

WRITING 100-B SYLLABUS
Fall Semester, 2008

THEME AND DESCRIPTION:

It's Getting Hotter: Responding to Global Warming

With rising temperatures threatening a world-wide environmental catastrophe, the official U.S. position on climate change caused by human activities remains mired in politics and special interests. Through a variety of progressively more challenging writing assignments, students will critically examine national, campus and personal viewpoints on this hot topic and seek fresh ideas and actions to address it. Emphasis on individual thinking, focused writing, and one-on-one work reviews with the instructor.

INSTRUCTOR:

Welles Lobb, Head Coach of Cross Country,
Office: Johnston Hall, Track & Cross Country Office; Office hours: TBA
Office phone: 610-625-7826; Email: coachlobb@moravian.edu

CLASSES:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10:20-11:10 AM.

Location: TBA

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Hacker, Diana. The Bedford Handbook, Seventh Edition. Bedford/St. Martin's (2006)
Lynas, Mark. Six Degrees. National Geographic Society (2008)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:

In addition to the two required texts, students will need the following materials for the course:

- portfolio folder (see below)
- notebook
- pencil
- global warming definitions (handout)*
- global warming-related print media stories (handout)*
- Writing 100-B Syllabus*
- Writing 100 Gobbledygook handout (a supplement to the syllabus) *
- calendar of writing assignments and due dates*
- schedule of reading assignments (handout)*

*storage in portfolio folder recommended

PORTFOLIO

Students will maintain a simple portfolio-like folder for storage of all draft and final versions of all assigned papers. The instructor may request to review folder contents at any time. **A complete portfolio folder, including final versions of all assigned papers, must be submitted to the instructor by no later than 1:30 PM on Friday, December 19. This is our official final exam period, although there is no final exam in this course. However, finished portfolio folders will be accepted by the instructor as early as Friday, December 12, the first day of final exams. Students are encouraged to submit finished portfolios as early as possible in the exam period.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Students will gain a general understanding of anthropogenic (human-caused) climate change, its terminology, and its projected impact on natural systems and the human condition on a regional and global scale during the 21st century
- Students will complete 10 progressively more challenging writing assignments leading to competencies in the following technical areas: use of specialty Internet database sources; use of correct MLA style in academic papers; recognition of primary and secondary sources, including creditable and non-creditable Web sources
- Students will complete 10 progressively more challenging writing assignments leading to competencies in the following rhetorical areas: use of voice and tone; recognition of purpose and audience; clarity and focus; thesis identification and construction.
- Students will complete a 10 progressively more challenging writing assignments leading to competencies in the following structural areas: correct use of grammar, sentence and paragraph form and flow, and word choice.
- Students will become more confident and skilled writers through regular instructor-reviewed first and second drafts of assigned papers.
- Students will study, comment, and write about a variety of global warming issues as presented by mainstream print media.
- Students will work in peer collaboration to research and write viable sustainability plans for selected operations at Moravian College.
- Students will “grow greener” from their examination and implementation of initiatives and changes leading to better individual, family, campus, and community sustainability practices.

ATTENDANCE, ACADEMIC HONESTY, CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

See **Writing 100 Gobbledygook** handout.

GRADING

In order to instill a classroom atmosphere that emphasizes learning and writing confidence without the immediate threat of grades, Writing 100-B will operate under a “B Contract” grading system. Students who meet all academic requirements, follow requested classroom protocol, and demonstrate ongoing writing improvement will earn a B for the course. Students who meet additional more stringent standards may earn a higher grade. Students who don’t meet the standards set in the B contract may be issued a lower grade. Students in danger of receiving less than a B- will be notified at mid-term and be requested to set up a conference with the instructor. **See “B Contract”** handout.

ASSIGNED PAPERS

Students are responsible for the completion of 10 papers of varying length and complexity. Most assignments require the submission of instructor-reviewed first and second drafts. Students will be issued a handout listing all writing assignments and all due dates. All final versions of papers will be issued a grade. Assignments will be accompanied by handouts describing each assignment in detail.

REQUIRED WORK REVIEW SESSIONS

Every student is required to meet three times for a minimum of 20 minutes during the semester to review papers with the instructor. The dates are Friday, September 26; Wednesday, October 22, and Wednesday, November 19. See **Writing 100 Gobbledygook** handout for details.

ADDITIONAL HELP

Students in need of help beyond the three scheduled work review sessions can make appointments with the instructor. Students are also strongly urged to seek help from the Moravian College Writing Center. See **Writing 100 Gobbledygook** for details.