

<b>Junior Composition &amp; Conversation</b>
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 Office: SF 228      Phone: (O) 2905-2000 ext. 3821  
 Fall 2009, Tuesday 1:40pm-3:00pm;  
                                  Friday 1:40pm-3:00pm  
 Credits: 3 credits  
 The contents of this syllabus are subject to change

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**Course Goals:**

The course in this semester enables you to:

- (1) Discuss various readings and student papers (in areas of structure and syntax, etc.).
- (2) Write and analyze various types of essays.
- (3) Start the process of writing a research paper and produce your own research outline.
- (4) Share your papers with professor and peers.

**Texts required:**

Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 1999. (There is a newer version for this handbook)

Tibbetts, Charlene, and Arn Tibbetts. Strategies: A Rhetoric and Reader with Handbook. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Longman, 1997. (handouts from this book)

Other handouts

**Grading Policy: Composition**

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|---|-----|
| 1. Attendance (see explanation below)               |     |
| 2. Papers & Revisions.....                          | 40% |
| 3. Weblog Journal/ The Right to Write activity..... | 25% |
| 4. Midterm.....                                     | 15% |
| 5. Final Exam.....                                  | 20% |

**Conversation**

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|--|-----|
| 1. Participation & Discussions/Activities..... | 40% |
| 2. Attendance (see explanation below)          |     |
| 3. Paper Presentation.....                     | 15% |

4. Social Observation Analysis & presentation..... 20%
5. Exams..... 25%

### *Grading scale*

<b>A</b>	<b>A-</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>D and Failing</b>
85 and above	84-82	81-78	77-74	73-70	69-67	66-64	63-60	59 and below

#### Important Note:

Composition is 2 credits and Conversation is 1 credit. If a student fails in either composition or conversation, he or she will have to retake the Junior CC course.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Please come to class each time and on time. This is respect to yourself and your classmates. Each unexcused absence will result a 3% deduction from the final grade. If you are or will be absent for medical or personal reasons, please inform me in advance and show evidence (e.g. medical excuse notes). According to the university regulation, more than two unexcused absences or six excused absences result a failed grade for the course. I will provide a sign-in sheet for you to sign your name. Please do not sign for other people. I will be checking the handwritings.

### **Preparation**

Please be prepared to write and participate in class. In order to achieve learning, you should be willing to go through the writing process and share with each other the drafts you have written.

### **About the Assignments**

- (1) Hand in the first draft of your writing **on time** so I could read and give feedback promptly. Points will be taken off for unexcused late papers.
- (2) The instructor reserves the rights to ask you to turn in more drafts of writing. The basic requirement is two drafts; the final drafts should have 3 to 5 double-spaced pages.  
The Research Paper outline will be written and submitted multiple times. Revise the outline after you receive feedback from the instructor.
- (3) All paper assignments should be typed out. Please follow the formats in MLA

Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. On the upper left-hand side of the first page, include your name, the section number, course number, the assignment title, and the due date. Turn in your final drafts with rough drafts.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is forbidden. You must obey the principles of academic integrity. Please respect other people's work. If you quote or refer to certain people's work, remember to give credit to the author(s). A plagiarized product will result in a 0% of your assignment.

### **Composition**

(1) Our **composition modes** include: 1. Analysis I (textual); 2. Analysis II (Timed Writing and Beyond: Writing tasks from IELTS, TOEFL); 3. Argumentation; 4. RP outline & article review.

#### **(2) “The Rights to Write” project & Journal entries (on Weblogs)**

In this semester's class, you will be writing more than just the formal papers. You will be working on “The Rights to Write” project with students of National Chung-Cheng University (see the project description below). You will contribute to the weekly topic through tandem writing of 4 entries around 60-80 words in each (2 from you and 2 from your partner). Please work on this part on YOUR PARTNER'S BLOG.

Since the postings for the projects are short, you will need to write more on your own blog (as journal entries). You will turn in 7 sets of journals this semester (two weeks per set). The total requirement for the project and the journals will be equivalent to 30 pages of 1.5 space A4 page. To fulfill this part of the journal activity grade, you will create your own Weblog to record your entries (If you already have a blog, give me the URL. Otherwise, create a new account. On the second week, we will setup the weblog account in class together.). You may also put your brainstorming and writing processes for your junior research paper outlines as part of the journals throughout the whole semester.

#### *“The Rights to Write” Project Description*

During the course of your writing skill development, you are becoming a writer who can write for different audience. It is a way to express yourself and communicate your thoughts. As claims by Professor Karen-Beth Scholthof: *“I'm not interested in exams. I don't see the sense in rote memorization. I want my students to gain confidence that they have opinions and can defend their point of view”* ; the purpose of the project is to create a safe place for you to record your thoughts and engage in

an intellectual conversation. Although English is not your first language and you are not that comfortable using it to voice yourself, you still hold the right to write.

