ENGLISH 1101: COMPOSITION AND RHETORIC

PREREQUISITIES
Each student must attain at least one of the following prior to enrolling: (a) a score of at least 380 SAT Verbal and 40 or above on the TSWE (Test of Standard Written English) or 20 on the verbal section of the ACT; or (b) a passing score on the CPE in English and in reading; or (c) exit learning support English and learning support reading successfully.

DESCRIPTION
This is a composition course focusing on skills required for effective writing with emphasis on exposition, analysis, and argumentation, including an introduction to research skills. Readings are primarily essays, with emphasis upon rhetorical strategies.

OBJECTIVES
In order to develop reading, writing, oral, research and critical thinking skills essential to succeed in higher education, students should be able to meet the following objectives:

- Follow the stages of the writing process to compose academic essays exhibiting clear and thoughtful theses, presentation of supporting evidence, unity of structure, logical organization and careful proofreading according to the guidelines of standard English
- Compose written expressions to suit various audiences and contexts
- Analyze primary and secondary sources for validity and reliability
- Conduct research of primary and secondary sources
- Incorporate data from research into writing
- Document primary and secondary sources in MLA style
- Analyze writing and rhetorical strategies employed in works of fiction and non-fiction
- Evaluate samples of student writing and recommend appropriate revisions
- Use computer technology as a writing, research and communications tool

WRITING REQUIREMENTS
Students must compose at least four written formal assignments, such as essays or portfolio assignments. Additional informal writing assignments might include drafts, freewrites, reading responses, journals, or summaries. Some written assignments should require demonstration of the research skills outlined below. At least one written assignment must involve revision of a previously written draft.
RESEARCH SKILLS

Research skills should incorporate the following:

- library orientation
- assessing print and internet sources
- employing basic academic search techniques
- summarizing, paraphrasing and quoting information from primary and secondary sources
- citing sources in MLA style
- recognizing and avoiding plagiarism

TEXTS

Department handbook: *Brief Penguin Handbook*

Custom department textbook: *Craft & Composition: A Guide to First Year Writing at Armstrong*, Edited by Annie Mendenhall