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## **Space on Earth A Learning Community**

Fall 2007

English Composition I and Basic Algebra II  
ENG101D-HLC (7965) and MAT022D-HLC (7966)

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"Space on Earth" is a learning community linking Composition I and Basic Algebra II. (A learning community consists of the same group of students taking the same courses with the same instructors). In this learning community, we will explore our relationship with the natural world, and take a constructive approach to today's environmental issues. Writing and math instruction will be interrelated throughout the semester as we address this theme.

While the curricular goals for Comp I and Basic Algebra II will be the same as in other sections, our approach to skill building will be different in two important respects. First, skills work will be theme-related as much as possible. Second, math, writing and study skills instruction will be interrelated as much as possible.

Because "Space on Earth" is a learning community, a cooperative approach to learning will be practiced throughout the semester. This means that you will be participating in collaborative learning activities during and possibly outside of our scheduled class hours. It also means that we will all support each other's efforts to learn and improve throughout the semester in whatever ways we can.

As your instructors in a learning community, our teaching methods will also be somewhat different from our teaching methods in stand-alone classes. We will be actively present in each other's classes. Neither of us are experts on our theme, so we will be learning along with you. We will serve as models and learning facilitators as much as instructional leaders.

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### **Instructors:**

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## **Course Descriptions:**

**Composition I:** This course is part of a learning community & must be taken with MAT022D-HLC (Basic Algebra II). A required course to develop clear, effective writing. Students will demonstrate their competence through a variety of writing assignments including essays and a research paper. 3. Credit Hours Corequisites: MAT022D Prerequisites/General Requirements: Basic Reading proficiency and Basic Writing Proficiency

## **Basic Algebra II**

### **Required Texts - All texts will be packaged together to include the following:**

Faigley, Lester. *Writing: A Guide for College and Beyond*, Brief Edition. New York: Pearson Longman, 2007.

Hallowell, Christopher and Walter Levy. *Listening to Earth*. New York: Pearson Longman, 2005.

**Teaching Procedures:** This class will include lectures, discussions, workshops, collaborative learning activities, and student presentations; student involvement is essential.

**Learning Community Objectives:** Basic Algebra II and Composition I each have a set of learning objectives, but we believe that by combining the courses we can fulfill some objectives that are unlikely to be met in stand-alone classes. The learning community that you have joined is larger than the sum of its parts. By semester's end, you will have:

1. Observed and participated in a model of scholarly discourse, engaging in discussion with your classmates and two instructors.
2. Practiced the rigorous critical evaluation of information in both math and writing in a unified and coordinated context.
3. Observed and reflected on the interrelationships of math and writing.
4. Become a more effective learner with the ability to apply math, writing and critical thinking skills to a variety of tasks.
5. Improved your teamwork and collaborative learning skills.

**Composition I Objectives.** Students will develop the following skills:

Practice the steps of writing process--brainstorm, prewrite, compose a draft, revise and edit.  
Learn a variety of creative strategies to discover ideas and compose essays--visualizing, mind-mapping, freewriting, focusing, inquiring, and drawing the concept.  
Practice composing essays in several rhetorical modes.  
Reflect on their individual writing process as well as their academic experience.  
Learn to identify and self-correct mechanical errors in writing.  
Document using the Modern Language Association (MLA) method.  
Practice all the skills to complete a research paper.  
Use a reading response journal to answer directed questions about the text.

## A. Basic Algebra II Objectives:

**Journals:** Each week you will be given assignments to be written in an environmental journal, to reflect your thoughts and feelings about the issues we address. You will receive credit for both math and English for your journal assignments. Your journal assignments will provide a framework from which to observe and comment on how environmental issues impact your own life and experiences.

**Attendance:** Attendance is critical to your success in this learning community. You may miss no more than three hours of each class. You may be dropped from both courses for excessive absence in either one. If you are forced to be absent, contact us or a classmate to learn what you missed in class and what assignments are due upon your return. It is also important that you arrive to class on time each morning. Please set your alarms accordingly.

**NOTE: Please turn off all beepers, pagers, cell phones or other noise-making electronic devices during class.**

**Grading:** You will receive separate grades for Composition I and Basic Algebra II.

Some elements of your grades will be common to both courses. These include attendance and participation, assignments from the textbook, journals, and individual and group assignments that involve both reading and writing.

### **Composition I**

60% Four major essays, Final essay exam

20% Research Paper

15% Journals, Peer responses, in-class writing exercises (points for quantity and quality)

5% Class attendance and participation

100%

**Criteria for Grading.** All papers will be evaluated for:

1. Meaning
2. Structure and Organization
3. Coherence and Unity
4. Point of View and Tone
5. Mechanics

### **Other comments about writing:**

- a. Writing is a complex process. During each round of revision your instructor and/or tutors at the writing lab may pay attention to one or two parts of the process. Expect to revise at least two or three times before completion.
- b. Expect to be working on some phase of the writing process for each class period either in a reading journal or a revision of a paper in process.

- c. All final papers must be typed, double-spaced according to MLA format. If you have access to a computer, we highly recommend you use it. It saves time.
- d. Occasionally you will be asked to photocopy your rough draft or peer editing assignments.

### **Basic Algebra II:**

**Plagiarism:** to plagiarize is to steal someone else's writing or ideas and claim them for your own. We will not tolerate plagiarism in our classes.

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## **HELP**

The NECC reading and writing faculty and staff would like you to have a successful semester. Help is always available. Here's how to get help and have your questions answered:

1. Consult with your instructors. Use the phone numbers or e-mail addresses on the syllabus to reach us, or come by our office to talk.
2. Visit the Math Center. The Math Center is open throughout the day, Monday through Friday, in Haverhill and Lawrence. Both labs also have evening hours. Please retain the schedule of open lab hours. You can receive help from the lab staff with assignments or test preparation.
3. Visit the Writing Center. If you need extra help with writing assignments at a time when your instructors are not available, you can receive tutoring from the Writing Center on both campuses during scheduled day and evening hours.
4. Register with the Learning Accommodations Center. If you need accommodations due to a physical disability or learning disability, contact the staff of the college's Learning Accommodations Center. The LAC is located on the first floor of the student center (X3654).