

## 1 Introduction

This manual, *Resources for Teaching English Core Curriculum Courses*, is intended for the use of the instructors of English 0990, 1010, 1023H, 2010, and 2011H. The original purpose of the manual was to act as a guide for new instructors. However, it has grown into guide for all instructors who instruct these core curriculum courses.

Like many small, private universities in the past few decades, Xavier University of Louisiana has found itself at a crossroads. On one hand, it endeavors to give students the education promised in its mission: knowledge, skills, and experience that will allow these students to become leaders, to contribute to their communities, and to excel in graduate and professional schools. On the other hand, it needs to promote the strengths of its curriculum that help it to survive among the diverse private universities in our nation, many of which have had to close their doors in recent years. Xavier University has done this by strengthening its reputation as a university that has placed more young African Americans in medical and professional schools than any other university in our nation.

This reputation has meant an increased enrollment among incoming freshman and an exemplary rate of retention among our students (more than 70% as of 2000). Because of the increased number of students coming to the university and the numbers remaining to complete their four to five year course of study, the English core curriculum courses are in great demand.

Thus, because of the increase in the number of core curriculum courses and the faculty members to teach these courses, this book was written to guide new and established instructors in the policies and practices of these courses. As an added bonus, this book includes information on facilities available for enhancing and aiding teaching, including information on technological resources available on the Xavier University campus.

It is the hope of the Composition Committee and the Director of Composition that this guide will answer the questions of instructors and students alike in regards to the expectations of the English core curriculum.