

**Freshman English 2
English 1020**

**Dr. Carmen Acevedo Butcher
Rome Hall 211
706.233.7252**

**Office hours: MWF 3:00-4:30 p.m., and by appointment
cbutcher(at)shorter.edu**

**This syllabus and more required information can be found in
cyberspace at www.carmenbutcher.com**

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A continuation of English 1010, with an introduction to literature and a required term paper.

PREREQUISITES: English 1010.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

- Aaron, Jane E. *The Little, Brown Compact Handbook with Exercises*. 6th ed. New York: Pearson/Longman, 2007. ISBN 0-321-40914-0
- Kennedy, X.J. and Dana Gioia. *Backpack Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama*. New York: Longman, 2005. Paperback. ISBN 032133373X
See X.J. Kennedy's website: <http://www.xjanddorothymkennedy.com/>
See also Dana Gioia's website:
<http://www.danagioia.net/books/anthologies/introl.htm>
See the print text's companion website:
http://wps.ablongman.com/long_kennedy_lfpd_9
- 11th edition of *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*.

REQUIRED INTERNET RESOURCES:

One strict course requirement is that you check your professor's website daily at least once for updates and new handouts: www.carmenbutcher.com

Oxford English Dictionary online. <http://www.oed.com/>. Free access is available through the Shorter College portal. We will discuss how to get there and what to do once there. Consider how the *OED* online differs from the print *OED*.

The Guide to Grammar and Writing, sponsored by the Capital Community College Foundation. <http://www.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/>

The Grammar Slammer. <http://englishplus.com/grammar/>

Hughes, Anthony. The Online English Grammar.
<http://www.edufind.com/english/grammar/>

The Internet Grammar of English. <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/internet-grammar/home.htm>

Leicester University English Grammar Project. By Julie Coleman. A favorite.
<http://www.le.ac.uk/ee/jmc21/legp/index.html>

Dictionaries, thesauruses, and etymologies online:

<http://dictionary.reference.com/>

<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/>
<http://www.m-w.com/>
<http://www.bartleby.com/61/>
<http://thesaurus.reference.com/>
<http://www.etymonline.com/>
and many more

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Readings: Read the essays and all material assigned, take notes, look up new vocabulary in a dictionary, and come to class prepared to ask questions and eager to participate in lively class discussions.
- Writing Assignments: Your focus all semester long will be to compose a cogent, thought-provoking, and well-written five-page term paper. That means that the content of your term paper is five (5) pages long. The bibliography or works cited is page number six. If you have a cover page, of course it does not count towards content length. You *must* have five pages of term paper content, or serious points will be deducted for any pages less than five. Also, do not turn in more than five pages of content. Points will also be deducted for the pages over five pages of content. Ten points will be deducted per page over or under the well-announced and required five-page term paper content length. See me if you have questions. You are being told on the first day of class (or earlier, if you checked my website before the semester started!) that this term paper is due on the day of your final exam, at the beginning of the final exam hour. That requirement means that if the final is at 9:00 a.m., the term paper is due at 9:00 a.m.; if the final is at 2:00 p.m., the term paper is due at 2:00 p.m., no exceptions. Points are deducted at the rate of five (5) points taken off per minute (1 minute) your term paper is late. For example, if you deliver your term paper at 9:05 a.m. when it is due at 9:00 a.m., twenty-five points (25) are deducted. Your term paper must be typed on unlined paper and double-spaced, with margins of an inch all the way around. Use the standard Times New Roman, 12-point font, too. See my website for these instructions on how to turn in a writing assignment to me.
- A substantial part of your grade, twenty percent (20%), depends on your regular, attentive, participatory, AND TIMELY class attendance because students who come to class and do not cut perform better on tests, on writing assignments, and in class discussions. Two components comprise this class participation/attendance grade.
 1. Class participation counts ten percent. This grade consists of several components: how well you do on peer-editing exercises, how well you do on pop quizzes (designed to make sure you are coming to class on time and are reading the assigned material and looking up unfamiliar vocabulary), and how well and how regularly you participate in class discussions. If you are instant-messaging, surfing the Net, Facebooking, or taking cell phone calls in class, you will be asked to stop, and such distracting cyberactivity will reduce your grade in the class participation category. “Cute” comments do not gain you points in this category. Intelligent comments do. We will be reading several short stories and other pieces throughout the semester, and sometimes an entire class will revolve around our discussion of one story. Come prepared to contribute (it counts!).
 2. Class attendance also counts ten percent. I take roll at each class meeting, without exception. I also record your absences (excused and unexcused)

