May 17, 2016

Courses with the designation IDST 1000, IDST 1050, LBST 1000, or LS 1000 are intensive four-credit seminars designed to introduce students to the Millsaps learning community. Taught by faculty throughout the college from a variety of disciplines, students are assisted in developing critical thinking and writing skills, and each course requires several writing projects designed to develop student abilities to write in the academic context.

These courses is the equivalent of our former English 101-102 course. Since the primary emphasis is on developing writing skills, the courses include training in a variety of formal and informal writing tasks. Informally, students may write journals and in-class exercises. They are also required to write four formal papers, one of which must be a timed, in-class essay. Two of the four papers must go through a revision process—both instructor and peer review—giving students the opportunity to learn how to critique their own papers and do peer review and editing for their fellow students.

We believe these courses are easily equivalent to the usual one year sequence of English composition. Transfer students into Millsaps are required to take this course if they have not taken two courses in English composition with a grade point average of 3.5 in the courses. In evaluating this course, I would exempt any student from an English composition requirement.

Sincerely,

Dr. Anita M. DeRouen
Director of Writing & Teaching
Assistant Professor