

Greetings! Welcome to ENG 131 95% online. It's 95%--not 100%--online because you will be required to come to campus three times this semester: once during the first week of classes for a required orientation session, again around week 11 for an in-class essay, and finally during finals week for the final exam. All three of these meeting times are required, and you will have at least two options for each to attend. Failure to attend any of these sessions will result in a failing grade for the class if the student does not drop the class by the College's final drop date.

We will meet in Classroom C of the Learning Lab in the Learning Resources Center at the HFCC main campus (on Evergreen Rd.). The following dates and times are options for our first required online meeting (orientation):

- Thursday, August 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 30, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Thursday, September 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Please e-mail me at mjohnson@henryford.ucompass.com no later than **Thursday, August 25**, to let me know which session you will be attending.

There are certain technical requirements for success in this course. You are responsible for the necessary hardware and software, as well as the ability to competently use both. You must be able to access the Internet. To ensure that your computer is ready for online learning, click **Required Technology** in the left column of the **Ucompass login page**: <http://henryford.ucompass.com>. The **Technology Analysis** at the bottom of the page will evaluate your computer to make sure it has the necessary software applications to access the course content. If your computer does not have the correct version of an application, you will find a link to a free upgrade page.

First time users of UCompass should also review the following links:

UCompass FAQ: http://www.hfcc.edu/current_students/UCompassFAQ.asp

UCompass Online Orientation: <http://www2.hfcc.edu/online/orientation.htm>

You will need a word processing program that can save and attach documents in PDF format. If you do not have a word processing program on your computer, you can download a free Microsoft Word compatible program at the following Web site: <http://download.openoffice.org> There are also Web sites that will convert word processed documents into PDF files for free, such as pdfonline.com/convert-pdf/

In addition, you will need to be able to read documents in PDF format on your computer. Most computers come with a program that allows you to do this (e.g., Adobe Reader), but if yours does not have this capacity, you can download Adobe Reader for free at get.adobe.com/reader/

You will not have access to your online course until Thursday, August 25 (the first day of the fall term). You must log in within the first week of classes. Go directly to the UCompass login page to do so: <http://henryford.ucompass.com>. Log into

UCompass using your **WebAdvisor User ID** and the four-digit **mmdd of your birth** as your password (for example, if your birthday is July 4, your password would be 0704). If you do not know your WebAdvisor User ID, find it through the HFCC website, <http://www.hfcc.edu>. Click the orange **WebAdvisor** button, then click the blue **Students** button and follow the prompts to display your User ID.

As recommended by the college IT department, once the semester begins, please only use the course e-mail (User ID@henryford.ucompass.com) to communicate with me, instead of using any free e-mail accounts like Hotmail or AOL, as these are filtered by the UCompass software in order to protect the system from spam or viruses, and I will not receive e-mail from them.

Should you need Technical Support with our UCompass course, click on **Tech Support** in the left column of the UCompass login page. Call the support numbers listed or submit your issue via e-mail, and you will receive a timely response.

You will be required to make two purchases for this class:

- [Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal](#), by Eric Schlosser. This book should be available at most bookstores, though you should be able to save a few bucks by picking it up used at the College Bookstore (either way, it should run you no more than \$10-15). It's also cheaper if you purchase it as an e-book. Alternatively, the book should be available to check out at most public libraries
- Access to MyCompLab, an online resource for writing that we'll be using throughout the semester. You can either purchase an access card at the College Bookstore for about \$30 or so, or you can do it directly online with a credit card at www.mycomplab.com, where you can buy six months worth of access for as little as \$15. **Do not register with MyCompLab until I provide the course ID, which you will need to access the course through mycomplab.com.** I will provide this ID at the online orientation session. **Please attend this session either having already purchased an access card or prepared to use a credit card to make the purchase in the classroom. Part of the orientation session will be devoted to MyCompLab, and you will be required to complete a short assignment through MyCompLab before you leave the session.**

A major advantage of taking a class online is the freedom it allows for you to complete assignments when it's most convenient for you to do so in the comfort of your own home. Awesome, right? However, as the saying goes, **with great freedom comes great responsibility**. What this means is before the semester begins, take a good, long look in the mirror and decide if you are the kind of self-motivated, self-directed student who can succeed in an online class. Attrition rates for online classes are typically higher, in some cases much higher, than those for traditional classes. That means that more students either drop or fail online classes than they do traditional classes. If you remain registered for this course, be aware that you are going to work hard by reading and writing *a lot* this semester, and it is going to be entirely up to you to motivate yourself to keep on top of the substantial work we'll have. If you do keep up with the

work, this class is likely to provide a rewarding experience. If you do not, you are likely to put yourself in the position of having to retake the class.

If you are not a solid writer, please reconsider taking ENG 131 in a traditional classroom setting. **In our class, you will have more responsibilities than you would in a face-to-face class.** You need to read all postings and be aware of due dates, reading assignments, essays, and various other assignments on a regular basis. To help you decide if you are ready for the commitment of an online course, complete the self-test on the HFCC UCompass login page <http://henryford.ucompass.com>. Click "**Is Online for You?**" in the left column to learn if your learning style is suited for an online class.

Finally, should you decide to stick around, I look forward to working with you this semester. I enjoy teaching this class, and I hope that by semester's end, you feel like you've gotten a lot from our experience together.

Sincerely,

Matt Johnson