**New York City College of Technology Professor Jacquelyn Blain**

English 902W – SU 2016 Office: Namm 529 – Adjunct office

Developmental Writing Email: DBlain@citytech.cuny.edu

Mon-Thurs 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Office Hours:

Room: Namm 1001 Daily: 1:00 – 2:00 pm

**Developmental Writing I & II**

**Course Description and Competencies:**

A beginning course in writing skills focusing on instruction in basic sentence patterns (simple, compound, complex), basic grammar and punctuation, spelling, syllabication, and use of the dictionary. The first half of the course emphasizes the writing of paragraphs through which the student develops competence in organization and in supporting a main idea. In the second half of the semester, this course will prepare you to take the CATW final. Note: only selected students will be allowed an opportunity to take the CATW final – you must attend *every* class; complete all required homework; *and* pass the Midterm Quiz in order to get that opportunity.

**Competencies for successful completion of ENG 902W**

1. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the basic rules of standard written English: A. to identify parts of speech (nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions, interjections) B. to use verbs and tenses correctly C. to have subjects and verbs agree D. to use pronouns correctly (agreement, case, and reference) E. to use punctuation correctly (period, comma, semi-colon, question mark, apostrophe, quotation marks) F. to capitalize correctly G. to use active and passive voice appropriately.
2. The student will demonstrate the ability: A. to use simple, compound, and complex sentence structures B. to use conjunctions to connect phrases and clauses in sentences C. to use transitional expressions to show the relationship between ideas in sentences and paragraphs D. to coordinate and subordinate ideas
3. The student will be able to write narrative and expository paragraphs of approximately 150 words that demonstrate his/her ability: A. to identify and write effective topic sentences B. to develop a topic sentence by means of supporting sentences C. to identify and use a pattern of organization demonstrating the ability to introduce ideas(s), develop ideas, and write a concluding sentence. D. to develop themes from readings, personal experience, and observations.

**IV.** The student will be able to write paragraphs that reflect his/her ability to distinguish between general and specific ideas. V. The student will be able to use the dictionary: A. to divide words into syllables and to spell words correctly B. to determine principal parts of words.

The student will demonstrate the above competencies by achieving a minimum score of 70 on Part I of the two-part mid-term exam, Sentence Analysis and Correction, and by achieving a score comparable to a CATW 16 (in other words, a consistent score of 2 or higher across the CATW scoring domains) on Part II, Paragraph Writing. Students who pass the mid-term exam will be assigned a grade of S and will not repeat ENG 090W even if they do not pass or sit for the CATW exam. If students take but do not pass the CATW exam, they will be placed into ENG 092W. After the mid-term examination, the ENG 090W course will follow the ENG 092W curriculum.

**What we’ll be doing**

Writing. Reading. Writing. Talking about writing and reading. More writing… The truth is, people learn about writing by writing, and they learn about grammar by using it, so that’s what we’ll be doing. In addition, we’ll also learn the language of grammar and writing, so that you’re likely to end up knowing a lot more about grammar than pretty much anybody you know! Some of it is fun, some is tedious, but if you’ll jump in and get involved – and come to class every day prepared and willing – you could end up ready not just for the CATW and/or the next writing course, but also more prepared for college.

**Books**

I’ll give you:

* *Grassroots* – A grammar/writing textbook with lecture materials, exercises, and short readings. This belongs to the college, so you can’t write in it, and you have to return it at the end of the course.
* *CATskills* – This book is designed to help you learn about and practice the skills you’ll need in order to pass the CATW. This is yours to keep.
* *Companion for the First Year at CityTech* – This has lots of great information about how to survive at CityTech. We’ll be working with it some. This is also yours to keep.

You’ll also need a paper dictionary by the time you re-take the CATW since they don’t allow electronic ones in the test-taking area.

**Your Journal/Notebook**

Even though we’ll be using those books, nothing is going to be more important than your personal notebook or journal (or whatever you want to call it). We’ll talk more about it the first day of class, but it needs to be something like a 3-ring binder (with lots of paper) where you can put these categories of “stuff”:

* ***Class Notes*** – We can’t write in *Grassroots*, so you’ll need to take notes about all things grammatical.
* ***Grammar Worksheets*** – Since we can’t write in *Grassroots*, we’ll be using worksheets that I’ll give you. Keeping them in one spot will help you review/have examples to look at as you work on new things.
* ***In-class Writing*** – We’ll do a lot of this. You may be passing things to other people, so you’ll need loose-leaf paper (or a way to college papers).
* ***Out-of-class Writing*** – Some of this you’ll post on Open Lab, but some you’ll want to bring to class to share.

