

EN 111: College Writing and Research

Dual Credit Sequence

3 credit hour class

Central Methodist University

Instructor: John Biesemeyer

The Books:

Paul Eschholz and Alfred Rosa, *Subject and Strategy*, eleventh edition

Diana Hacker, *Rules for Writers*, 5th Edition

Goal:

This course sequence is intended to give you an opportunity to develop the organizational and expository skills that provide a good foundation for the kind of writing you will be expected to do during the rest of your college career. The focus is on mastering the common organizational patterns and elements of argument and persuasion. It is important that you get plenty of practice writing, so there may be additional assignments depending on the circumstances.

Requirements:

In the first half of the semester, students will be learning and discussing the techniques of research and argument/persuasion. Topics for discussion and assessment will include the following:

- Definition of argument and assertion
- Identifying weaknesses in evidence
- Using syllogisms to analyze deductive arguments
- Writing effective thesis statements
- Providing sound support for arguments
- Outlining and organizing arguments and evidence
- Techniques of research
- Use of MLA style manual for documentation format
- A 5-6 page research paper, persuasive in nature, using MLA format. A rough draft and final draft will both be graded.

In the second half of the semester students will be studying and analyzing the novel *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. Topics for discussion and assessment will include the following:

- Historical context of the novel
- Plot summary (Quizzes)
- Figurative language
- Motif and symbolism
- Theme and meaning-relevance to contemporary society
- Character analysis
- Censorship: Past and Present
- Several writings discussing elements of the novel

Grading:

Each assignment will be worth a certain number of points but class participation, rough drafts, quizzes, and other assignments may be part of the total grade in the class. There will also be numerous exercises involving grammatical and stylistic concerns.

Policies:

Plagiarism. It's very important to understand what plagiarism is, why is it considered unethical and what the consequences will be if you are caught doing it. If you are found guilty of plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty you will receive a zero for the assignment; if you are found guilty of academic dishonesty a second time you may receive a failing grade for the course and any other penalties, including probation, suspension, or expulsion, that the college officials deem appropriate. We will discuss plagiarism further during the first couple weeks of class.