

“Civic Literacy/Civic Responsibility”  
**English 110 College Composition I**  
**Section 9, 18333**

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T&Th 9.30-10.45  
115 Dolve  
Office Hours: 2-3.00 PM T&Th  
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**Objectives**

We all know that the Declaration of Independence called for “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” and that the first ten amendments to the Constitution guarantee our basic civil rights. But what do these documents mean in practice? Do they even affect our day to day lives? This course will allow you to ask and answer these questions. This course will enable you to improve your ability to write clearly for a variety of purposes and audiences, to practice effective and efficient writing strategies, to read actively and with understanding, to locate and use basic library resources, and to think critically. The subject matter of this class is

**Requirements**

We will work toward the above outcomes through a variety of interrelated tasks, including small and large group discussion, informal in-class writing, and formal papers written outside of class. Specifically, you will write five in-class “Tuesday Papers,” three formal, researched papers, and a variety of assignments to support your written work. Details of these assignments are found below.

<b>Grading</b>		<b>Scale</b>	
5 Tuesday Papers	100 points	A	100-90 %
5 Protocols	100 points	B	89-80 %
3 Definition Papers	225 points	C	79-70 %
Participation	75 points	D	69-60 %
Total	500 points		

**Texts**

*A Pocket Style Manual* Diana Hacker  
A floppy disk (bring to every class)  
A dictionary (bring to every class)

**Students with Special Needs**

Any students with disabilities or other special needs who need special accommodations in this course are asked to share these concerns with me as soon as possible.

**Academic Honesty**

I assume that all work you turn in for this course is yours, and any material that you have acquired from an outside source is documented properly. Failure to do so is considered plagiarism and will result in possible failure of the course. See NDSU University Senate Policy,

Section 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct  
<http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/policy/335.htm>.

### **Late Papers**

Late papers will lose ten points per day until they are turned in. You are responsible for turning in all work assigned in this class. Failure to do so will result in failing this class.

### **Attendance and Participation**

Important parts of the work for this course will be done in small and large groups. This means that your consistent presence is important to the success of the class as a whole. If you are unable to attend class, you must contact me via phone or email within twenty-four hours. You are still responsible for any work done or due in class that day. Similarly, you are responsible for contacting your group members if you miss a class.

Participation includes not only contributing to class discussion, it also covers prompt attendance, listening and responding constructively to your classmates, attending class prepared to discuss the readings, and bringing your books and writing material to every class meeting.

### **Paper Format**

Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are to be type-written, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, in twelve-point Times font. Your name, the date, the class, my name and the assignment are to be at the top of the first page. Don't forget to title your work. Any papers longer than one page must have page numbers and be stapled.

### **Revisions**

You are allowed and encouraged to revise any or all of your three researched papers. The revision must be comprehensive and not simply address issues of spelling, grammar, and format. If you wish to revise your paper you must meet with me to discuss the revision strategy and set up a deadline. A copy of the original paper must be handed in with the revision. The revised paper score will replace the previous score, whether or not it is higher.

## Calendar

### Part 1

- 26 August Introductions, The Bill of Rights  
28 August Thomas Jefferson, "The Declaration of Independence"  
<http://memory.loc.gov/const/declar.html>
- 2 September  
4 September Protocol 1
- 9 September Tuesday Paper 1  
11 September
- 16 September  
18 September
- 23 September  
25 September
- 30 September  
2 October

### Part 2

- 7 October John Locke, "Second Treatise on Government"  
<http://libertyonline.hypermall.com/Locke/second/second-frame.html>  
9 October
- 14 October  
16 October
- 21 October  
23 October Jean-Jacques Rousseau, "The Origin of Civil Society" Book 1  
<http://www.constitution.org/jjr/socon.htm>
- 28 October  
30 October
- 4 November  
6 November

### Part 3

- 11 November Veterans' Day, no class  
13 November Conferences

18 November

20 November Henry David Thoreau, "Civil Disobedience"

<http://www.vcu.edu/engweb/transcendentalism/authors/thoreau/civil/>

Protocol 4

25 November

27 November Thanksgiving, no class

2 December Research Day and Conferences

4 December Bibliography and outline due, bring two copies of each

9 December Peer review, bring two copies of your paper to class

11 December Last Day of Class

## **Protocols**

These are to be one to two page (300-500 word) papers that use the homework reading and your own knowledge to answer the prompt given below. Your paper should first and foremost provide your own answer to the question. This will be your thesis. The rest of the paper should use examples from the homework reading (and other readings and/or research you have done) to explain your answer.

Protocol 1 (4 September)

For Jefferson, what is the function of government?

Protocol 2 (18 October)

According to Mukherjee, what does it mean to be American?

Protocol 3 (23 October)

For Rousseau, which is preferable, the natural state or the civil state? Why?

Protocol 4 (20 November)

What are Thoreau's views on conscience?

Protocol 5 (6 December)

TBA

## **Definition Papers**

These papers will represent the most formal writing you will do in this class. You will write them in stages, beginning with the homework readings, the class discussions, and your group discussions. These papers should begin by establishing a definition for a particular concept. They should then proceed to support and illustrate that definition using a range of examples, but primarily relying on your own research. The bibliography, and quotations should be in proper MLA format.

