

Introductory English

Nature and Purpose of the Course

Knowing how to write and express oneself well has never been more important. Our world is awash with words-words in letters, books, newspapers, magazines, reports, and memos-filling the minds of readers with a myriad of ideas. Even as we embark into cyberspace words are important, for they communicate to an even wider audience. We cannot ignore the power of words, nor the effect of an idea well-expressed or a story well-told. Therefore, it behooves each of us to learn to express ourselves to the best of our ability. While this course is only an introduction to the structure and usage of the English language, it can provide a basis for the further development of your writing skills. In turn, you may experience a greater capacity to articulate your message before others.

This course is a three-semester-hour, college-level study on the basics of writing and English grammar. The course includes an introduction to paragraph construction, short essays, the parts of speech, and spelling rules. You will also read various types of essays and a novel to acquaint you with examples of well-constructed writing. On completion of the course, you should be able to

- identify the parts of speech.
- construct an organized paragraph.
- write a short, ordered essay.
- revise your own work by applying the knowledge gathered from this course.
- apply the rules of spelling when necessary.
- convey your understanding of the assigned pieces of literature.

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The Text Book



The following are the required textbooks for this course. You should be able to purchase these books from a local bookstore, an online book store such as [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or [Borders.com](https://www.borders.com).

- Fawcett, Susan, and Alvin Sandberg. *Evergreen with Readings: A Guide to Writing*. 5th ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1996. ISBN # 0-395-76024-0
- Paton, Alan. *Cry, the Beloved Country*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1948. ISBN # 0-684-81894-9

Specific instructions on the reading assignments from the text are found in the Introduction for each lesson. In order to gain the most benefit from this course, you should read the assignment in the text, then read through the Supplement for that lesson.

Course Requirements

Paper

Book Report

Read *Cry, the Beloved Country*. After doing so, you will be ready to write a book report.

Your report should include the following:

- A summary of the author's life, not to exceed more than half of a typewritten page.
- A summary of the story, not to exceed more than two typewritten pages. Ì
- Your evaluation of the story, not to be less than one typewritten page. Your evaluation should include a discussion of the story's theme, or "message," and your assessment of the book. You must clearly illustrate your discussion with examples from the book itself. Generalizations without proper examples given to support your opinions are not acceptable.

Refer to the Book Report Form found in the course site for the correct format.

Reading

You will be required to read the study guide, as well as the textbook and the novel. Your comprehension of this material will be reflected by the exams. The Self-Check Tests will refer to material in both the study guide and the textbook, and thus help you prepare for the exams.

Threaded Discussions

The Threaded Discussion portion of this course will enable you to interact and dialogue in a collaborative setting with the instructor and your classmates. Each week your instructor will post a discussion topic or question. Usually these topics or questions will be taken directly from the Review or Study questions in the lesson. You will be required to post a response by the given deadline. Your responses will be evaluated based on the specifications your instructor posts with each new question. Some responses will be evaluated based on their length, others on the number of resources referred to and others on the quality of their content. Each response should be well thought out and contain no spelling or grammatical errors. You will also be required to read the responses of your "classmates" and respond.

The Exams

Each of the four exams for this course consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions, true/false questions, and fill-in-the-blank statements as required by the subject matter covered in each lesson. You will also be required to write a short essay as part of each exam; a sample of the essay format you must follow can be found in the Appendix folder of the course site.