

**Massasoit Community College  
Reading and Writing Seminar  
Spring 2016**

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Instructor:  
Office Hours:  
Office Phone:  
Office Location:  
E-Mail Address:

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**Welcome to Reading and Writing Seminar!** When you enrolled this semester in Engl 095 (in lieu of 092 and 099) you joined an exciting course that will integrate reading and writing at every turn. What this means is that you will learn how to write better through your reading and how to read better through your writing. This is an intensive course, and, as such, we will be reading and writing regularly.

In addition to assigned class readings, our second type of primary text will be your writing and the writing of your classmates. This is a class where your writing – and how you can continue to develop and hone your writing skills – will be taken seriously. We will therefore make use of a writing workshop on a regular basis; here, it is your writing that we will be reading, valuing and exploring. You will also, throughout the term, be responsible for reading and responding to the work of your peers in written format, and thus helping each other to write more engaging, complex, precise, and reflexive essays. This class's success depends a great deal on the community we are able to build as readers and writers who respect and are interested in carefully reading the work that individual writers are doing.

Since we need to read and write about *something*, and this provides us an opportunity to think critically about the world around us, and since thinking critically affords us the opportunity to make informed decisions about our lives, I thought we would focus on something we all have in common: food! Are we making informed, healthy choices in what we consume? So these are some of the questions we'll read, write and think about this semester. I think you will find our readings in *They Say/I Say* and in *Fast Food Nation* interesting and informative.

Read the syllabus critically. Annotate it as you would any other text. Don't be afraid to ask me any questions about the information presented here – once the syllabus is passed out you are held to its standards. Therefore, it is important that you read the next few pages thoroughly and keep them the entire semester.

Outside of my office hours, I am in and out of my office teaching and going to meetings, so emailing me is the best way to get a hold of me. If you email me, I will do my best to get back to you immediately, but please allow 24 hours for a response. Please keep this syllabus throughout the semester for your records. You may want to reference it throughout the semester to review outcomes, evaluation criteria, and other pertinent information. If you have any technical difficulties throughout the course, please contact the help desk at 508 588 9100 x 1139.

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS AND OBJECTIVES

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### Engl 095 02

This course strengthens students' reading, writing, and critical thinking skills in preparation for college-level courses. Students develop strong critical reading skills, as well as background knowledge, vocabulary, and study skills. The course involves intensive practice reading complex texts and writing essays that indicate readiness to succeed in ENGL 101 English Composition I and other college-level courses. It also includes the study of usage, mechanics, and sentence development. Credit earned in this course cannot be applied toward graduation. (This course serves as the equivalent of two courses: ENGL 092 Preparing for College Reading II and ENGL 099 Introductory Writing.)

Prerequisites: ENGL 091 Preparing for College Reading I and ENGL 102 College ESL II; waiver by placement testing results; or departmental approval.

### **Teaching Procedures:**

The class will include lecture, discussion, small group work, in class reading and writing, quizzes, peer-assessment, and self-assessment. **This is a web-enhanced course and reliable access to the internet is required.** Please note: there are computers available on campus at the library, the ARC and SC190.

### **Student Outcomes:**

If you participate fully in the learning process, by the semester's end, you should be able to:

- Read and write with greater confidence, fluency, self-awareness and skill. (as evidenced by sustained silent metacognitive log, reflections, goals and other assignments)
- Understand and apply appropriate strategies before, during and after reading. (as evidenced by SQ3R, KWL, graphic organizers and other assignments)
- Use all steps in the writing process with some independence and demonstrate an awareness of audience. (as evidenced by revised drafts, essays, revision plan, revisions checklist, and self-reflection)
- Improve academic vocabulary through connections to prior knowledge and content-area concepts. (as evidenced by concept maps, word detectives and other assignments)

