

Fall 2026 ~ Writ 101

College Writing Dual Credit

Mrs. Preshinger – rm. 27



Congratulations on taking the first step in earning dual credit and embarking on this worthwhile journey. I am excited you have signed up for the challenge and reward of Writ 101. This course provides experience in written expression of ideas in expository prose with emphasis on the development of ideas, awareness of audience, and clarity. The course focuses on the writing process, patterns of writing, development of ideas, precise expression, critical thinking, and research skills. My ultimate goal is for you to become competent and confident writers. This requires PRACTICE. You will be expected to write daily and produce polished/published pieces monthly.

Course Objectives:

- (1) Use writing as a means to engage in critical inquiry by exploring ideas, challenging assumptions, and reflection on and applying the writing process.
- (2) Read texts thoughtfully, analytically, and critically in preparation for writing tasks.
- (3) Develop multiple, flexible strategies for writing, particularly inventing, organizing, drafting, revising, and copyediting.
- (4) Demonstrate an understanding of research as a process of gathering, evaluating, analyzing, and synthesizing appropriate primary and secondary sources. Integrate their own ideas with those of others.
- (5) Formulate an assertion about a given issue and support that assertion with evidence appropriate to the issue, position taken, and given audience.
- (6) Demonstrate proficiency in the use of the conventions of language and forms of discourse, including grammar, syntax, punctuation, spelling, and mechanics.
- (7) Use conventions of format and structure appropriate to the rhetorical situation and audience.

Summer Reading Assignment: *Memoir Reading, Strategic Reading and Analysis*

Choose one of the memoirs (read the attached summaries) to read this summer. Complete the summer annotation assignment (attached) we went over at our meeting. Be prepared to discuss the presented events, elements and themes upon your return to class in the fall. There are copies of *each memoir option* in the main office. These are available on a first come-first serve basis. You are expected to complete the reading **and** the attached **strategic reading assignment** prior to the first full week of the semester. The memoir you select will serve as the foundation to our memoir unit as we dig into the elements of the writing process. These memoirs also serve as the mentor texts in authoring your own personal narrative for the first writing project in September.

I am looking forward to writing with you this fall!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Preshinger



Memoir options:

***The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls**

Jeannette Walls grew up impoverished and neglected with two deeply dysfunctional parents—her father was an often-unemployed alcoholic with pipe dreams of building his dream house, a glass castle, and her mother was a self-described “excitement addict” more concerned with her artwork than providing food for her children. Walls’s is a story not just of rising above and breaking the cycle but also of unconditional love for her family despite their flaws.

***Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom**

Mitch Albom reconnects with his college professor from nearly twenty years ago.

In the last months of the older man's life, Albom commits to learning everything he can from his former mentor. Knowing he was dying of ALS - or motor neuron disease - Mitch visited Morrie in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turned into one final 'class': lessons in how to live.

***The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row* by Anthony Ray Hinton**

In 1985, Anthony Ray Hinton was arrested and charged with two counts of capital murder in Alabama. Stunned, confused, and only twenty-nine years old, Hinton knew that it was a case of mistaken identity and believed that the truth would prove his innocence and ultimately set him free. A powerful, revealing story of hope, love, justice, and the power of reading by a man who spent thirty years on death row for a crime he didn't commit.

***Educated* by Tara Westover**

Tara Westover was 17 the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills bag". *Educated* is an account of the struggle for self-invention. It is a tale of fierce family loyalty and of the grief that comes with severing the closest of ties. With the acute insight that distinguishes all great writers, Westover has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education is and what it offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes and the will to change it.

***The Soloist* by Steve Lopez**

Journalist Steve Lopez discovered Nathaniel Ayers, a gifted violinist and former Julliard student, The novel follows his struggles with schizophrenia, and the factors that led to his homelessness in Los Angeles, circumstances that prompted their friendship and the author's efforts to improve the musician's life in spite of numerous setbacks.. Deeply affected by the beauty of Ayers’s music, Lopez took it upon himself to change the prodigy's life—only to find that their relationship would have a profound change on his own.

***Open: an autobiography* by Andre Agassi**

Andre Agassi had his life mapped out for him before he left the crib. Groomed to be a tennis champion by his moody and demanding father, by the age of twenty-two Agassi had won the first of his eight grand

slams and achieved wealth, celebrity, and the game's highest honors. But as he reveals in this searching autobiography, off the court he was often unhappy and confused, unfulfilled by his great achievements in a sport he had come to resent. Agassi writes candidly about his early success and his uncomfortable relationship with fame, his marriage to Brooke Shields, his growing interest in philanthropy, and—described in haunting, point-by-point detail—the highs and lows of his celebrated career.