### **Paper 1**

This paper will be your analysis of one of the first ten amendments to the Constitution. You should begin with your own interpretation of the amendment. That is, in your own words, what does the amendment do? You should then explain the historical context of the amendment. Why did the framers of the Constitution believe this right (or rights) should be explicitly described? What theories were they working with?

This paper should be three to five pages (750-1,250 words) in length and follow the format rules given in the syllabus.

### **Paper 2**

Supreme Court challenge, related to paper 1.

This paper should be three to five pages (750-1,250 words) and follow the format rules given in the syllabus.

### **Paper 3**

TBA

## **Tuesday Papers**

These papers will be written during class, in a computer-equipped classroom.

Open Microsoft Word

Open Internet Explore or Netscape Navigator

Go to the following URL: <http://www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/databases/newspapers.php>

Choose *New York Times*

On the left side of the page, click on the link Editorials/Op-Ed

In the center of the page under the heading TODAY'S EDITORIALS is a list of that day's editorials. Choose one of them and click on the link.

(At this point you may have to enter you user ID and password.)

Read the editorial you chose and in Microsoft Word provide a brief (200 word) summary and analysis (300 word) of the article. Be certain to include your name, the date, and the bibliographic information for the article.

Save your Monday Paper on your floppy disk with the following label: LastnameDate.

I will collect y our floppy disks, read your papers, respond to them and score them. I'll save the information on the disk and return it to you on Wednesday.

I have expanded the length of both the summary and the analysis. Any summary that does not use the format discussed in class will automatically get a zero. Any paper that lacks the bibliographic information will also get a zero. I am also looking for greater use of material we have discussed in class or current events. Nearly all the editorials will deal with government in some way.

## Calendar (Revised 2 October)

All readings are taken from *Our Lives, Our Worlds*, unless otherwise noted.

### Part 1 Family and Government

- 28 August Introductions  
20 August Plato, "The Allegory of the Cave"
- 2 September Labor Day no class  
4 September Thomas Jefferson, "The Declaration of Independence"  
<http://memory.loc.gov/const/declar.html>  
Protocol 1  
6 September Group Work
- 9 September Monday Paper 1 (meet in 14A & B Library)  
11 September Alice Walker, "Everyday Use"  
13 September Group Work, draft of definition
- 16 September Monday Paper 2 (meet in 14A & B Library)  
Research workshop  
*Harbrace Handbook*, pp. Chapter 6  
18 September Present definitions  
20 September Research Day
- 23 September Monday Paper 3 (meet in 14A & B Library)  
Bibliography and MLA workshop  
*Harbrace Handbook*, pp. 218-304.  
25 September Bibliography and outline due, bring two copies of each  
27 September Peer Review, bring two copies of your paper to class
- 30 September Monday Paper 4 (meet in 14A & B Library)  
2 October Paper 1 due  
4 October Free Day

### Part 2

- 7 October Monday Paper 5 (meet in 14A & B Library)  
9 October Conferences  
10 October Conferences  
11 October Conferences
- 14 October Monday Paper 6 (meet in 14A & B Library)  
16 October Bibliography and citation  
18 October Bharati Mukherjee, *American Dreamer*  
Protocol 2



- 21 October Monday Paper 7 (meet in 14A & B Library)  
 23 October Jean-Jacques Rousseau, "The Origin of Civil Society" Book 1  
<http://www.constitution.org/jjr/socon.htm>  
 Protocol 3  
 25 October Research Day
- 28 October Monday Paper 8 (meet in 14A & B Library)  
 30 October Quote, paraphrase, summary  
 1 November Bibliography and outline due, bring two copies of each
- 4 November Monday Paper 9 (meet in 14A & B Library)  
 6 November Peer Review, bring two copies of your paper to class  
 8 November Paper 2 due

### Part 3

- 11 November Veterans' Day, no class  
 13 November Conferences  
 15 November Conferences
- 18 November Monday Paper 10 (meet in 14A & B Library)  
 20 November  
 22 November Henry David Thoreau, "Civil Disobedience"  
<http://www.vcu.edu/engweb/transcendentalism/authors/thoreau/civil/>  
 Protocol 4
- 25 November Norman Podhoretz, "A Question of Class"  
 27 November Mike Rose, "I Just Wanna Be Average"  
 29 November Thanksgiving Break, no class
- 2 December Research Day and Conferences  
 4 December Bibliography and outline due, bring two copies of each  
 6 December Protocol 5
- 9 December Peer review, bring two copies of your paper to class  
 11 December  
 13 December Paper 3 due

**English 110 Autumn 2002 Revisions**

You are allowed and encouraged to revise any or all of your three researched papers. The revision must be comprehensive and not simply address issues of spelling, grammar, and format. Any comments made on the original draft must be incorporated, such as use of examples, refining and focusing thesis statements, or greater use of analysis.

A copy of the original paper must be handed in with the revision. The revised paper score will replace the previous score, whether or not it is higher.

If you wish to revise your paper, let me know and the revision will be due two weeks from that date.

No revisions will be accepted after 18 November (due 2 December).