

Syllabus for COMP 190

Fall 2014

PPHAC 116

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Location: PPHAC 116

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Required Texts:

- The Bedford Handbook:
Hacker, Diana, et al. *The Bedford handbook*. Boston, Mass: Bedford/St. Martins, 2010. Print.
- *The Yellow Birds*, Kevin Powers:
Powers, Kevin. *The Yellow Birds: a novel*. New York: Back Bay Books, Little, Brown and Company, 2013. Print.
- *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, Anne Fadiman:
Fadiman, Anne. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: a Hmong child, her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2012. Print.
- *All My Sons*, Arthur Miller:
Miller, Arthur. *All my Sons*. London: Penguin, 2009. Print.

Goals of the Course:

1. Students will be able to identify structural elements of composition and apply said elements to their own writing through scaffolded assignments, such as an original paragraph and a five paragraph essay.
2. Students will be able to demonstrate controlled and subtle organization in written works and will be able to apply appropriate organizational components to essays and papers.
3. Students will be able to meaningfully respond in writing to pieces of fiction and nonfiction as well as construct appropriate responses to the reaction of peers through the use of response and research papers.

4. Students will be able to build writing stamina, develop voice, design comprehensible thesis statements, conduct research and incorporate this research into written pieces, and focus a topic for an essay or research paper.
5. Students will be able to appropriately use grammatical rules and guidelines in the writing of paragraphs, sentences, essays, and research papers.
6. Students will be able to develop voice and style through the creation of an original journal or blog which will chronicle their experiences in American academic assimilation.

Attendance Policy: Regular attendance is expected. If you are sick, please contact me IN ADVANCE, via text, call, or e-mail. Missing 3 or more class meetings will result in a 10% reduction in your final grade.

Academic Honesty Policy:

Please refer to Moravian College's Academic Honesty Policy:

<http://www.moravian.edu/studentlife/handbook/academic/academic2.html>.

Breakdown of Grade:

- *Yellow Birds* Responses 10%
- 5 Paragraph Original Essay (Topic is student's choice) 5%
- *Lottery* Response Paper (1-2 pages) 5%
- Satire Assignment (1 page) 5%
- *Nacirema* Response Paper (1-2 pages) 5%
- American Research Essay (3 pages; topic is anything in American Culture) 10%
- *Where are You Going, Where have You Been* Response Paper (3-4 pages) 10%
- Journal 15%
- *Yellow Birds* Research Paper (5-7 pages) 15%
- Final Exam/Research Project (2-4 pages; 15 minute presentation) 20%

Compact Assignment Descriptions:

The following are basic descriptions of future assignments. More information will be outlined at the time the assignment is given.

YB RESPONSES: Students will be required to write brief responses (approximately 100 words) to questions from *The Yellow Birds*. These will be checked weekly. Access the blog: TheYellowBirdsBlog.WordPress.com

JOURNAL/BLOG: Students will be required to keep a weekly journal and/or blog chronicling their experiences in their social and academic assimilation into American culture. A minimum of 17 entries is required with each entry being no less than 150 words. Journal can either be hard copy or kept in the form of a web log. This will be due on the last day of class.

RESPONSE PAPERS: Must adhere to given number of pages (typically anywhere from 1-5). Response Papers DO NOT require research, but it is certainly encouraged to practice incorporating research skills into essays. If you choose to include research, you MUST formally cite your sources. Please refer to *The Bedford Handbook* to accomplish this.

WRITING CENTER VISITS: These are assigned for each response and research paper. I require that you visit the Writing Center at least 4 times, however, you are more than welcome to go as often as you need. The Writing Center is located in a building that is not accessible to persons with mobility impairments. If you need the services of the Writing Center, please call 610-861-1392. You will lose 25 points off given assignment if you fail to attend the Writing Center when assigned.

RESEARCH PAPERS: Any assignment labeled "RESEARCH" must include adequate external sources and these sources must be appropriately cited in MLA citation. The standard is at least two sources per page (for example, a 5 page research paper should have at least 10 sources cited).

