English Composition: Guidelines and Goals

General Guidelines:

- 7,000 typed C-Competent words of text (approximately 28-30 pages)
- 4 or 5 outside assignments of varying length (one of which is an 8-10 page research paper)
- Graded in-class essays (at the instructor's discretion)

Specific goals of English 150

- To give you guided practice at forming compelling and sophisticated claims (thesis statements) for an academic audience and supporting those claims with sufficient, typical, accurate, and relevant evidence;
- to help you recognize, write, and support the different kinds of claims prevalent in all forms of expository writing: factual, causal, evaluative, and deliberative (i.e., proposals);
- to assist you in meeting usage standards of academic readerships;
- to teach you the academic conventions of incorporating and citing the words and ideas of other writers and speakers;
- to guide you in gathering, evaluating, and using different kinds of research sources;
- to teach you how to summarize the thoughts and words of other writers;
- to improve your ability to read critically;
- to help you develop systematic patterns of topic development and organization;
- to teach you techniques for helping readers perceive your writing as coherent;
- to make you aware of word and sentence level stylistic options; and
- to increase your awareness of the importance of revision, as well as to provide you with effective techniques for revision.

The individual sections will differ in the following main ways:

- the instructor's selection of texts and accessory course materials;
- the instructor's choice of themes or topics for the course;
- the kind, number, and length of writing assignments and writing exercises;
- the instructional method, or approach to and contexts for the development of writing skills and practices;
- the system of grading with relative weighting of different areas of student performance.