

English 370 Syllabus

English 370, Section 81169: English Fundamentals
Fall 2008: Tu&Th 12:30-1:45, room 736
Office Hours & Place: TBA

Instructor Dave Badtke
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➔ **Online Reference: QCounty.com (follow link to Solano College classes)**

Prerequisites: A score of 70-101 within the last three years on the sentence skills section of the assessment test; or recommendation of a counselor or English instructor based on a Multiple Measures Evaluation; or a grade of “Credit” and a score of 6 or more on the Composition Mastery Final Examination upon completion of English 305 or 350 or 355.

Visceral Course Objectives: E. M. Forster wrote, “How can I know what I think until I see what I say?” When we write to understand, we slow our thought processes down. We read, daydream, brainstorm, plan, pre-write, break to eat, talk to friends, write, edit, take some more breaks, get some exercise, and revise, repeating this process again and again until we begin to discover what we really mean to say. Becoming familiar with and comfortable with this reading, thinking and writing process while simultaneously learning how to correctly structure sentences, paragraphs and essays is what we’re going to be doing in this course. If this sounds hard, it is, but it’ll also be fun if you realize that this process is critical to your becoming a successful college student. In other words, I’m hoping this course will change the way you think and write, which will ultimately change your life.

Required Texts: 1) *40 Model Essays: A Portable Anthology* edited by Jane E. Aaron; 2) *Sentence Combining*, 2nd edition, by Pam Altman, Mari Caro, Lisa Metge-Egan, and Leslie Roberts; 3) a college-level dictionary of your choice; and 4) a green English 370 folder available at the bookstore counter. Though not a required text, you might consider purchasing the grammar handbook by Little Brown, *LB Brief*, available in the bookstore packaged with a dictionary for approximately the same price as the handbook alone.

Specific Course Objectives: This Credit / No Credit course will prepare you for English 1 by helping you become critical readers, able to understand and summarize texts, and by helping you become more well-informed and confident writers, able to communicate information clearly and persuasively with the goal of doing well on the Composition Mastery Exam, CME, administered at the end of the semester.

Ethical class behavior: In order for us to cover this material successfully, we have to engage in ethical behavior. By this I mean that in dealing with me and your classmates, treat others as ends, not as means; be happy for others when they succeed and be understanding when they struggle; be respectful of others’ beliefs, most especially when they’re different from your own; and be true to all these things even when no one is watching.

Requirements: To receive credit for this course, you must satisfactorily complete three parts: 1) receive a passing grade, 70%, in your classroom activities; 2) complete your Writing Lab assignment, which begins on 10/20 and must be completed by 12/10 though you should strive to finish before 12/5 when you’ll take the CME; 3) and receive an 8 or higher on the Composition Mastery Exam, CME, that you will take on Friday, 12/5, from 2:30 to 4:30.

I will consider the following in determining your classroom grade:

- 1) Since your on-time attendance and classroom participation are critical to your success, I will take attendance at that beginning of each class. It is imperative that you be in class ready to work with required texts, a dictionary, pencils and lined paper. If you miss two or fewer classes during the semester, there will be no effect on your grade. For every class missed beyond two, your grade for the semester will be decreased by 15%.
- 2) **50% of grade:** You will write essays of various lengths, from 250 to 1000 words (one to four pages), in which you will learn to summarize readings and will practice developmental forms such as description, definition, classification and division, examples and illustration, compare and contrast, cause and effect, process, narration and argument. Essays done as homework need to follow MLA formatting conventions and be double-spaced and typed. Each writing assignment is due on the assigned date, but if you turn your paper in on time, you will be allowed to rewrite certain papers, in which case your rewrite will be due no later than one week after your paper is returned. You will also write practice CME papers that will count as writing assignments.
- 3) **25% of grade:** The completion of your *Sentence-Combining Workbook*, a portion of which you'll do in class in groups, will give you considerable practice in writing well-structured sentences.
- 4) **25% of grade:** I will give frequent quizzes on readings, grammar and class work.

Important: One-on-one help can be the best kind of help, which is why the Writing Lab can be so beneficial if you make the experience work for you. So if you need additional assistance, come see me during office hours or make an appointment to meet with me.

Finally, will you be successful in English 370? Most students who struggle in my classes are trying to do too much because when they get up Monday morning, the week seems long enough to get everything done. Here's a quick calculation to help you determine whether you have enough time to do well in my class.

Expect to spend two hours for homework for each class unit. Also don't forget that you need to sleep, eat, spend time with friends and family, get to all the places you need to go via car or public transportation, and also that you need to exercise and waste time to preserve your mental health. Let's say this is 15 hours each day (8 for sleeping, 2 for eating, 2 for commuting, and 3 hours for other things), which leaves you with just $(24 - 15) \times 7$ hours per week = 63 hours. Now do the calculation below to see how much time you need:

Hrs of work per week = _____

Hrs in class per week = _____

Hrs of homework per week = _____ units this semester x 2 = _____

 Add these to get total hours needed for work+class+study = _____

If you need more than 60 hours, you should consider cutting back on either work or school to be successful in English 370 *and* your other courses.