- Evaluate and analyze expository texts and identify patterns of organization. (as evidenced by graphic organizers, responses to open-ended comprehension questions, essays)
- Identify reputable research sources and link research with prior knowledge. (as evidenced by essays, summaries of research, and templates)
- Write essays that have a clear beginning middle and end, contain a thesis and are organized into clear, unified paragraphs. (as evidenced by essays)
- Identify and integrate ideas and examples from texts into an essay to support a thesis. (as evidenced by essays)
- Demonstrate basic skill with standard academic English, and limit errors so they do not interfere with meaning. (as evidenced by essays)

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:**

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### **Required Materials:**

- a notebook;
- a pen or pencil;
- a USB drive for saving your work;
- a highlighter; and
- a daily planner.
- Graff, Gerald, Cathy Birkenstein, and Russel K. Durst. *"They Say/I Say": The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing, with Readings*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York: Norton. 2015. Print.
- Schlosser, Eric. *Fast Food Nation*. Barcelona: Debolsillo, 2007. Print.

### **Assignments**

#### **Papers:**

You will complete a minimum of **three sourced essays culminating in a portfolio**. The three papers will be written in multiple drafts and demonstrate your understanding of revision as well as the class readings. These essays will also demonstrate your ability to think critically about texts. Additionally, you will write a timed essay that illustrates that you are prepared for English Composition I. Finally,

you will complete a portfolio which demonstrates your writing process and your ability to reflect on your work.

Each paper must meet the following requirements to be considered complete:

- Must meet the page-length requirement.
- Your essays must be typed, double-spaced, a font of 12, and one-inch margins throughout.
- Each paper must demonstrate significant revisions. Additionally, each revised paper MUST have the former draft(s) and any peer or self-assessment forms attached behind it.
- Your timed writing must display criteria for entering English Composition I.

**Other Assignments and Exams:**

In addition to the assigned essays, you will be given other assignments and projects that are intended to help you develop your skills. You will also be taking a midterm intended to assess your writing and comprehension skills.

**Evaluation:**

Each essay will be evaluated using a rubric. A rubric is a tool that communicates the expectations and goals of the assignment by listing the standards, or what “counts,” and describing the levels to which a student met those standards, from excellent to needs improvement.

**Academic honesty** is very important in your scholastic career. All work turned in must represent your thinking and knowledge. Any evidence of plagiarism—using another author’s ideas or words without attribution or work that appears as if it had too much editing by someone other than you—will not be accepted.

**Grades:**

A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-87	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	59 and below
C	73-76		

3 Essays	30%
Midterm	20%

Portfolio	15%
Homework	25%
Participation	10%
Timed Essay	Pass

## CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE AND BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS:

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### Attendance:

Attendance is essential. After 5 absences on a MWF or 3 absences on a TR, or 2 absences in the evening you will receive a zero for participation. **You are responsible for all work assigned in the class -- regardless of whether or not you attended the class in which an assignment was given. Quizzes, exams, assignments cannot be made up, unless arrangements are made with me 24 hours prior to scheduled due date.**

### Tardiness:

It is also very important that you arrive to class on time. When you are late you miss important information, and walking in late disrupts other people's learning. Each tardy will count against your participation grade. If you arrive more than 10 minutes late, you will be marked absent. If you are consistently late, I will ask you to leave the class until you can arrive on time. Leaving early will be treated the same way as arriving late. If you do arrive late, enter the room quietly, take a seat near the door, and do not disrupt the work we are doing.

### Late Work:

Work is due when assigned. Late assignments, as a general rule, are not acceptable. If you have an emergency, please speak to me prior to the due date and seek an extension. Work that is not turned in will receive a zero, which is lower than an "F." Homework is expected to be done on time. We will often use our homework as a basis for class discussion or group work; however, unlike quizzes, the midterm and final, it can be revised. Technical difficulties are not an excuse for not handing in work. If you are having printing problems or any computer difficulties, you must sort these out prior to the day your essays and/or assignments are due! There are many computers and printers on campus that you may access: locations include the Academic Resource Center, the Student Center (SC190) and the library. Further, there is an IT helpdesk in the Technology (T) building.

### Guidelines for Submitting Work:

Your assignments should include your name, the date, the name of the assignment. They must be word processed, 12 pt font, stapled, double-spaced and on 8.5 x 11" paper.

