

**Writing for the Regents' Test 0199/001-002**  
**Fall 2009**  
**Classroom J-134**  
**M-W (8:00 – 9:15-002/9:30-10:45-003)**  
**Fri. by appointment (individual conferences)**

Instructor: Ann Parker  
Office: J343  
Office Hours: M-W 11:15 - noon  
Tu-Th 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.  
Friday: by appointment

Office Phone: 678-915-7208  
Dept. Phone: 678-915-7202  
Email: aparker@spsu.edu

**Texts:** (required)

Lamb, Mary R. and Marti Singer. *Successful Georgia Regents' Essays, A Resource for Writers*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York: Bedford, 2009.

A thorough, updated dictionary (not from "Everything's \$1.00" store)

**Course Materials:** (required)

Blue or black ink pen  
Colored pen (ink or felt tip)  
A copy of your most recent Regents' exam(s)--*You may get this from the ATTIC (J253)*

**Course Objectives:**

- Attempt TO PASS THE REGENTS' WRITING EXAM ON YOUR NEXT ATTEMPT!
- To examine several styles of writing with a focus on writing that will help you pass the Regents' Writing exam.
- To examine examples of Regents' Writing exams and understand the justification for grading.
- To use assigned class readings and discussions as a springboard for writing ideas that will help you pass the Regents' Writing exam.
- To become more comfortable in small group and whole class discussions and critiquing.
- To become more proficient at reviewing and revising your own writing as well as others'.
- 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 composition that may help students pass the exam.
- Examine examples of Regents' Writing exams to better understand how the exams are rated.
- Review and revise their own practice 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 be doing a lot of writing in order to prepare you to take and pass the Regents' Writing exam. I ask you to keep all of your work over the course of the semester, which will allow you to constantly re-examine the work you've already done for the class and help you to understand better and more efficient ways of writing in order to pass the exam.

We will also spend a good deal of time in this class in small group workshops/discussions on the assigned writings. You will have several opportunities to work with classmates and your instructor on paper ideas, development, and revision. These gatherings will prove to be very useful for you to give and receive feedback about your writing and the writing of others.

Grammar will be a part of the class as well. We will spend some time in class on grammar skills as needed. If you would like for us to concentrate on a specific area of grammar during our time together, please let me know. Grammar is often a main component in a student's inability to pass the Regents' exam, so we will concentrate on refreshing your use of correct grammar.

Your wise use of time and your willingness to be prepared for each and every class are essential to your success in this class. If you come to class without having done your work for that day, you will not only find yourself quickly falling behind, but you will also be ineffective in any class or small group discussions that we have planned for that day. I do keep homework to a minimum in this class; however, you will be asked on occasion to review your writing and/or a classmate's writing. Although I may be the teacher, I do not plan on doing most of the talking. Your classmates and I want to hear your ideas and comments. Only then, by full participation of **everyone** in the class, will this class be the most effective in helping you and me accomplish our goals this semester.

Not only is your participation important in the day-to-day workings of the class, it is also important in the grade you hope to receive on the Regents' exam. By becoming an active learner, you make the choices that will affect and direct what you learn. You are the one who will make the choice to be prepared, to participate, and to become truly involved in your writing and in the

class.

**Attendance:**

**YOUR ATTENDANCE IS EXPECTED IN THIS CLASS!!!!** We will meet only 20 times this semester; hence, 20 meetings to help you prepare to take and pass the Regents' exam. Therefore, your presence is expected in all classes. You will be allowed 3 absences during the semester before I will assume that you will no longer be attending class. If you quit coming to class after 3 absences, you will automatically become ineligible to take the exam this semester. You must also show me a good faith effort on your part to do your work both in and out of class in order to sit for the exam. That means no sleeping during class, doing your homework, and full participation. I will be the one who ultimately makes the decision that you are ready (or not) to take the exam in October; therefore, you should plan to do your absolute best.

If you miss a class, you are the one responsible for getting the assignment for the next class. Therefore, I suggest you get the names, email addresses, and phone numbers of two other students in the class so that you won't be unsuccessfully trying to contact me.

Even more than absences, I do not approve of late arrivals. This class is only 75 minutes long, and we will take advantage of every minute. Please do let me know ahead of time if you know that you will be tardy or absent for a class so that I will not automatically count you as such. Three (3) tardies are equal to one absence.

**Individual Conferences:**

Each student will be required to attend at least one individual conference with me during the semester to discuss your progress in the class and your preparation for the exam. If necessary, students will be asked to meet with me on a weekly basis for extra preparation for the Writing Exam. These conferences will be scheduled with me on an individual basis.

**Late Work:**

It is my policy NOT to accept late work unless you have made prior arrangements with me. It's in your best interest to have your work done on time. I will not accept your work if it is later than 2 class periods.

**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." Don't even think about trying it! Otherwise, you will be setting yourself up for potential failure of the portfolio or the course.

**ATTIC & SPSU Tutoring Center:**

You may be required to do some additional work in the SPSU Tutoring Center if you are having continuing trouble in one or more areas of writing. If you already know that you may need help with grammar, you may want to initiate visits to the tutoring center on your own. You don't have to wait on my referral. The Tutoring Center is located in the basement of Howell dorm and offers tutoring in math, physics, and English courses. Please check with the Tutoring Center for Fall 2009 tutoring center hours.

**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 678-915-7361. Please do this as soon as possible to better insure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.*

**Course Grades:**

Grades for this course will be an S (Satisfactory) or a U (Unsatisfactory) based upon whether or not you pass the Regents' Exam. If you do not take the test in October, you will fail the exam and receive a U in the class, and you must continue to sign up for the class in the future until you successfully pass the exam.

**Important Dates:**

Monday, September 7	NO CLASS—Labor Day!
Tuesday, October 13	Last day to withdraw with a "W"
Wednesday, October 28	Last class

**Fall 2009 Regents' Testing Dates on Campus:**

Wednesday, Oct. 21	9:00 – 12:00 1:00 – 4:00 6:00 – 9:00
Thursday, Oct. 22	9:00 – 12:00 (ESL Students ONLY!)
Friday, Oct. 23	9:00 – 12:00 1:00 – 4:00
Wednesday, Oct. 28	9:00- 12:00 1:00 – 4:00 6:00 – 9:00
Thursday, Oct. 29	9:00 – 12:00 6:00 – 9:00
Friday, Oct. 30	9:00 - 12:00 1:00 – 4:00

All testing sessions will be held in J-203. You MUST sign up for a testing session on Banner. If you sign up for a test but fail to show up and take the test, you will automatically FAIL the test. All freshmen are required to take and pass the Regents' exam as soon as possible in their college careers. Exemptions are possible and may be found on the Regents' website ([www.gsu.edu/rtp](http://www.gsu.edu/rtp)) as well as on SPSU's Banner website. If you have questions about whether or not you may be exempt, please see me or Jon Lindsay in the ATTIC.

**CELL PHONES:**

*Please turn off all cell phones and pagers prior to entering the classroom. Under no circumstances should a ringing phone disrupt our class. Ringing phones may result in your inability to take the exam in March.*

*Additionally, do not send or receive text messages while you are in class. This is disruptive to your learning and shows an extreme disrespect to your classmates and your teacher!!*