Prerequisites: Successful completion of English 81 or ESL 11A/B

Course Materials:  
Flat folder with inside pockets for journals  
4” x 6” or larger index cards

Course Objectives: This course in the first half of a yearlong intermediate course designed to help students:

- Organize, compose and edit effective, well supported, well-documented essays
- Read, listen to, discuss main ideas, major arguments, specific details for the main ideas and specific supporting details
- Paraphrase, summarize, analyze and synthesize information from readings and effectively incorporate this information into their essays

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Essays - There will be at least four essay assignments. Each will be written in class. The student may have the option of rewriting the essay at home one time only. The original must be turned in with the rewrite, which must be typed. A rewrite will be considered for a grade only if the rewrite has been substantially changed from the original. Correcting spelling, commas and periods is not enough to justify a changed grade on a rewrite. All essays on the same topic will be averaged for the final grade and rewrites must be turned in before the next composition is due. Any late papers may not be accepted by the instructor for grading. 60% of grade

2. Journals- Students will keep a journal consisting of one entry per week on a topic of their choice. All journals must be kept in a flat folder with pockets and cannot be rewritten. This journal is for students to express their own ideas about the readings. 10% of grade

3. Summaries, etc.- There will be some summaries, opinion papers, and annotations of assigned readings or videos. These must be typed. 5% of grade

4. Reading cards- Students are expected to read ½ an hour per class day (an hour an week) any story or novel of their choice. (They are encouraged to read more if they would like.) Each week students will turn in a 6” x 4” or larger index card with the title of the reading, the author’s name and a brief summary of the piece they are reading, and on the back their response to the reading. 10% of grade

5. Final exam- There will be a final writing exam. No final = F in the class. 15% of grade

6. Homework- Homework consists of readings, writing, note taking, and grammar exercises. These must be completed before the start of class for the week assigned.

Grading:  
A 90-100%  B 80-89%  C 70-79%  D 60-69%  F 59% or below
Attendance and Participation: Attendance will be taken every class. To be counted as present, students must be present from the beginning of the class until they are dismissed. You may be dropped from the class if you miss more than a consecutive week of class or more than 4 classes without an excuse. All students are encouraged to participate in classroom discussion and group work and both attendance and participation are factored into your grade. At the same time, students are responsible for their own withdrawal from class.

Academic Honesty: Students who cheat or plagiarize will receive an “F” on the assignment and/or in the course. No cutting or pasting from the internet or paraphrasing or quoting without citing their source.

Protocol: No food or drinks are permitted in the classroom. All pagers must be set on “silent,” and all cell phones must be shut off.

Tutoring is available through the English Department and is free to all students.

Syllabus:

Week 1 (Feb. 14)

(M) Introduction to class, diagnostic testing. HW: pp 3-14, read essays p 14-17 “Fatigue.” Take notes on essay and determine the main ideas for writing a summary. Get a book for reading and write journal #1, due Wednesday.

(W) Collect journal 1. Go over how to write a summary, practice in class. HW: Prepare summary to turn in. Read pp 23-33 and write an idea draft of assignment p 25. Write journal 2 for next Wednesday as well as reading card. No school Monday.

Week 2 (Feb. 23) Monday is a holiday.


Week 3 (Feb. 28)

(M) Go over grammar, begin work on verb tenses 408-420. HW: prepare for verb test.

(W) Verb test. Collect journal 3 and reading card. Go over all exercises and rest of ch. 1. HW: Read ch. 2 pp 53-69.

Week 4 (Mar. 7)

(M) Discuss ch. 2 and begin argument exercise p 61. Begin work on “Agreement Between Subjects and Verbs” pp 401. HW: Write and thesis and support for argument begun in class and do assigned grammar exercises. Write journal #4 and reading card.


Week 5 (Mar. 14)

(M) Go over exercises and readings on TV. Begin outlines for essay 1. HW: Watch TV and gather support for essay. Complete outline for essay. Be sure you have a clear thesis and topic sentences. Write journal #5 and reading card