Course Syllabus  
English Composition I  
ENG 1001- Section: STR 1B  
Class time: Mon & Wed 3:40-4:55 pm  
Room: 115 RE

Professor Penn  
Office: Adjunct Room, 2311 Boylan  
Office Hours: Wed. 5:00—6:00 pm and by appt.  
Mailbox: 2308 Boylan  
Email: supenn@yahoo.com

Course Description and Objectives:  
English Composition I is designed to introduce you to the challenges and demands of college-level expository writing—clear language that explains, describes, or informs. The primary goals are to engage you as critical thinkers and writers and to teach you to write in an expository way. Emphasis will be placed on adherence to the conventions of standard written English, in sentence structure, grammar usage, punctuation, and spelling. The reading, writing, revising, and editing skills you develop here will not only help you throughout your academic career—no matter what your major—but also in your life after graduation. I hope it will inspire you to enjoy writing as a powerful form of expression.

Required Texts and Materials:  
Kirszner, Mandell, *Patterns for College Writing, 11th* Edition  
A small college dictionary  
A binder or notebook with removable paper for your class journal and in-class writing  
Additional readings will be distributed in class

Important Dates:  
Monday, Sept. 26            Narrative essay due  
Wednesday, Oct. 31       Argumentative essay due  
Monday, Nov. 14             Mid-Term grammar test  
Monday, Nov. 21     Comparison/contrast essay due  
Monday, Dec. 5              Comparison/contrast essay due  
Monday, Dec. 5              Comparison/contrast essay due  
Monday, Dec. 12             Graded practice exit exam (in class)  
Thurs. Dec. 15              Exit Exam (location/time TBA)

Homework and Participation:  
Students are expected to come to class prepared and to bring the appropriate texts with them. You should also bring your small dictionary when asked. All homework is to be completed before class. Careful reading of all assigned texts is required for the day on which they are assigned. Have all assignments ready to turn in at the beginning of class on the day they are due. It is your responsibility to get the homework assignment and material covered during a missed class. Active and consistent participation is required. Attendance and participation are not only worth 15% of your final grade, but are vital to the dynamics and successful completion of the ENG Comp I writing workshop. It’s okay to be a listener sometimes, but the class will only be successful if each and every voice is heard.

Attendance:  
Regular class attendance is mandatory. Unexcused absences will significantly affect your final grade. More than three unexcused absences will result in an automatic F. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to make up the work. Absence is not an excuse for late papers or missed in-class work and homework. Class begins at 3:40 pm. Please be on time. Three late arrivals or early departures will be considered one absence.

Late Work/Missed Quizzes, Tests  
Essays that are turned in late will be penalized a letter grade for each class period they are overdue (a B will become a C and so on). No essays will be accepted that are more than one week overdue. First Draft Essays will not be accepted late. Failure to have a draft in class/ready to turn in on the due date will
result in a draft grade of zero. If for some reason you are unable to turn in a paper, do not skip class. It’s better to come to class and not turn in a paper than to miss class time.

Class Behavior:
Engagement: I want you to be alert, responsive, and respectful of your fellow students. ABSOLUTELY NO TEXTING! Cell phones must be turned off during class. Texting, answering email or making phone calls, talking with other students, and in any way being disruptive or inappropriate of the class are not permitted, and these students will be asked to leave and will be counted as absent for the day.

Coursework:
All papers must be typed/word processed, double spaced with standard margins, using 12 point, Times New Roman font. The following information must be on the first page in the top, left-hand corner:

Name
English 1001, Prof. Penn
Date
Title of paper

Grades:
The distribution of grades is as follows:
Essay #1: 10%
Essay #2: 15%
Essay #3: 20%
Essay #4 (In class practice exit exam): 20%
Quizzes/First Drafts 10%
Mid-term Grammar Quiz: 10%
Attendance and participation: 15%

The passing grades range from A+ to C-. The non-passing grades are F or NC (No Credit). An F grade will be given in the case of too many absences or failure to complete assignments. A grade of NC may be given if the student’s work is not at a passing level; however, the student has good attendance and has completed all assignments. Students receiving an F or an NC grade must retake English 1. You may retake English 1 up to three times.

Revisions:
In addition to the assigned revisions in the syllabus, you have the option to revise and resubmit any of your final essays for the possibility of a modified grade. Revisions will be accepted no later than 2 weeks from the original date the essay was due. No exceptions. We will go over various revision strategies in class. Remember: I’m looking for substantial changes in content and organization, not simply grammatical corrections.

