

Syllabus

TEXTS: Patterns of Exposition 16th, ed., Schwegler  
Steps to a Better Vocabulary (Lab Use: Level IV, V).  
Good College Dictionary.  
Example Please: A Punctuation Program (Lab Use).  
Mercury Reader (Lab Use).  
Scantrons (For Lab Tests)

OFFICE: Room 4308 Phone: (510) 659-6226 (Leave a clear message with your phone number.)

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JAN.

- 17 TH Introduction to the Course and the Writing Lab.  
Diagnostic Writing: Tell me about your out-of-school interests.  
ASSIGNMENT: Read the Lab Handbook and bring any questions you might have to class next time.  
Read: Chapter 1 in Schwegler, pp. 1–20.
- 22 T Why learn to Write Well?  
ASSIGNMENT:  
Read: “The Microscopic Eye,” handout.
- 24 TH “Microscopic Eye” Quiz. What it means to Read Well. Definition of Critical Reading.  
ASSIGNMENT:  
Read: “The War Room at Bellevue,” Simpson, pp. 439–446.
- 29 T Hogarth Etching. “Fremont” Free Writing. Discuss “The War Room.” Description.  
ASSIGNMENT: Write a single, descriptive paragraph based on the Hogarth etching.  
Due: January 31, 2002.
- 31 TH Methods of Exposition: Description (In-class exercise). Discuss Hogarth Paragraph: The General and the Specific.  
ASSIGNMENT:  
Read: “Aging in the Land of the Young,” Curtin, pp. 434–438.

FEB.

- 5 T In-class Response to the Description Readings. Unity, Coherence and Development.  
ASSIGNMENT: Sensory Monologue. Go somewhere connected with your life in “Fremont” and for fifteen minutes write down everything you see, hear, smell, taste and touch, using the first words that come to you and without concerning yourself

with grammar, style, form, and continuity. Make this a kind of recording. It will not be graded, but will be needed later.

Read: "Kids in the Mall," Kowinski, pp. 325–331.

"O Rotten Gotham," Wolfe, pp. 212–220.

- 7 TH English Composition: Writing for an Audience, (CH. 3, E 284)  
 Converting Free Writing into Shared Discourse. The Topic Sentence.  
ASSIGNMENT: Read “Marking Symbols,” handout.  
 Write an approximately 1-page paragraph describing a place in “Fremont,” with an emphasis on a single characteristic or trait. Due February 14, 2002. You must attach your Free Writing to the finished manuscript (ten points will be deducted for missing Free Writings).  
 Read: “University Days,” handout.
- 12 T Methods of Exposition: Exemplification. Discuss “University Days.”  
 Implicit Thesis Statements.  
ASSIGNMENT:  
 Read: “Why Don’t We Complain,” Buckley, pp. 61–68.
- 14 TH Discuss “Why Don’t We Complain,” and other handouts. Free Writing: Things that irritate you. Description Paragraph Due.  
ASSIGNMENT: Write an approximately 1-page paragraph which makes a general statement about “complaining” that from your own observations seems true to you. Use three examples to illustrate your generalization. Draw your examples from among the things you have observed and read about that led you to this generalization in the first place. Due February 21, 2002.  
 You must attach your Free Writing to the finished manuscript (ten points will be deducted for missing Free Writings).  
 Read: “Get hold of a Dictionary,” handout.  
 Bring your dictionary to class on February 19, 2002.
- 19 T The Dictionary Re-discovered. “Dictionary” Free Writing.  
ASSIGNMENT: Xerox any entry (over five lines long) from your dictionary and label every part to show that you understand how your dictionary works. Use your dictionary’s introduction to help you with this assignment. Due February 21, 2002.
- 21 TH Discuss Student “Description” Paragraphs. Focus on Generalization and three examples.  
ASSIGNMENT: Read “Pornography,” Atwood, pp. 638–644.
- 26 T English Composition: Writing Under Pressure, (CH. 9, E 285)  
 Complete “Writing Profile Questionnaire.”  
ASSIGNMENT:  
 Read: “The Hoax,” Berendt, pp. 374–377.
- 28 TH Discuss “Writing Profile Questionnaire,” and essays. Exemplification Paragraph Due.  
ASSIGNMENT:  
 Read: “We Build Excitement,” Twitchell, pp. 270–279.

