

# COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: ENGL-151: Academic Writing Strategies

CLASS SECTION: 1

TERM: Winter 2024

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): In Person

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.

Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

---

## INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Janet Doherty

EMAIL: [dohertyj@camosun.ca](mailto:dohertyj@camosun.ca)

OFFICE: Paul 218/TBA @ Interurban

HOURS: Monday noon-2pm [Online], Thursday 4:30-5:30pm [Lansdowne], or Friday 1:30-2:30pm [Interurban]

PHONE: 250-370-3974/TBA @ Interurban

*As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.*

---

## CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course provides core critical thinking, reading, research and writing skills transferable to academic disciplines. Students practice various forms of academic writing, including summary, critical analysis, and written research. Analysis of textual rhetoric, discourse, and style, along with academic essay-writing, develops self-awareness of methods of inquiry, critique, and reflection.

### PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

- C+ in English 12
- C in Camosun Alternative
- B in ENGL 170

### CO-REQUISITE(S):

Not Applicable

### EXCLUSION(S):

Not Applicable

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

---

Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

1. Form critical responses to ideas.

- Distinguish between fact and opinion.
- Analyse and articulate the reasoning behind an argument.
- Demonstrate a critical examination of ideas through close reading, inquiry, divergent thinking, evaluation of evidence and interpretation, as well as an understanding of rhetoric, reason, logic and word usage.
- Produce writing under exam conditions, as well as outside class.
- Differentiate academic and non-academic writing.

2. Write in an academic style common to multiple disciplines.

- Approach writing as an active exploration of multiple perspectives on a topic.
- Compose effective summaries.
- Select and use rhetorical patterns purposefully.
- Employ a comprehensive writing process, which includes prewriting, focusing, planning, multiple drafting, conferring, revising and editing/proofing.
- Develop an argument with a controlling thesis; write unified, coherent paragraphs, including effective introductions, transitions and conclusions in correct, clear, effective English.
- Develop effective, focused research questions.
- Demonstrate control, clarity and cohesion in the development and organization of ideas.
- Vary style purposefully for planned rhetorical strategies.
- Write for specific results.
- Critique his/her own and others' writing.

3. Read and analyze complex texts from various academic disciplines.

- Vary reading approaches for different purposes, such as personal response, persuasion, and criticism.
- Participate and engage in a dynamic, stimulating exchange of ideas based upon close textual readings.
- Discuss and debate text using terminology appropriate to the discipline and context of those texts.
- Analyze textual readings, which may include visual texts, by identifying controlling ideas, supporting details, dominant rhetorical pattern, subtext, tone and stylistic features.
- Summarize readings to reflect coherently the original's ideas, purpose, organization, and tone.
- Critically read your own and others' writing.

4. Demonstrate information literacy skills.

- Determine the nature and extent of the information needed.
- Know and use what information resources are available, in different formats.
- Use print and electronic resources effectively and efficiently.
- Evaluate sources for authority, relevance, reliability, currency and other criteria.
- Incorporate and integrate research through correct use of summary, paraphrase and quotation.
- Document sources fully and ethically, according to specified bibliographic conventions.

5. Develop self-awareness as an academic writer and contributor.

- Articulate one’s position in a critical debate of ideas.
- Reflect on one’s own writing for continuous improvement.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

---

- (a) *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr.
- (b) English 151 Coursepack (Doherty)
- (c) Oxford English Dictionary (access link on the Camosun library website)

## COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND EVALUATION

---

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

January	Course Introduction “Writing with Style” “Look at Your Fish” Writing for Precision and Clarity Active Reading Argument/Evidence “The Stool-Makers...” “The Morals of the Prince” Introduction to the Critical Review “We Have No Right to Happiness” “Nuremberg or National Amnesia” Quoting and Paraphrasing “Serving the Purpose of Education”
February	<b>In-Class Summary and Analysis (10%)</b> Analyzing Images <b>Image Essay Due (15%)</b>
March	<i>All the Light We Cannot See</i> <b>In-Class Literary Essay (20%)</b> Introduction to Research <b>Research Log Due in Research Meetings</b> Research Meetings Oral Presentation Guidelines
April	Peer-editing Session <b>Research Essays Due (30%)</b> <b>Oral Presentations on Essay Topics (10%)</b>

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced noticed is required. Deadlines scan be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html). <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

## EVALUATION OF LEARNING

---

Academic Integrity Course	P/F	January 16
In-Class Summary and Analysis Essay	10%	February 6
Image Essay	15%	February 27
In-Class Literary Essay	25%	March 12
Research Essay	30%	April 4
Oral Presentation of Research Essay	10%	sign up for date
Participation	10%	

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information.  
<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

## COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

---

- Participation mark will be based on attendance, punctuality, homework, discussions, and in-class exercises.
- Because this course emphasizes student participation and discussion, it is essential that students complete the readings ahead of class. Out of respect for the dynamics of classroom conversation, please turn off any electronic devices (ie: computers, cell phones) during class.
- Late papers will lose 5% per day, and they will receive a grade only.
- Students who do not pass the cumulative in-class assignments will not pass the course. “Cumulative” here means multiple in-class assignments throughout the semester. Students with questions/concerns about this course requirement are welcome to come talk them over.
- Because English courses are designed to strengthen 1) the depth of your reading, 2) the quality of your thinking, and 3) the originality of your written expression, all forms of generative artificial intelligence (ChatGPT, Quillbot, etc...) are counter to your own learning and self-interest in our context. For this reason, the use of GenAI tools is prohibited for all assignments. On a related note, write your own papers! Plagiarism or cheating in any form is a serious academic offence that is tracked on your permanent college record.
- The College provides many services, including a Writing Centre, an English Help Centre, free Counselling, and Financial Aid. See the “Supports and Services for Students” links listed below and on the college webpage for details.

