Objective

To write well, one must think well—but not immediately. Through the process of writing and rewriting, one clarifies one’s observations, feelings, and ideas. Accordingly, the objective of this course is to give students the opportunity to understand, experiment and gain confidence with the writing process so that they may become good writers.

Method

Each student will write four essays for this course. While writing these essays, we will consider a variety of concerns; including grammar, mechanics, style, organization, logic, argumentation, and creativity. When a student submits an essay, I will comment on it extensively. Also, I will give the essay a provisional grade. At the end of the term (by which time we will have considered all of the material one needs to know to write a good essay), each student will resubmit all of his or her essays together in an electronic portfolio. I hope these essays will have improved since their first submission. Once I read the portfolio, I will assign it a grade. Conceivably, the portfolio grade could be lower than the average of the four provisional grades. In that case, the student would receive the average of the four provisional grades.

In addition to the portfolio, each student will receive grades on several quizzes that will focus on the student’s understanding of grammar, mechanics and other writing principles, as well as the assigned reading.

Policies

Paper Format: All essays are to be typed, double-spaced, and submitted to me as a WORD document ATTACHED to an EMAIL. If your work is not submitted to me in this format and in this manner, it will not be considered. All work must conform to the MLA’s rules for format and citation. The best online reference guide is Owl, Purdue University’s online writing lab, which can be found at https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/. We will be using the website extensively.
Late papers will not be accepted. If you fail to hand in a draft on time, you may not submit that paper in your portfolio.

Attendance: You must attend class. More than three unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your grade by at least one full step.

Tardiness: Come to class on time. Consistent tardiness will be counted as unexcused absences.

Academic Integrity: Giving the impression that someone else’s ideas or language are your own is unacceptable. If you plagiarize knowingly, you will fail this course. Furthermore, your case will be referred to the Dean of Academic Affairs with the hope that you will be expelled.

Cell Phones: Do not use cell phones in class unless you have my permission. If you use a cell phone during class without my permission, you will be counted absent for that day.

Grades

Your final grade will be based on the following percentages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tentative Schedule of Assignments and Due Dates: Readings must be completed in advance of the dates they are listed.

Aug 27
Aug 29 Just Mercy, pages 3-18, Quiz, Paper #1 Assigned

Sep 4
Sep 6 Just Mercy, pages 19-46, Quiz

Sep 11
Sep 13 Just Mercy, pages 47-91, Quiz

Sep 18 Paper #1 Due
Sep 20 Just Mercy, pages 92-126, Quiz, Paper #2 Assigned

Sep 25
Sep 27 Just Mercy, pages 127-162, Quiz

Oct 2
Oct 4 Just Mercy, pages 163-202, Quiz
Oct 9   Paper #2 Due
Oct 11  Just Mercy, pages 203-241, Quiz, Paper #3 Assigned
Oct 16  Just Mercy, pages 242-274, Quiz
Oct 18  Just Mercy, pages 275-319, Quiz

Fall Break

Nov 1   Paper #3 Due, Paper #4 Assigned
Nov 6
Nov 8
Nov 13
Nov 15

Nov 20

Thanksgiving Break

Nov 27  Paper #4 Due
Nov 29

Dec 4
Dec 6

Final Period: Portfolio Due