COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: NONE
Corequisites: NONE

This course introduces basic sentence structure and writing paragraphs. Emphasis is placed on word order, verb tense-aspect system, auxiliaries, word forms, and simple organization and basic transitions in writing paragraphs. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of grammar and ability to write English paragraphs using appropriate vocabulary, organization, and transitions. Course Hours Per Week: Class, 5. Semester Hours Credit, 5.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate pre-writing, composing, revising, and proofreading and editing skills of paragraphs in Standard Written English.

a) Students will employ a variety of pre-writing strategies to narrow the focus of the paragraph and establish a clear main idea (topic sentence) as well as generate supporting details for a specific purpose and audience, and determine appropriate organization.
b) Students will compose and revise drafts by adding, deleting, and reordering content to ensure a narrow focus, a clear main idea, and adequate, appropriate supporting details in sentences using a variety of structures.
c) Students will proofread and edit drafts to identify and correct errors in grammar, mechanics, and spelling to reflect Standard Written English.
d) Students will use appropriate format (margins, font, etc.) for presentation of documents.
e) Students will use appropriate technology to compose and print documents.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

A. Become familiar with key elements of the grammar and usage of Standard Written English
   1) Identify and appropriately use the various parts of speech.
   2) Recognize and appropriately use various verb tenses and voices.
   3) Recognize sentence patterns and their appropriate punctuation.
   4) Recognize spelling patterns and exceptions.

B. Employ a variety of pre-writing strategies
   1) Brainstorm and/or free write
   2) Outline supporting points according to various methods of organization.
   3) Use strategies to generate titles and topic sentences.
C. Use strategies to compose drafts of paragraphs
   1) Compose clear, focused titles and topic sentences.
   2) Use adequate supporting details to develop and support topic sentences.
   3) Compose sentences that demonstrate unity by relating to and supporting the topic sentence of the paragraph.
   4) Employ transitional words and phrases that promote coherence throughout the paragraph.
   5) Compose closing sentences to conclude the paragraph.

D. Use proofreading and editing strategies to revise paragraphs.
   1) Recognize appropriate titles and topic sentences.
   2) Identify and revise or delete sentences that are off-topic.
   3) Identify adequate supporting details and add some if needed.
   4) Recognize and revise lack of transitions.
   5) Recognize and revise paragraphs’ closing sentences appropriately.
   6) Employ a variety of organizational strategies.
   7) Recognize and revise inappropriate word choice, word forms, grammar errors, and misspellings.

E. Use technology to compose, revise, and edit paragraphs.
   1) Produce paragraphs that follow standard conventions in format (margins, font, etc.).
   2) Use editing aids such as grammar and spell check.
   3) Recognize errors that editing aids may not detect.
   4) Use word processing software to print paragraphs.
   5) Use print and online resources to guide editing strategies.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Textbooks will be chosen by the instructor and listed on the syllabus.

STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Counselors can be contacted by calling 919-536-7207, ext. 1413 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1209.