## JANET'S TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN ENGLISH 151

---

1. **Be punctual and prepared for class:** both your physical and your intellectual presence are essential. We are cultivating a community of readers and thinkers who can learn from each other, so substantial sections of our class time will be given to discussion. Learning to articulate your perspective on, response to, and questions about the day’s reading will a) enrich the class members’ understanding of the text, and b) enrich your ability to express yourself clearly in the written assignments. Use active reading strategies for each text we take up, and note your reactions to the readings in the margins of the text or on a separate sheet of paper. These notes will be especially useful for shyer students who are building up confidence, as they will have a record of questions or ideas they can contribute to class discussion.

2. Take good notes on lectures and discussions: You will be responsible for applying concepts that are covered in lectures and in class discussion to your written assignments. A good rule of thumb is that if an idea is important enough for me to write up on the board, it is also important enough for you to write down in your notes.
3. Write your assignments in stages: Even professional writers produce work in several drafts. Writing is a craft that requires attention to detail and refining. At a minimum, students should include brainstorming, outlining, drafting, and revising in their writing process, and revisions should take about the same amount of time as the draft.
4. Submit assignments with correct MLA conventions: Avoid handing in essays that contain good material, but that look like first drafts. Formatting guidelines are finicky, but mastering them is not difficult. If you have questions about an assignment...
5. Make use of my office hours: Some of the best learning over the semester happens in one-on-one conversations about your work. This is particularly useful after you have an outline (including thesis, topic sentences, and evidence you intend to use to develop your ideas). Consultation is also useful after assignments have been graded and returned: the best way to improve for the next assignment is to make sure you understand how to avoid the difficulties in the current assignment.
6. Make a reliable friend in class: You are responsible for catching up on any missed classes. If you are absent, find a student to borrow notes from. Handouts or Power Points will also be available on D2L to complement your friend's summary of the lecture and class discussion. Feel free to come and see me in office hours if you are caught in extenuating circumstances that prevent you from attending a class or if you need help understanding any material you have missed.

#### STUDENT TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN ENGLISH 151

---

- This class is an opportunity to open your mind and get out of your bubble: enjoy it!
- Connect with classmates. The learning experience is way more fun.
- Prepare outlines in advance for the in-class essays.
- Try not to procrastinate, especially for the research essay. Start that thing the DAY you get it.
- This class requires time. Write a first draft and then edit, especially for word choice.
- Access the Writing Centre for support.
- Use Janet's advice and essay comments to your best advantage. She wants you to pass.
- Watch the damn movie and read the book early!
- Allow yourself quiet, uninterrupted space to do assignments.
- Plan your essays. It's WAY easier than winging it, and they're the backbone of your grade.
- Don't skip.
- Just put in the work. If you come to class, listen, follow the coursepack, and hand stuff in you'll do fine.
- Don't be afraid to approach Janet for help if concepts are not making sense or if you have a question about an assignment. I waited way too long to do this, and it would have made a huge difference to my grade if I'd gone for help right away.
- This class can feel more like a discussion with friends than schoolwork if you approach it that way. Try to leave everything else at the door, so you can just enjoy throwing out your ideas and listening to other people's ideas.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

---

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

## SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

---

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

Academic Advising	<a href="http://camosun.ca/advising">http://camosun.ca/advising</a>
Accessible Learning	<a href="http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning">http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning</a>
Counselling	<a href="http://camosun.ca/counselling">http://camosun.ca/counselling</a>
Career Services	<a href="http://camosun.ca/coop">http://camosun.ca/coop</a>
Financial Aid and Awards	<a href="http://camosun.ca/financialaid">http://camosun.ca/financialaid</a>
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	<a href="http://camosun.ca/help-centres">http://camosun.ca/help-centres</a>
Indigenous Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/indigenous">http://camosun.ca/indigenous</a>
International Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/international/">http://camosun.ca/international/</a>
Learning Skills	<a href="http://camosun.ca/learningskills">http://camosun.ca/learningskills</a>
Library	<a href="http://camosun.ca/services/library/">http://camosun.ca/services/library/</a>
Office of Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/oss">http://camosun.ca/oss</a>
Ombudsperson	<a href="http://camosun.ca/ombuds">http://camosun.ca/ombuds</a>
Registration	<a href="http://camosun.ca/registration">http://camosun.ca/registration</a>
Technology Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/its">http://camosun.ca/its</a>
Writing Centre	<a href="http://camosun.ca/writing-centre">http://camosun.ca/writing-centre</a>

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

### Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

### Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

### Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

### Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

### Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

### Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

### Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the "Attendance" section under "Registration Policies and Procedures"

(<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

### Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal. Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

### Sexual Violence and Misconduct

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence or misconduct occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and [camosun.ca/sexual-violence](http://camosun.ca/sexual-violence). To contact the Office of Student Support: [oss@camosun.ca](mailto:oss@camosun.ca) or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

### Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

**Changes to this syllabus:** Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.