FINAL EXAM/RESEARCH PROJECT: Research should be incorporated into project. If students choose to do a PowerPoint presentation, citations should be on last slide. Project must be presented to class in a minimum of 10 minutes. Additionally, each group member will be required to write a 2-3 page response to individual chapter from *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*. (10% - Response Paper, 10% - Presentation)

** This syllabus, including schedule of readings, written assignments, and examinations that follows, is subject to change. **

Expected Student Conduct:

- Be on time for class and attend as regularly as you are able. If you are going to miss a class, please contact me for instructions.
- Participate often. I want to hear what you think. Be present, physically and intellectually.
- Be respectful of your peers and their opinions. Disagreements are allowed and even encouraged, but rude language and behavior will not be tolerated.
- Use as much English as you can. Practice makes perfect! Of course, your native language is more than welcome as well, but we are here to improve our spoken and written English. Please keep this in mind.
- Cell phones are a distraction to everyone. Keep them out of sight and silenced.
- Dress appropriately. You are in a professional academic environment. Look the part!

Course Schedule:

Week	Class Procedure	Assignments
<p>Week 1: 8/26 Course Overview</p> <p>8/28 Paragraph Structure</p>	<p>-Expectations/Outcomes -Explanation of assignments -Course Schedule</p> <p>- Paragraph Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lecture necessary components ○ Examine examples, identify elements, Frankenstein Paragraph ○ Evaluate Bios, edit structure 	<p>Homework: <i>Yellow Birds</i> (YB) Response Autobiographies</p> <p>HW: Original Paragraph about topic of choice</p>
<p>Week 2: 9/02 The Writing Process Class Writing Center Visit</p> <p>9/04 Essay Structure</p>	<p>- Writing Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brainstorm, Outlining, Prewriting, Execution, Editing/Proofreading • Writing Center Visit <p>- Essay Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Necessary components • Examine examples, identify elements • Frankenstein Essay 	<p>HW: YB Response Blog/Journal Entries</p> <p>HW: <u>5 Paragraph Original Essay Due: 9/09</u></p>

<p>Week 3: 9/09 Proofreading/Editing/ Rewriting</p> <p>9/11 American Research Essay</p>	<p>-Essay Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer- Edit • Self-Edit • One on One Conferences <p>-Research Essays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture necessary components • Look at Sample Research Essay • Writing Center Visit/Presentation 	<p>HW: Edit 5 Paragraph Essay, fixing all needed areas: <u>Due 9/11</u></p> <p>HW: Blog entries, YB responses</p>
<p>Week 4: 9/16 American Research Essays</p> <p>9/18 American Research Essays</p>	<p>-Review of Research components -Focus topic -Thesis writing workshop -Outline for research paper</p> <p>-Conferences with instructor -Begin writing essay (in class) -Library Research Presentation</p>	<p>HW: Complete Research, create outline for paper</p> <p>HW: Write Research paper <u>Visit Writing Center</u></p>
<p>Week 5: 9/23 Research Essays</p> <p>9/25 Responding to Literature</p>	<p>-Conference with instructor -Make corrections to essay</p> <p>- Types of Literature (review?) -Read <i>My Papa's Waltz</i> -Analyze meaning, tone -Write response defending opinion</p>	<p>HW: <u>Research essay due: 9/25</u></p> <p>HW: Blog/Journal YB Response Read <i>The Lottery</i></p>
<p>Week 6: 9/30 Responding to Literature MIDTERM</p> <p>10/02</p>	<p>-Lecture: Elements of Fiction -Discussion of <i>The Lottery</i> - Reread as needed, write summary with partner -Brainstorming/Outlining of Response Paper</p> <p>-Read <i>Where are You Going, Where have you Been</i> -Summarize independently -Brainstorm/Outline Response Paper -Start paper in class</p>	<p>HW: Lottery Response Paper (1 page max)</p> <p>HW: <u>Response Paper Due: 10/07</u> <u>Visit Writing Center</u> YB response Blog/Journal Entries</p>

