

Writing 100 (Section I)
Professor Joseph Paretta

Moravian College
Spring 2009 Semester

Office: Zinzendorf 102
Office Hours: Tuesdays from 3:30 -4:30pm (and by appointment)
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COURSE TITLE: "Identity of Self"

The "Self" is often synonymous with freedom, independence, and sufficiency. These highly cherished qualities stand the test of time and have been esteemed by many authors and philosophers as the foundation of success and happiness.

We will address the works of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, who deemed the "self" of utmost importance. We will also look at some oppressive influences that hinder the quest for "self-actualization."

COURSE AGENDA

Your writing in this course will grow out of your reading of assigned texts. You should form your own stance on these readings, not simply regurgitate what was written or tell the instructor "what he wants to hear." Discussions, exercises, and workshops will focus on both *your* writing and on the assigned reading. So on occasion, I might begin class with a short writing assignment and then ask you to share your findings with the class. **Be prepared to "go public" with several of your assignments. Also, be ready to read and respond *seriously* to classmates' work.

GOALS OF THE COURSE

Amongst the primary course objectives, students will learn how to

- *Develop, apply, and support an academic thesis statement.
- *Read texts critically.
- *Argue and synthesize texts in both written and spoken form.
- *Apply academic research to the subject matter of the course.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Emerson, Ralph Waldo. *Self-Reliance and Other Essays*

Thoreau, Henry David. *Walden and Other Writings*

Hacker, Diana. *The Bedford Handbook* (7th edition)

There will also be various handouts given during the semester.

Students are expected to have a notebook, pen, and the appropriate text at each class
Please keep all returned assignments in a folder as a portfolio of your work.

BREAKDOWN OF COURSE GRADE

Take-Home Essays = 35% of the final grade
In-Class Essays = 25%
Research Paper = 15%
Workshops = 15%
ACTIVE Class Participation (Beyond “Showing Up”) = 10%

Late assignments will be penalized. Assignments will lose a full-letter grade if they are late one class. After that, assignments will not be accepted and will likely receive a grade of F.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Short and to the point, plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please see the Student Handbook for Moravian College’s policy. Be familiar with this policy. Also, *The Bedford Handbook* provides guidance in using several systems for documenting sources. See the “Guidelines” (Orange handout) for further details on issues pertaining to Academic Honesty and plagiarism.

NOTE - Students suspected of plagiarized work will be dealt with swiftly.

ATTENDANCE

In order for your writing to analytical skills to improve, you need consistent practice and feedback. So, attendance is crucial in this course.

If a student is absent four times, he or she will lose 2/3 of a grade. For example, a B+ becomes a B-. Five absences result in loss of a full-letter grade (ex. B becomes C). Six absences means the loss of ALL credit in the course.

If you know ahead of time that you will be missing class, please let me know.

*Lateness counts against you. Two latenesses equal one absence. Three latenesses equal one-and-a-half absences. Four equal two absences.....you get the idea:
Be here ON TIME AND READY TO WORK.

LEARNING SERVICES

Any student who wishes to disclose a disability and request accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for this course first **MUST** meet with either Mrs. Laurie Roth in the Office of Learning Services (for learning disabilities and/or ADD/ADHD) or Dr. Ronald Kline in the Counseling Center (for all other disabilities).

READING SCHEDULE

WEEK 1:	Introductions; Syllabus; Diagnostics
WEEKS 2 – 3:	Emerson’s “Self-Reliance”
WEEKS 4 – 5:	Emerson’s “The Over-Soul”
WEEK 6:	Emerson’s “The Poet”
WEEKS 7 – 8:	Thoreau’s “Civil Disobedience”
WEEKS 9 – 12:	Thoreau’s <i>Walden</i>
WEEK 13:	Review – Emerson and Thoreau
WEEK 14:	Conferences

NOTE – Deadlines for Take-Home and In-Class Essays will be announced.

In addition, students will be notified regarding deadlines for Research Assignments.

**Lastly, please note that the course syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