Plagiarism:
To plagiarize means to represent another person’s ideas, writings, or inventions as one’s own. Plagiarism is both unethical and illegal. There will be no tolerance for plagiarism in this class. If you are caught handing in work that you have plagiarized from any source, written, oral, or electronic, you will receive an F for the assignment and further disciplinary action may be taken. Accidental plagiarism is still plagiarism and will result in the same penalties. In class, we will learn how to properly incorporate and cite outside materials into your work. CUNY’s policy on plagiarism may be viewed online: http://academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/core3/currah/acinteg.htm

Office Hours:
Office hours are a great one-on-one resource. You are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. I’m happy to provide help with any questions, difficulties you may be having with coursework, discuss your ideas, and talk about papers-in-progress, etc. If you cannot meet during scheduled office hours, please see me before/after class or email to schedule an alternate time. If you cannot make a confirmed appointment, please email me in advance.

Class Journal: Each student will maintain a journal consisting of in-class and out-of-class writing assignments. The journal may be collected at any of the class periods without advance notice, so
students should bring it with them. The grade assigned will be based on the work completed at the time of the journal being collected. The journal will count towards your participation grade.

**Exit Exam:**
At the end of the course, all students are required to take an exit exam. The exam is based on two pieces of writing: one 5- to 7-page essay distributed to students two weeks before the end of the term, and a second 1- to 2-page essay distributed along with a question on the day of the exam. Students are asked to write about the essays—specifically to summarize briefly each writer’s position, to compare the two points of view expressed, to draw on evidence from the texts to support their assertions, and to use relevant personal experience. **Students must pass the exam to pass the course.** We will have plenty of time for questions about the exam during the semester, and we will do a mock graded exit exam toward the end of the course.

**Additional Support and Resources:**
The Learning Center (1300 Boylan) is a free resource for tutoring and general advice on coursework across the curriculum. You can drop by as needed, or set up weekly appointments to meet with the same tutor (Please see me for a mandatory referral if you wish to set up regular weekly appts.). Visit the Learning Center’s website online at: http://lc.brooklyn.cuny.edu/ for more information. I urge you to take advantage of this wonderful, free program!

For academic support (reading labs, disability services, etc.) please visit www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/pub/academic_support_services.htm.

**English Composition I: ENG 1001 (B)**
**SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS**
(This schedule is subject to change based on the needs of the class)

**Week 2**
**Mon. Aug. 29:** Class cancelled due to storm
**Wed. Aug 31:** Introduction, housekeeping, in-class writing assignment and discussion

**Week 3**
**Mon. Sept. 5:** Labor Day, **No Class**
**Wed. Sept. 7:** Before class: “The Joy of Reading and Writing: Superman and Me,” Sherman Alexie
   In class: Diagnostic Essay

**Week 4**
   *Writer’s Reference*: read about pronouns pp187-197
**Wed. Sept. 14:** Before class: “Coney Island of the Mind,” Kate Roiphe (hand out)
   In class: Essay Structure

**Week 5**
**Mon. Sept. 19:** Before class: “Mother Tongue,” Amy Tan, pp 477-482
   In class: thesis statements
**Wed. Sept. 21:** **Narrative Essay First Draft Due** (bring 4 copies to class)
   In class: peer editing

**Week 6**
**Mon. Sept. 26:** Narrative Essay Due
**Wed. Sept. 28:** **No Class**

**Week 7**
**Mon. Oct. 3:** Before class: “The Case for Torture Warrants,” Alan Dershowitz, pp 686-689;
**Wed. Oct. 5:** Before class: “Torture’s Terrible Toll,” John McCain, pp 696- 701
   Read about documenting sources pp 766-769, pp 771-773
Week 8
Mon. Oct. 10: No Class

Week 9
Wed. Oct 19: First Draft Argumentative Essay Due (bring 4 copies to class)

Week 10

Week 11
Mon. Oct. 31: Argumentative Essay Due
Wed. Nov. 2: Before class: “Two Ways to Belong to America,” Bharati Mukherjee, pp 411-414

Week 12
Mon. Nov. 7: Reading TBA
Wed. Nov. 9: First Draft Comparison/Contrast Essay Due (bring 4 copies to class)
   In class: peer editing

Week 13
Mon. Nov. 14: Mid term Grammar Test
Wed. Nov. 16: Reading TBA

Week 14
Mon. Nov. 21: Comparison/Contrast Essay Due
Wed. Nov. 23: In class: Exit exam prep

Happy Thanksgiving!!!

Week 15
Mon. Nov. 28: Exit exam prep
Wed. Nov. 30: Exit exam prep

Week 16
Mon. Dec. 5: In class: Practice Exit Exam
   Comparison/Contrast essay: “Add Cake, Subtract Self-Esteem” and
Wed. Dec. 7: In class: Exit Exam prep

Week 17
Mon. Dec. 12: Last Class!!! Final exit exam prep, questions, thoughts, concerns, cookies, good-byes, good lucks, hoorays

*Thurs. Dec 15: Exit Exam: Time and Location TBA*