance student learning, as long as the change does not add to the students' work load.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Professor Alice Perrey

Office: downstairs under Room 102, 2nd door on the left

Office hours:	Monday:	3:00-5:00 p.m.
	Tuesday and Thursday:	1:30-3:00 p.m.
	Wednesday and Friday:	9:00-10:30 a.m.

Phone: (314) 837-6777, extension 1515; cell: (636) 395-0607 (either text or voice)

e-mail: aperrey@slcconline.edu