

EngCmp 0006  
Tues & Thurs 12:30 – 1:50, Biddle 248  
Catherine S. Cox, PhD  
Spring Term 2018

## Course Syllabus: Composition 2

**Objectives:** EngCmp 0006, the second course of UPJ's standard two-course composition sequence, is designed for students of all majors and is intended to help students further build core academic skills: close reading, critical thinking, clear and coherent expression, attentive assessment and incorporation of evidence, accurate documentation, and rhetorically sound writing in various modes. These skills are necessary for success both in completing college curricula and in entering professional careers of choice. Enrollment in EngCmp 0006 presupposes a facility with standard written and spoken English appropriate for freshman-level college work; in addition, you should have, or be willing to develop, an active and open-minded interest in academic preparation and collegial interaction appropriate for the level and scope of the course.

**Format and Requirements:** The course's primary emphasis will be on helping you to become a more effective communicator in writing, developing ideas and expressing them in clear and correct prose, with appropriate incorporation of evidence and skillful implementation of rhetorical strategies. Related, you will become a more savvy and attentive reader of texts in all forms. For organizational purposes, the material and assignments will build sequentially: there will be four in-class writing exercises across the semester, based on assigned course readings and class discussion, and four longer out-of-class essay assignments (ranging from 2-3 pages up to 5-6 pages) plus a revision opportunity on the last one; there will also be a capstone in-class writing assignment that helps you pull together the various facets of learning from across the course (in lieu of a final exam). Specific requirements and grading criteria for formal assignments will be clearly outlined and distributed at the time each assignment is made. Class activities are germane to the development of composition skills, to complement your out-of-class work, and include lecture, discussion of assigned readings, in-class writing, bibliography/assessment exercises, and consultation.

**Materials Needed:** *The Writer's FAQs*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition (ISBN 978-0-13-413305-8) is the handbook used by all EngCmp sections at UPJ. We will also be using *Touchstone Anthology of Contemporary Creative Nonfiction* (ISBN 978-1-4165-3174-6), a collection of essays that complements our writing instruction. Books are available at the UPJ Campus Bookstore but may be purchased elsewhere, including online vendors of your choice. You will also need basic supplies: to take notes during class, to provide handwritten responses to in-class exercises, and to prepare out-of-class assignments as directed. Be sure to activate your Pitt email if you haven't yet, to receive batch messages and reminders.

**Attendance Policy:** Class attendance is recommended. You are responsible for all scheduled activities, exercises, collected work, and formal papers as assigned, regardless of your individual attendance; unexcused late work will not be accepted. Students attending are reminded that class activities are more enjoyable and productive for everyone involved when standard classroom decorum and etiquette are observed; we'll strive for a respectful and inclusive classroom environment. Cell phones and other unapproved electronic devices must be turned off and stored out of sight during class hour.

**University Policies:** All UPJ courses, including this one, are governed by the University's published academic and campus-life policies for students and instructors, including disability and student-support services and academic-integrity guidelines, which are available online at <<http://www.bulletins.pitt.edu/johnstown/index.html>>. Students who wish to request disability accommodations are urged to contact the Office of Health & Counseling Services, G-10 Student Union Building, 814.269-7119, as early as possible in the term; for other services, contact the Academic Success Center, G-16 Owen Library, 814.269-7998. I will be glad to discuss any of these policies and services with you at your request.

**Grade Information:** Your final grade will be determined by the average of your six earned letter grades (one for each of the four out-of-class paper assignments; one for the averaged four in-class exercises; one for the capstone in-class assignment). UPJ uses the standard four-point scale of minimum average for letter grades. I do not curve class grades to meet any predetermined range or offer formal extra credit assignments (which is unfair to classmates), but I do take into account effort, attitude, participation, and improvement on an individual basis, which can enhance your final grade.

**Office Hours:** Office hours will be held for interested students on Tues & Thurs 3:30 - 4:30; additional hours, by appointment, can be arranged. My office is at 227 Biddle Hall; mailbox 233 Biddle; telephone 269-7163; e-mail, [cscox@pitt.edu](mailto:cscox@pitt.edu)

### UPDATED Class Schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class Topic/Activity</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
T 1/9	Introduction to course	
H 1/11	Paper #1 assigned: short argument	

UPDATED Class Schedule, cont'd –

T 1/16	Readings TBA: class analysis & discussion	
H 1/18	In-class critical writing exercise	CRIT #1 DUE
T 1/23	Confer on paper assignment work in progress (optional)	
H 1/25	Paper #2 assigned: incorporating evidence, popular sources	PAPER #1 DUE
T 1/30	Readings TBA; class analysis & discussion	
H 2/1	Readings TBA: class analysis & discussion	
T 2/6	In-class critical writing exercise	CRIT #2 DUE
H 2/8	Confer on paper assignment work in progress (optional)	
T 2/13	Confer on paper assignment work in progress (optional)	
H 2/15	Paper #3 assigned: incorporating evidence, scholarly sources	PAPER #2 DUE
T 2/20	Readings TBA: class analysis & discussion	
H 2/22	Readings TBA: class analysis & discussion	
T 2/27	In-class critical writing exercise	CRIT #3 DUE
H 2/29	Confer on paper assignment work in progress (optional)	
T 3/6	UPJ Holiday – Spring Break	
H 3/8	UPJ Holiday – Spring Break	
T 3/13	Confer on paper assignment work in progress (optional)	
H 3/15	Paper #4 assigned: varied evidence, full documentation MLA	PAPER #3 DUE
T 3/20	Readings TBA; class analysis & discussion	
H 3/22	Readings TBA: class analysis & discussion	
T 3/27	In-class critical writing exercise	CRIT #4 DUE
H 3/29	Confer on paper assignment work in progress (required, by appointment)	
T 4/3	Confer on paper assignment work in progress (required, by appointment)	
H 4/5	Revision exercise; revision option assigned	PAPER #4 DUE
T 4/10	Graded Paper #4 returned; confer on revision work (optional)	
H 4/12	Confer on revision work (optional)	
T 4/17	In-class capstone writing assignment	CAPSTONE CRIT DUE
H 4/19	EngCmp 0006 concludes	Revisions to Paper #4 DUE

**Note:** EngCmp 0006 is not a difficult course. It will, however, require a commitment of time and effort on your part and a willingness to think and learn, open to new ideas and fresh perspectives both in and out of the classroom setting. If you give the course the time and effort that it deserves, you will surely find the course interesting, challenging, and rewarding. So come to class and come prepared; do the work asked of you and do it with attentiveness and enthusiasm; think outside the box, ask and answer tough questions, challenge yourself – choose to invest in your own personal and academic success!