This project is a collaborative tandem writing between the English major students at National Chung-Cheng University and Catholic Fu-Jen University. Each of you is partnered with a keypal who you have never met, so you can feel comfortable expressing yourself without social constraints: your worries, your beliefs, your doubts, your viewpoints, your growth, or your core values. You will be using blogs to share your thoughts with your faithful partner and have an in-depth discussion.

### **Conversation**

#### **(1) BBC Program/other program**

For this activity, I would like you (in groups) to pick a program to be recorded out of the BBC program site: <http://www.bbcworld.com>. We will ask the TA of LC 201 Media room to help record the program. (Or you may pick other programs if you have the source). You will need to present the issues discussed in the program and moderate discussions in the class. It would also be helpful if you chose a program which is related to your SOAP topic (In this case, you can gain different perspectives on Taiwan vs. out-of-Taiwan)

(2) The **Cross-section Social Observation Analysis Presentations (SOAP)** are on 12/1 (Tuesday) and 12/4 (Friday) this year. This activity allows you to work in a group and observe/investigate some social issues:

a) Topic due: 10/2 (Friday)

b) Proposal due: 10/23 (Friday) -- Proposal includes: title, working thesis, working hypotheses, methodologies (include background information, research resources, observation interview, and argument--but not necessarily original argument, though). Students should know some interview etiquettes beforehand.

We will form 4 groups (4-5 people) in each section and each group will give 40 minutes of presentation + 10 minutes of Q&A.

**Schedule**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Readings/Assignments</b>
1T	9/15	Introduction; Writing procedures; Free writing; about SOAP; about “The Rights to Write” project	
1F	9/18	<u>Mode</u> : Analysis I: Text analysis; Picture/ads analysis	Chp. 5 (handouts)
2T	9/22	BASRI (Basic Abilities Self-Report Instrument) activity & weblog instruction	Start Weblog Journal
2F	9/25	Hypertext Analysis	Hypertext chapter (handout)
3T	9/29	Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus	Handouts; <b>Text Analysis 1<sup>st</sup> draft due</b>
3F	10/2	Research Paper & Outlining; requirements	Chp. 5 Tibbetts; handout <b>SOA P topic due (through email);</b> <b>Weblog Journal 1 due;</b>
4T	10/6	Writing Introductions; Audience & Purpose	chp. 6 (handout); <b>RP ideas due (on Weblog)</b>
4F	10/9	More about Research paper writing; Discuss excerpts of Love & Marriage	
5T	10/13	<u>Mode</u> : Analysis II: Timed Writing and Beyond: Writing tasks from IELTs, TOEFL	In-class Timed Writing; handout (rubric)
5F	10/16	TOEFL & IELTS	<b>RP outline 1 due (print);</b> <b>Weblog Journal 2 due</b>
6T	10/20	Technical Writing; Travel & map reading	
6F	10/23	BBC program/other program issues (group discussion with Doris)	<b>SOAP proposal due</b> (through email; another teacher will give your group feedback)
7T	10/27	Work on your own comic strip! <a href="http://makebeliefscomix.com/Comix">http://makebeliefscomix.com/Comix</a>	<b>Timed analysis 2nd draft due</b>
7F	10/30	Group presentation & analysis: Presenting a BBC program/other program	<b>Weblog Journal 3 due</b>
8T	11/3	Individual conferences (tentative)	

8F	11/6	Individual conferences (tentative)	
9T	11/10 1:40-3:30pm	Midterm for composition	
9F	11/13	Midterm for conversation	
10T	11/17	Practice for 2 groups of SOAP	
10F	11/20	Practice for 2 groups of SOAP	<b>Weblog Journal 4 due</b>
11T	11/24	(No in-class activity – Doris is away for a conference) View video: <i>The Elements of Style</i> (or another video on grammar)	Write video summary and reflection
11F	11/27	<u>Mode</u> : Argumentation	Chp. 20 Tibbetts
12T	12/1	<u>Cross-section</u> Social Observation Analysis Presentation I	<b>Present your SOAP (40mins/group)</b>
12F	12/4	<u>Cross-section</u> Social Observation Analysis Presentation II	<b>Present your SOAP (40mins/group); Weblog Journal 5 due</b>
13T	12/8	Health	<b>Argumentation 1<sup>st</sup> draft due</b> Handouts
13F	12/11	National Health Insurance; Video: John Q	Handouts
14T	12/15	Group presentation: Internet argumentative papers	Assigned Internet argumentative papers
14F	12/18	Individual conferences (tentative)	<b>Weblog Journal 6 due</b>
15T	12/22	Individual conferences (tentative)	
15F	12/25	No class – Christmas	
16T	12/29	More on Research Writing (Your review of the articles of your topic)	Present your review
16F	1/1	No class – New Year	
17T	1/5	More on Research Writing (Your review of the articles of your topic)	Present your review
17F	1/8	Reflection of writings; your thoughts on “The Rights to Write” project	<b>Weblog Journal 7 due</b>
18T	1/12 1:40-3:30pm	Final Exam for Composition	<b>Review of research articles due</b>
18F	1/15	Final Exam for Conversation	<b>All drafts due</b>