Miami Dade College
Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Hialeah Campus


Instructor: Victor Calderín
Email: vcalderi@mdc.edu

Office Hours: MWF 8:15 – 9:15 AM
Office: 1320
TR 9:50 – 11:30 AM
Telephone: 305-237-8839

Faculty Webpage: http://faculty.mdc.edu/vcalderi

Required Materials:
Course Textbooks:
- A Writer’s Resource + Catalyst
  Elaine P. Maimon
- Living Literature
  John C. Brereton

Course Requirements:
- 3 typed 5-7 paragraph essays based on class readings
- One 8-10 page research paper on an issue (Grade based on research, note-cards, outline, final draft, and works citation)
- In-class writing and grammar assignments
- Oral presentation (3-5 minutes)
- Quizzes on class readings
- Participation and Attendance
- Service Learning Activity

Course Description:
This course is a required general education course in college-level writing. Students will focus on composing informative and persuasive essays, writing responses to a variety of literary genres and/or non-fiction, and producing a document paper based on research, as well as observing the conventions of standard edited American English. The course fulfills the Gordon Rule requirement. Note: Must be completed with a grade of “C” or better.

For further information, go to: http://www.mdc.edu/wolfson/academic/ArtsLetters/english/courses.asp

Gordon Rule Criteria for “college-level writing”
The writing will:
- have a clearly defined central idea or thesis;
- provide adequate support for that idea;
- be organized clearly and logically;
- utilize the conventions of standard edited American English;
- be presented in a format appropriate to the assignment.

Writing assignments will be graded using a rubric based on these criteria.
Course Competencies

- **Competency 1**
  The student will compose essays that explain an idea, belief or attitude

- **Competency 2**
  The student will present writing that seeks to persuade an audience to accept a belief, attitude, value, or course of action

- **Competency 3**
  The student will write responses to a variety of literary genres and/or fiction

- **Competency 4**
  The student will write a documented research paper

**Attendance Policy:**
Since attendance is a crucial part to succeeding in this course, attendance is mandatory. If you are absent more than three times in the semester, you will not meet the attendance requirement and may be withdrawn from the roll. If you are tardy or leave class early by 5 minutes, it will be recorded. Two instances of tardiness or early departure will be equivalent to one absence. Students who do not meet the attendance requirement are recommended to withdraw from the class or may be withdrawn from the class by the instructor.

You must obtain a classmate’s home / cell phone number or e-mail in case that you are absent and need to find out what you missed in class. If there are outstanding circumstances affecting your attendance, please feel free to meet with me and discuss them. I will only allow make-up work if the student has an excusable absence.

**Homework Policy:**
No late homework will be accepted unless the student has discussed his/her situation with the instructor prior to the due date.

**Plagiarism:**
Plagiarism is the intention use of another person’s work as one’s own. It is academically and intellectually dishonest and unacceptable in academia. Any student who plagiarizes an assignment will receive a 0 for that assignment and may be subject to procedural due process. Please refer to your Student’s Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.

**Grading Policy:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essays</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Report</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Learning</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-line Journal</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Score</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>