on SCHOLAR, every day. If you must be absent from class for an excused reason (an illness, a death in the family, or a college-sanctioned, Provost-approved trip or event), you must e-mail me (always in advance when possible) and inform me when you will be excused for an absence and why. Whenever possible, you must substantiate your excused absence by forwarding me an official school e-mail or by bringing me a note from the doctor (not stipulating why you went, for privacy reasons, but *when* you went). If you are sick, do *not* come by my office; I want you to get well asap, and I don't want you to spread germs around campus. Instead, stay home and call or e-mail me. Each unexcused absence or cut will cost you ten percent of this ten percent of your final semester's average. That means that each unexcused absence or cut that you choose to take will cost you one (1) point off of your final semester's average. Please also know that the points penalty is doubled for unexcused absences or cuts taken the class day before or after any holiday, the first class meeting of the semester, or the last class meeting before the semester's last day of class. In other words, if you decide to go home early on the Friday before the week of spring break starts, that Friday cut will cost you twenty percent (20%) of the ten percent (10%) of this class attendance category—you will have chosen then by going home early to deduct two (2) points from your final semester's average. Being late three (3) times constitutes one (1) absence. Also, you are responsible for letting me know when you come in late; otherwise, you are counted absent, unexcused. I take roll at the beginning of every class period. If you are late, you are counted absent, unexcused, until you come up to me after class and tell me otherwise.

- a. Again, in order for an absence to be marked as "excused" in my gradebook, a Shorter College faculty or staff member must send out an e-mail concerning the absence, and/or the student himself or herself must bring me a note or send me an e-mail stating the reason for the excused absence (such as an illness or a death in the family).
 - b. I will be happy to help you make up work that results from an excused absence.
- Your mid-term exam will be a take-home assignment designed to facilitate the writing of an excellent term paper. It will be announced at least one month prior to its due date. Like all take-home assignments, it must be typed, double-spaced, and turned in on time.

Attendance: Again, attendance is mandatory because it is extremely important. Students must come to class, they must arrive on time, and they must behave professionally. Do not come by my office if you are sick. Go to the nurse. Stay in bed. Call me instead at 706.233.7252. For more attendance information, see the *Shorter College General Catalog*, page 32. Again, being late three times constitutes one absence. Be on time. If you are tardy, you must see me after class and let me know then that you were there. If you are tardy and do not inform me after class that you were in attendance, your absence will stand. You are also responsible for making up all work.

REMEMBER: A student who fails to attend at least two-thirds of the total class meetings will be administratively dropped from English 3026. See the *Shorter College General Catalog*, page 32. For MWF courses, this is 14 absences of any kind; for TR courses, it is 10 absences of any kind.

GRADING POLICY:

You will have ten grades. Each is weighted 10%. That means you must keep up daily with your work, or you will dig yourself into a hole that will be quite difficult to climb out of at a later date when time is short (and so is life). Two of these ten grades have already been discussed in-depth (class attendance and class participation). Three of these ten percent grades will be the term paper itself (it will count 30%). The other five grades will be tailored personally and specifically to your academic needs, and you will always know about them well in advance of their due dates. I tailor each class to your individual needs and to the needs of the class as a whole (because I know what the Junior English Exam looks like and what you need to learn to pass it with flying colors). Here is a possible list of five probable assignments, each of which will count ten percent towards your final semester's average: first paragraph for term paper, revised first paragraph, term paper's outline, bibliography, and the revised bibliography, but the list could also look like this: first paragraph for term paper, term paper's outline, revised outline, bibliography, and term paper's first developmental paragraph. Daily check my website for assignments and their due dates: www.carmenbutcher.com

Everything counts. Come to class. Don't skip. Have an opinion, and be able to support it with details!

A 90-100%; B 80-89%; C 70-79%; D 60-69%; F 0-59%

MORE ON CLASS PARTICIPATION:

Intelligent class participation is important. As you can see, much weight (10%) is given to cheerful class participation because the best students (which are the only kind of students I have) always come to class, they come on time, and they come prepared. They read the materials, and they do their homework. One time 100 years ago, the most odd thing happened in my class. You won't believe this, but when I asked a student what he/she thought of a particular short story, and never mind that it was Eudora Welty's "Phoenix Jackson," probably the best short story ever written, and more like a beautifully sustained long poem, in fact, but never mind that little fact, when I asked this student what he/she thought of this stellar short story, wanting to start a dialogue in class about it, instead of just standing up at my podium and droning on and on and droning on and on, this particular student, oh, it was 100 years ago, he/she said, "Well," yawn, "I read two pages of that story and then I got so bored, you know I never finished it." Not a good answer. Read every assignment. After every class, your professor makes notes on your class performance. So come prepared. And speak up. And please notice that it is extremely difficult to get a good class participation grade if you are not in class. The best students come to class. Make sure your professor knows you are in class, and make sure your comments are astute, not clowning remarks. Class participation is based on your genuine, respectful comments based on your prepared mind; you don't have to be "right," but you must be prepared and not clowning around trying to be cute. "*Cute*" is not encouraged. Articulate comments are most definitely encouraged.

