English 101

Professor: S. A. Eisenstein, PhD, MFC. Office: JH302F. Office hours daily 8:15-9, Th also 12-1:45.

Texts: to be arranged
  collegiate dictionary—not a paperback but full-sized

Student Learning Outcomes: Much practice in the writing of essays with information derived from texts.
  Increased ability to detect personal diction, grammar and punctuation errors.
  Ability to compare and contrast written materials.
  Conscious seeking for important issues of the day.

If the student has successfully completed the equivalent of English 28, he or she can be expected to have mastered common accurate English. This class will not repeat simple grammatical rules. The emphasis will be on accurate reading and response to a variety of inputs—from newspapers, texts and instructor assignments.

For each class period the student will have located an essay in a newspaper or magazine or other source, find its thesis (always a single sentence), not always stated, underline it, include it in a folded sheet or sheets containing the student essay response, also with thesis underlined. Included in this assignment will be three previously unknown words, their definitions, and a sentence for each. Repeat: this is an assignment due at the beginning of every class period.

All assignments are to be folded the long way, (8 1/2x11 size) with the heading: Your last name, first name, printed, English 101, the section number, the full date (no abbreviations), the exact title of the assignment, all done in INK. The paper should open to the first page, as in a book.

Two book reviews: on any subject, but the second one should be on the subject of the term paper—whose subject must be a topic of national or world-wide importance.

Term Paper: With pro and con discussion of the topic by recognized sources, along with perspective, always difficult. Chicken Little couldn’t imagine rain, so he thought the sky was falling. Perspective would have taught him differently. Do not choose the hot-ticket items—immigration, drugs, abortion—as you don’t have any new observations on these topics. Your TP must include footnotes and a bibliography.

Your papers will be returned with mistakes circled, sometimes with comments. The diligent student will correct his errors and grow more competent. The careless student will repeat his errors because he doesn’t correct them.

All quizzes and tests will be open-book.

The final exam will take in all aspects of the texts. Bring a large-format blue book.