

Writing for the Regents' Test
Fall 2009
Classroom J 133

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Effective fall semester, 2008, **ALL** students who have not satisfied Regents' Writing and Reading Skills Requirements **MUST** take the Regents' Test **EVERY** semester they enroll in classes until they satisfy the Regents' requirements. This includes all freshmen, all transfer students, and anyone else who has not previously satisfied Regents' requirements. No longer does the number of semester course hours determine when to take that Regents' test or when a student has to enroll in remediation classes. Mandatory enrollment in remediation classes and/or workshops will be determined by the number of times a student fails the tests.

Students who enroll in Regents' classes must meet all class requirements in order to receive an exam ticket. Students without a ticket will not be permitted to take the exam.

Students can register now for the Regents' tests in BANNER just like they would register for a course. Students who have not met the Regents' requirements and fail to register for the required test(s) will be assigned a testing date (which they will have the opportunity to change if necessary). **Not taking the test on the assigned day/time will count as a test failure.** Non-native speakers of English must apply in the ATTIC and be approved for testing in order to sign up for the ESL version of the test.

These new policies are being instituted across the University System of Georgia. Information about the Regents' test, including exemption criteria, may be found at

- The Regents web page: (<http://www.gsu.edu/rtp>),
- The SPSU Registrar's web page: (<http://www.spsu.edu/registrar/registration.html>), and
- The ATTIC web page: (<http://www.spsu.edu/home/services/attic.html>).

Texts: (recommended)

A thorough, updated dictionary

English Composition departmental website:

www.spsu.edu/htc/Composition/index.htm

This website provides you with student resources that will help you with your writing, help to prepare you for the Regents' exam, learn more about the composition courses, etc.

Regents' Testing Website: www.gsu.edu/wwwrtp

Course Materials:

- Folder and loose-leaf paper for writing activities
- A copy of your most recent Regents' exam(s) – *You may get this from Jon Lindsay in the ATTIC (R1-101)*

Course Objectives:

- TO PASS THE REGENTS' WRITING EXAM ON YOUR NEXT ATTEMPT!
- To examine several styles of Regents' Writing exams and understand the justification for grading
- To use class assignments and discussions to develop writing skills that will help you pass the Regents' Writing exam.
- To become more proficient at the reviewing and revising process.
- To work in areas of grammar that may be giving you trouble.

Regents' Writing Prep (RGTE/0199) Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

- Examine several styles of writing with a focus on writing that may help students pass the exam.
- Examine examples of Regents' Writing exams and understand the justification for grading.
- Become more proficient at reviewing and revising their own essays as well as the essays of others.
- Practice taking sample Regents' Writing exams in order to work on composition skills and timing.

Course Requirements:

In this class, we will focus on practicing the components of essay writing and exploring several essay styles. We will keep all writing assignments and handouts organized in a portfolio. The portfolio will help you to review and learn from the writing process. I will ask you to reflect on that process in order to set goals for the course.

Peer revision will be an important part of the class. We will be working in small groups or in pairs to discuss ways to develop your writing and expand your ideas. The more effort you put into these discussions, the more you will benefit.

Grammar will be integrated into the course as well. We will spend some class time on grammar, but the majority of the text book work will be completed individually. Please inform me of any grammar areas you wish to incorporate into the course. It is important to learn to recognize and improve any weaknesses, as many students fail due to incorrect grammar usage.

ESL students will be given an extra handout on specific ESL pointers. This will be included as a chapter in your portfolio.

Class participation is crucial to success. I will expect you to keep up with the assignments, and to participate fully in class activities. Students will be expected to take ownership of their own learning. Your participation will reflect your satisfaction, and a good faith effort should be attempted.

Conference time will be an integral component of the course. You will be required to attend scheduled writing conferences with the instructor. Conference frequency will be scheduled with the instructor on an as-needed basis.

Attendance:

Attendance is expected at every class, as the course is relatively short in duration. If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting the material you missed as well as the assignment for the next class. Therefore, you should exchange contact information with at least two other students.

You are permitted to have three absences. If you do not attend class after three absences, I will assume you have dropped the course. If you accumulate more than three absences, you will not be permitted to write the Regents' exam.

Please note that tardiness is not acceptable. Two tardies will count as one absence.

Plagiarism:

According to the general English syllabus, plagiarism is "the intentional or unintentional representation of another person's ideas or writings as one's own. This includes sources taken off the Internet." Plagiarism could result in failure of the portfolio or the course.

ATTIC:

The ATTIC (formerly known as the Learning Resource Center {LRC}) is located in the east end of the basement of the Howell Hall Dormitory, Bldg R1. If you are having trouble with writing, please take advantage of this resource. Every bit of extra work you do is to your benefit.

Course Grades:

Students enrolled in this course must pass the corresponding Regents' Exam in order to receive a passing grade for the course. Students not passing the course receive a "U" and those passing receive a grade of "S."

Disabilities Statement: Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to discuss them with the teacher or contact the counselor working with disabilities at 770-528-7361. Please do this as soon as possible to better insure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Please turn off all cell phones and pagers prior to entering the classroom.