You’ll be bringing this Journal/Notebook with you every day, so feel free to personalize it!

**Overall Course Work**

This is a long class each day, but we’ll be dividing it into three parts (with short breaks in between):

1. *Grammar:* We’ll be looking at the mechanics of writing, learning terms, doing some practice sheets, playing some grammar games. At the end of the term, you will take a comprehensive test ***which you must pass in order to take the CATW.***
* *The CATW:* Using the text *CATSkills*, you’ll learn how to prepare for and write the CATW in a systematic way. The goal is to help you achieve a passing score when you re-take the CATW at the end of the term.
* *Reading, Writing:* We’ll be doing a variety of things that will let you practice reading and writing every day. You’ll learn how to make groups actually work, what issues you’ll be facing (and resources you can find) now that you’re in college, read some short pieces to discuss, and write just to write. You’ll learn how to use CityTech’s Open Lab, and be able to post your work there.

**Assessment**

There are actually two ways of thinking about grades in this course.

1. **Permission to take the CATW**. There are specific guidelines for this, which are:
	* ***Attendance:*** **YOU CANNOT MISS EVEN ONE CLASS MEETING!** This is a departmental requirement. If something horrific happens, email me asap; I’ll pass the email along to the FYSP Director to see what can be done. If you’re late, come in anyway; this is a small class, and even one person being late hurts everybody else, too. I do understand about the trains, however, so just be mindful of what’s happening with your trip in to the college. If you leave in the middle of class and don’t come back, or leave early, that counts as an absence.
	* ***Midterm:*** You must earn a 70% on the Grammar/Usage portion and a passing grade on the Writing portion. Overall, you must earn a D or better in order to be allowed to take the CATW at the end of the term.
2. **Overall Course Grade.** This is important because it (plus your CATW score if you’re allowed to take it) will determine where you’ll be placed in the fall – either ENG090 or ENG092, or, if you pass the CATW, ENG1101. Essentially, it’s a variation of Pass/Fail; however, I *will* be giving a final A-F course grade based on:
	* ***Attendance***: Not much choice on this one. You **MUST ATTEND EVERY CLASS.** Again, if something happens, let me know asap, and we’ll see what we can do.
	* ***Midterm***:This will be the standard A-F grade based on the Part I percentage and the CATW score.
* ***Course Work:*** You must complete all required homework including reading responses, paragraphs, response analyses, and prompts; and you must participate in classroom discussions and activities.

**Other Important Things**

***Accommodations:*** If you have a documented need for accommodations, be sure I get a letter from The Center for Student Accessibility as soon as possible. If you need to get a letter, that office is Atrium 237, phone number 718-260-5143. If you have questions about how to get documentation, get in touch with them – they’re terrific people!

***Blackboard:*** We have a Blackboard site for this course which I only use to warehouse handouts. However, pretty much every class uses Blackboard for things like posting syllabi, turning in assignments, and updating students on course changes and information, so I’ll show you how to sign into it and use it, and where to go if you’re having technical problems.

***Open Lab:*** CityTech has its own open pedagogy system – OpenLab – which is essentially a place where a lot of blogs live. I’ll demonstrate how to use it, and make sure you sign up for it. I’ll also use it for our main digital home in the class.

***New York Times subscription:*** Every student at CityTech has a free subscription to *The New York Times*… which is wonderful! A lot of instructors use *The Times* as a resource, and the opinion pieces are often used for English Departmental Finals and coursework. I’ll show you how to get yours.

***Plagiarism/Academic Integrity:*** I don’t generally have problems with this. My position is that you can use pretty much anything as long as you tell me where you got it. However, here’s the official College policy:

**New York City College of Technology Policy on Academic Integrity**

Students and all others who work with information, ideas, texts, images, music, inventions, and other intellectual property owe their audience and sources accuracy and honesty in using, crediting, and citing sources. As a community of intellectual and professional workers, the College recognizes its responsibility for providing instruction in information literacy and academic integrity, offering models of good practice, and responding vigilantly and appropriately to infractions of academic integrity. Accordingly, academic dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York and at New York City College of Technology and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension, and expulsion. The complete text of the College policy on Academic Integrity may be found in the catalog.

 

***And finally…*** The best way to get in touch with me is via email: DBlain@citytech.cuny.edu. I’m also obviously here every day except Friday, so please get in touch if you want to discuss something, talk to me during the break, or come see me after class. My most important job is to help you get through this class in good shape, so use me as a resource as well as an instructor, if you’re having trouble, you and I can sit down together privately and discuss what’s going on and how to address the problem(s).

**Welcome to CityTech!** Get ready to work hard and have some fun along the way.