SPECIAL NEEDS POLICY: If you have accessibility questions for which you may need accommodations, you are encouraged to contact the Director of Educational Support in FSU at 219.233.7323 as early as possible in order to discuss these needs.

LATE WORK: All work is due at the beginning of class on the day announced. Late or unexcused make-up work will be penalized *at the rate of ten (10) points per day late*.

WARNING!

Academic Dishonesty: *You are responsible* for carefully reading the Shorter College *General Catalog*, as well as the *Shorter College Student Handbook* (or look online, where this information is also readily available). Students committing academic dishonesty will be punished according to these rules. **Any dishonest work (plagiarism, use of unauthorized assistance, or other dishonest work) earns and will be given the grade of zero (0).** Plagiarism involves presenting another person's work (whether taken from another student, from a printed source, or from an electronic source of any kind) as your own work, without giving credit to the author or source. Proper credit should always be given both for direct quotations *and* for ideas or information used from another source. Unauthorized assistance is defined as taking a test and using another student's paper, one's notes, prepared answers, cell phones, or other electronic devices for answers. Deliberately providing another student with unauthorized assistance is also considered academic dishonesty. You are responsible for being aware of what constitutes "proper credit" and "unauthorized assistance." Read the rules, know them, and follow them.

The Shorter College Honor Code should be typed out as follows and included on all work submitted for grades in this class:

On my honor, I will abstain from all deceit. I will neither give, receive, nor use any unauthorized aid in my academic work, nor will I permit such action by any member of this community. I will respect the persons and property of the community, and will not condone discourteous or dishonest treatment of these by my peers. In my every act, I will seek to maintain a high standard of honesty and truthfulness for myself and for the college.

You must be thoroughly familiar with the complete Academic Integrity Policy. Again, for your ease of reference, this information can be found at your professor's website, www.carmenbutcher.com, under "Handouts," classified alphabetically under "Honesty."

Classroom Behavior: Students will be treated with respect and kindness. Students are always expected to conduct themselves as the professional students they are. Students who disrupt class and obstruct the learning process will be asked to leave and/or drop the course. This course is a learning community; people who make it impossible for others to learn will not be welcome members of that community. *This professor especially finds it rude if students are talking when she begins to call roll, if students talk while another student is making a point in class, or if the professor is talking.*

**Do not bring any kind of food or drink to class.
Do not bring your cell phone to class.
If you bring your computer to class, don't use it to
Facebook, IM, or play solitaire.
Turn your brain on.**

Tutoring Services On Campus:

USE SHORTER'S ACADEMIC SERVICES TO IMPROVE YOUR RESEARCHING AND WRITING SKILLS! Go to <http://www.shorter.edu/> and click on the icon "ACADEMIC SERVICES" in the bottom right-hand corner of the web page. Many student support services are available, such as the excellent writing center, helpful GRAB tutoring, and much more!

HELPFUL HINTS:

Reading excellent writing is the best way to learn to write well. Sluggers have innate talent, yes, but they also spend a lot of time in practicing their swing. Reading fine literature is one way to "practice" writing. Ask any Hank Aaron. Those lonely, disciplined hours pay off in the World Series. Batting practice and reading are quite similar. Practice in the batter's cage can lead to home runs just as reading and reading and reading can lead to wonderfully written essays. Concert pianists know this to be true, too. Hours spent alone with that black Steinway lead to stunning, musical concerts in front of hundreds or even millions. Read. Read the backs of cereal packages, read the newspaper in print and online (I especially recommend *The New York Times* online), read your textbooks, read novels, read the instructions that come with the iron you just bought, and read your e-mails. Read. Read every two seconds you have free. It'll work wonders.

- Remember that when you write, God is in the details.
- Proofread. Use *both* spell-check on your computer and your wonderful naked eye.
- Do your work daily. Don't let yourself get behind. Manage your time so it doesn't manage you.
- Consider English 1020 as an opportunity to learn to express yourself more cogently.
- If you can use one word instead of three, use one word. DON'T be wordy, please.

STUDENT OUTCOMES:

- Students will practice writing clear, concise, and effective essays. (Educational Principle III, D1, TPP I-1, 4, 5, 6)
- Students will write and revise essays using proper grammar, punctuation, and diction. (Educational Principle III, D1, TPP I-1, 4, 5, 6 and TPP IV-6)
- Students will develop critical thinking skills by reading sample essays. (Educational Principles I and II, D2 and D3, TPP I-1, 3, 4, 5, 6)
- Students will write a properly-documented research paper and present an oral report. (Educational Principle III, D1, TPP I-1, 3, 4, 5, 6)