Welcome to your first class at Colgate. This class deals with not only the subject matter of the title, but also with the transition from high school to college. In addition to the class subject matter, we will talk about writing and the effective use of the library, and any questions (perhaps non-course related) you may have as you navigate your way through your first semester at Colgate.

Your Link is Samantha (Sam) Zuhlke, whom you should have all met already. She is a very good first stop if you have any questions. (She took this course with me 2 years ago.)

Requirements I will assume that you have a calculator to use both in and out of class.

Class Meeting: We will meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 9.20am-10.10am, in McGregory 311. Attendance is required and will be taken.

Office Hours: MWF 8.20am-9.10am. If you can’t make these, email me or see me to schedule an appointment.

The Book: The only book for this course is the one required of all FSems (A Writer’s Reference by Diana Hacker). There is no problem solving book (but a calculator is required) for this course, hence attendance is extremely important. There will be handouts.

The Course’s Webpage: All handouts will be posted at http://math.colgate.edu/~aaron/classes.html. THIS IS NOT ON BLACKBOARD!!!!

Homework assignments: Problem-solving assignments will be given in class and will also be available on the class webpage. These will occur roughly weekly.

Problem-solving essays: I will give you an issue with no clear answer (e.g., Is abortion moral?) and ask you to formulate a series of questions to address, and then address your questions in a 4-5 page essay. Use your problem-solving skills to craft logical arguments. Use data where appropriate. Consider this a short research report; i.e., you should research the topic, make a stance, and justify your stance.

Testing: There will be two tests given. There will be no final.

Late work: Will not be accepted without a note from your doctor or your dean (Bev Low).

Grading: The class ranking will be determined as follows: attendance (10%), homework (20%), expand your horizons reports (2.5% each), research essays (10% each), pop quizzes (5%), and Midterms (20% each). Your grade will be based on your ranking in the class, which will have a B- average (2.7 GPA).

Some Important Resources

The Writing Center (http://www.colgate.edu/writingcenter) They have locations in 212 Alumni and 304 Case Library. They offer one-on-one assistance with writing projects, regardless of your level of writing.

SOURCEe (http://computing.colgate.edu) This is the student computer support team.

Academic Support and Disabilities Serves (http://offices.colgate.edu/disabilities) If you have any particular learning needs, see the director, Lynn Waldman.

Counseling Center (http://offices.colgate.edu/counseling) A completely confidential and professional counseling center for any personal difficulties (whether school-related or not).
Some Important Dates

September
9/3 (Wed): Last day of drop/add, Corey Landstrom talks about Academic Dishonesty
9/19 (Fri): Library session with Debbie Huerta in Case Library (501 Case Library)

October
10/20 (Mon): No class (Fall break)
10/31 (Fri): Family Weekend starts, Last day to withdraw from a class

November
11/3 (Mon): Registration for Spring semester
11/26-11/28 (Wed - Fri): No class (Thanksgiving break)

December
12/12 (Fri): Last day of class

Expand Your Horizons
You must attend at least two different sessions of at least two of the following events. You never know what you might find. You are required to write a 2 page article about your attendance. They must be in the form of a newspaper article incorporating what you observed at the event.

Science Colloquium Fridays at 3.00pm
Social Science Luncheon Seminar Every other Thursday at 12.15pm
Humanities Colloquium Tuesdays at 4.10pm
Alternative Cinema Tuesdays at 7.00pm

A Different Culture’s Event These occur very frequently throughout the semester in the form of dinners, plays, musicals, concerts, etc.

A Big Name Event These will be well publicized.