Because most of our essays are written in three drafts, late work will be addressed as follows:

- **Draft one** will be written in class so that you get practice writing under time constraints. If you miss class, you will not get the opportunity to rehearse those skills. Of course, you will not receive any feedback either, which is intended to help you move toward a stronger second draft.

- **Draft two** must be typed and meet all the requirements of the final draft. Late work will not be read or receive feedback.
- If an emergency arises and you believe you are unable to meet the **final draft** deadline, you must **request** and **receive** an extension from me at least 24 hours before the paper is due. I will not discuss late work with you during class time, and I will not accept late papers that have not been granted an email extension—those will receive a zero.

### **School/Class Cancellations:**

To view school cancellations, visit the Massasoit website at [www.massasoit.mass.edu](http://www.massasoit.mass.edu).

Announcement will be posted on the top, left corner of the homepage. If class is cancelled due to my absence, you will receive notification via the class website and the digital message screens located in each campus building.

### **CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF DURING CLASS**

So that we can all focus on learning, cell phones and all other electronic devices must remain off throughout each class period. (Not on vibrate, not tucked in your pocket, not in your bag –off.) If you do not leave your electronics off, I will ask you to leave class and you will be counted as absent for the period. If you have an emergency situation that requires you to be accessible during a particular class, please speak with me before we begin.

### **STUDENT RESOURCES AT MASSASOIT COMMUNITY COLLEGE:**

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**Academic Resource Center (ARC):** The Writing Center provides a place where Massasoit students of all disciplines and skill levels can get feedback on writing assignments. Trained writing tutors can help with any part of the writing process including, brainstorming, idea-development, drafting, strong sentences and paragraphs, revising, and documenting sources. One-on-one writing tutorials are free for Massasoit students. Appointments do fill up, so please make an appointment by calling (508) 588-9100 x 1801, by emailing [arc@massasoit.mass.edu](mailto:arc@massasoit.mass.edu) or by visiting the Writing Center (SC building, ARC). Tutoring for this course and others is available without cost in the ARC. Please let me know if you would like to take advantage of tutoring.

### **Accommodation Statement:**

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in the classroom are encouraged to contact a Disability Counselor; Andrea Henry at x 1805, Julie McNeil-Kenerson at x 1424 or Cathy Brogna at x 1425, as soon as possible, in order to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

### **Advising Statement:**

Proper advising is crucial to your success here at Massasoit. Students are strongly encouraged to seek out their advisor and the registration procedures as advertised in the MyMassasoit portal and on the college web page. Information can also be obtained at the Advisement and Counseling Center, 508-588-9100 ext. 1461 or via email: [advisinghelp@massasoit.mass.edu](mailto:advisinghelp@massasoit.mass.edu). If I can be of any assistance, please see me. If there are any questions that I cannot answer, I will be sure to point you in the right direction.

## Canvas

Canvas is our Learning Management System and is for a variety of reasons in the classroom including, but not limited to accessing grades, homework assignments, announcements, readings, handouts, and quizzes.

### **Accessing Canvas:**

- To maximize the performance of the Canvas Learning Management System, it is recommended that you use the most recent versions of Firefox or Chrome web browsers.
- Go to the Online Learning page at the Massasoit website at [www.massasoit.edu/onlinelearning](http://www.massasoit.edu/onlinelearning)
- Click on the link to the Online Learning page listed on the left side of the screen.
- Click on the Log In To Canvas button to access Canvas.
- You may also access Canvas by clicking on its link in your Student Tab in the MyMassasoit portal. You may also want to add the link to your Favorites or bookmark it (depending on what browser you are using).
- At the login screen: Enter your username in the MyMassasoit Username field on the left. Example: jdoe (You can confirm your username on your schedule.) Enter your password in the Password field. The password is your 6-digit date of birth. Example: 091590 Click the Login button.
- If you need your password reset, contact the Student Help Desk at 508-588-9100, x 1996.
- Once you are logged into Canvas, courses may be accessed by hovering your mouse over the Courses & Groups link at the top-left of the screen and clicking on the desired course.