### MARCH

- 5 T Methods of Exposition: Comparison and Contrast.  
 Compare/Contrast Free Writing.

ASSIGNMENT: Write an approximately 1 1/2-page essay comparing and contrasting topics of interest to you. You must attach your Free Writing to the finished manuscript (ten points will be deducted for missing Free Writings).  
Due March 14, 2002.

- 7 TH Discuss Essays and Handouts and Student Complaint Papers.  
ASSIGNMENT:  
Read: "Yellow Woman," Silko, pp. 645–653.
- 12 T English Composition: Computers in Composition, (CH. 11, E 287)  
Punctuation Review. Demonstration of Exercise.  
"Punctuation Exercise"  
ASSIGNMENT:  
Read: "How the Lawyers Stole Winter," Daly, pp. 593–597.
- 14 TH Comparison/Contrast Paragraph Due.  
Correct "Punctuation Exercise."  
ASSIGNMENT:  
Read: "Letter from Birmingham Jail," King, pp. 654–669.
- 18–22 SPRING BREAK. ENJOY!  
M–W
- 26 T Methods of Exposition: Analysis. Writing a clear, analytic Thesis Statement.  
Due March 28, 2002.  
ASSIGNMENT: Write an approximately 1 1/2-page analysis essay.  
Due April 9, 2002.
- 28 TH Review Student Analysis Thesis Statements and Discuss Essays.  
ASSIGNMENT:  
Read: "Model Sentences," handout.
- APRIL
- 2 T Model Sentences.  
ASSIGNMENT: Complete and correctly label four, original, model sentences.  
Due April 4, 2002.  
Read: "Why Johnny Can't Read," Lynn, pp. 598–605.
- 4 TH Reviewing Student Model Sentences.  
ASSIGNMENT:  
Read: "Lotus Blossoms Don't Bleed," Tajima, pp. 125–133.
- 9 T Analysis Essay Due. Discuss Essays.  
Classification. Classifying Friends Free Writing.  
ASSIGNMENT:  
Read: "What, me? Showing Off?" Viorst, pp. 98–104.
- 11 TH Discuss Essays.  
ASSIGNMENT: Write a 1 1/2-page essay putting your friends, relatives, or acquaintances into appropriate classifications. Due: May 2, 2002.  
Read: "Deadwood and Wordiness," handout.
- 16 T "Deadwood and Wordiness." Checking Thesis Statements for Classification Paper.  
ASSIGNMENT:  
Read: "Model Paragraph Handout."

18 TH More on Model Paragraphs.

ASSIGNMENT:

Complete and correctly label one Model Paragraph. Due April 25, 2002.

- 23 T Diction Lecture.  
ASSIGNMENT:  
 Read: “Don’t Even Think About It,” Ventura, pp. 113–124.
- 25 TH Diction. Model Paragraph Due.  
ASSIGNMENT:  
 Read: “Personal Beast,” Stone, pp. 105–112.
- 30 T Diction.  
ASSIGNMENT:  
 Read: “Once more to the Lake,” White, pp. 468–482.  
 Write a 1 1/2-page letter to someone you know. Use all the expository methods you have learned to describe your life, compare your past with your present, give examples of your failures and triumphs, analyze your most cherished ideas. Really Communicate. Consider your recipient (audience). Play with words and make your letter as entertaining as it is enlightening. Due: May 9, 2002.

MAY

- 2 TH Classification Essay Due. Diction. Letter Writing Formalities. Letter Free Writing.  
ASSIGNMENT:  
 Look up three of your favorite words in the Oxford English Dictionary (O.E.D.) and make a short report on their derivations. Due May 7, 2002.
- 7 T Diction.
- 9 TH Letter to Someone You Know Due. Diction.  
ASSIGNMENT:  
 Watch for examples of interesting diction in your language, and the language of people around you.
- 14 T Diction.  
ASSIGNMENT:  
 Bring in five, sincere, typed questions for the Wrap-up Discussion on May 16, 2002.
- 16 TH Wrap-up Discussion.  
ASSIGNMENT:  
 Study for Final Essay Exam.

17–23 FINAL EXAM WEEK.  
 F–TH

HAVE AN OUTSTANDING SUMMER VACATION!

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