Syllabus for Advanced Rhetoric  
English 4326 and MLENG 6326

Dr. McNally  
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Office hours: 12:30 – 1:30 Monday – Thursday  
(713) 525-3172

Class name: English 4326-N  
Turnitin password: writing
Turnitin ID number: 10027170

Class name: MLENG 6326-N  
Turnitin ID number: 10027176

This course in advanced rhetoric offers students a chance to improve their writing ability by acquiring more practice, which is the key to learning to write. Students will write five essays which explore the personal sides of the writer’s life, although one of them will be a review of some product or form of entertainment. The purpose of writing these essays will be to bring out the writer’s observations about situations that were personally important to the writer. The writer can explore his or her thoughts about a situation and concentrate on making one aspect of that situation very important and vivid to the reader.

Each essay should be submitted to the class account on Turnitin, and each essay will be worth 15% of the final grade. The final exam will be worth 15% of the final grade, and class attendance and participation will be worth 10%. Students should come on time to class, and I will not mark as present a student who arrives thirty minutes late or later. If a student consistently has a problem with arriving on time, I will have to confer with that student because I will allow only two absences in this very brief course.

Because each class period lasts four hours, I will cover various aspects of writing during each period. We will devote an hour or so to the mechanics of writing as presented in *The Oxford Essential Guide To Writing*, and then we will discuss William Zinsser’s observations about non-fiction prose in *On Writing Well*. In the last part of each period, we will discuss essays in *The Art of the Personal Essay*, and students might adapt methods and techniques used by essayists in writing their own essays.

Essays written by students will be judged by accuracy in grammar and punctuation, clarity and imagination in style, and the thoroughness and effectiveness of the essay. It will be best for the student to concentrate on a single aspect of a topic or situation in order to make that subject or situation very comprehensible to the reader. Each essay should be about 1,000 words long and does not have to contain quotations from research sources unless the student
wants to include research and quotations from outside sources. A student may use any citation method that is familiar and comfortable to the student.

My hope is that students will learn a great deal about writing in a short time during this course. I will be happy to meet students after class to talk about assignment, or possibly we might have to meet individually during the class period.

Letter grades for numerically-graded tests will be assigned according to the following arrangement:

95-100 = A  
92-94 = A-  
87-91 = B+  
83-86 = B  
80-82 = B-  
76-79 = C+  
73-75 = C  
70-72 = C-  
66-69 = D+  
63-65 = D  
60-62 = D-  
Less than 60 = F

May  
On Writing Well, chapters 1-6.  

On Writing Well, chapters 7-10.  
The Personal Essay, pp. 269-302.  
Essay no. 1 due on May 29 at 6 p.m.

June  
2 - Oxford Essential Guide, part V.  
On Writing Well, chapters 7-10  
The Personal Essay, pp. 432-52.

4 - Oxford Essential Guide, part V.  
On Writing Well, chapters 14-16.  
The Personal Essay, pp. 480-504.  
Essay no. 2 due on June 5.

On Writing Well, chapters 17-19.  

On Writing Well, chapters 20-22.  
The Personal Essay, pp. 520-44.  
Essay no. 3 due on June 12.

16 - Oxford Essential Guide, part II.  
On Writing Well, chapters 23-25.  
The Personal Essay, pp. 587-604.
18 - Oxford Essential Guide, part II.
   Essay no. 4 due on June 19.


25 - Last class. Final exam.
   Essay no. 5 due on June 6.