<p>Week 7: 10/07</p> <p>Comparing/Contrasting Literature</p> <p>10/09</p>	<p>-Read <i>The Things They Carried</i> in class -Discuss similarities and differences with <i>The Yellow Birds</i> with a partner or group (possible research topic)</p> <p>-Discuss <i>All My Sons</i> -Compare/Contrast to <i>Yellow Birds</i> -Research Paper Assigned</p>	<p>HW: Read <i>All My Sons</i> YB Response Blog/Journal</p> <p>HW: Finish YB (if needed) Brainstorm Research topic Start research paper (brainstorm, outline, etc.)</p>
<p>Week 8: 10/16</p> <p>Responding to Literature with Research</p>	<p>-Discussion of <i>The Yellow Birds</i> -Conferences about papers</p>	<p>HW: Work on Research Paper, Visit Writing Center</p> <p>HW: Yellow Birds Research Paper due: 10/23</p>
<p>Week 9: 10/21</p> <p>Responding to Nonfiction</p> <p>10/23</p>	<p>-Review grammatical components PPT (topics will be determined by weaknesses exhibited by students): commas, sentence structure, run-ons, etc. - Nonfiction Components, Tone, Satire, Author's purpose</p> <p>-Timed response to articles: Tamar Jacoby VS. Mark Krikorian (<i>America Now</i>)</p>	<p>HW: Blog/Journal Entries</p> <p>HW: Read <i>A Modest Proposal</i>, write a summary</p>
<p>Week 10: 10/28</p> <p>Responding to Nonfiction</p> <p>Responding to Peers</p> <p>10/30</p>	<p>-Discuss <i>A Modest Proposal</i> -Group Activity: Write a piece of satire -Share Satires with class</p> <p>--Peer satire reviews/ Practice responding to classmates -Discuss <i>The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down</i> -Write comparison to own life/experience -Share reactions</p>	<p>HW: Write a piece of satire that addresses a societal problem Read <i>The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down</i> excerpt</p> <p>HW: Journal/Blog entries Read <i>The Nacirema</i></p>

<p>Week 11: 11/04</p> <p>Responding to Nonfiction</p> <p>11/06</p>	<p>-Discuss <i>Nacirema</i> -Group analysis of <i>Nacirema</i> (Students can write what they think the purpose of it was) -Response paper assigned: Individual analysis of <i>Nacirema</i></p> <p>-Brainstorm, outline, pre-write -Conference with instructor (as needed)</p>	<p>HW: Blog/Journal Entries Start <i>Nacirema</i> Response Paper</p> <p>HW: <u>Visit writing center, <i>Nacirema</i> Response Paper due: 11/11</u></p>
<p>Week 12: 11/11</p> <p>Responding to Nonfiction</p> <p>11/14</p>	<p>-Review Research components -Read/Discuss <i>The Rich get Thinner, the Poor get Fatter</i>, Warwick Sabin -Timed Response</p> <p>-Research Project Assigned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Visit (refresher) • Brainstorm/Focus topic with group • Read chapter as needed 	<p>HW: Blog/Journal, Read Assigned chapter</p> <p>HW: <u>Final Response Paper on chapter; Due: 11/18</u></p>
<p>Week 13: 11/18 Final Exam</p> <p>Responding to Nonfiction with Research</p> <p>11/20</p>	<p>-Meet with group -Conference with instructor</p> <p>-Meet with group -Conference with instructor</p>	<p>HW: Blog/Journal, Research Project</p> <p>HW: Research Project</p>
<p>Week 14: 12/2</p> <p>Presentations</p> <p>12/4</p>	<p>-Group Presentations</p> <p>-Group Presentations</p>	<p>HW: <u>Blog/Journal due: 12/11</u></p>
<p>Week 15: 12/9</p> <p>Course Wrap-up</p> <p>12/11</p>	<p>-Group Presentations</p> <p>-Journals due -Reflection of Course</p>	

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, assistant director of learning services for academic and disability support in the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling [610-861-1401](tel:610-861-1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.