

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: ENGL-151: Academic Writing Strategies
CLASS SECTION: 013
TERM: F2023
COURSE CREDITS: 3
DELIVERY METHOD(S): Lecture

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.
Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

For COVID-19 information please visit <https://legacy.camosun.ca/covid19/index.html>.

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 explanation in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Jessica Ruzek
EMAIL: ruzekj@camosun.ca
OFFICE: P-332 (Paul Building)
HOURS: Tuesdays & Fridays 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM (or by appointment). Please drop by during my office hours to discuss the course or your assignments.

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.

In this course, you'll engage in rigorous writing, critical and close reading, and profound contemplation. Together, we will refine your ability to write academically, emphasizing form, content, and the development of arguments. These skills help foster diverse and critical modes of thinking and expression, encouraging the thoughtful and original crafting of arguments and ideas.

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 & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

Required Texts:

1. Starkey, David. *Academic Writing Now: A Brief Guide for Busy Students*, Second Edition. Broadview Press, 2021.
2. Le Guin, Ursula K. *The Word for World is Forest*. Tor Publishing, 2010.

Both texts are available at the Camosun College Bookstore as hard copies. *Academic Writing Now* will be available [electronically](#), as well.

An EPUB file of *The Word for World is Forest* will be posted to D2L for those of you who prefer an electric copy to the physical text. If you don't already have an e-reader on your devices, I recommend Adobe Digital Editions (it's free!); you can download it at the following links:

Apple Store: <https://apps.apple.com/ca/app/adobe-digital-editions/id952977781>

Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.adobe.digitaleditions&pli=1>.

Additional required readings will be posted to D2L.

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

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

CAMOSUN COLLEGE IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Monday, September 11:** Course add/drop deadline for 80% tuition refund
- **Monday, October 2:** Camosun College closed for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Sept. 30)
- **October 9:** Camosun College closed for Thanksgiving
- **November 13:** Camosun College closed for Remembrance Day (Nov. 11)
- **December 9:** Last day of classes / last day to withdraw from courses
- **December 14-19, 2023:** Final Exam period

WEEK & DATE RANGE	Tuesday, 1:30 - 2:50 (Y-220)	Friday, 12:30 – 1:50 (WT-101)
INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH 151		
Week 01 Sept. 5 & 8	Syllabus handout and description of course and expectations Writing diagnostic (not graded)	Why write? Types of academic writing Required Reading: <i>Academic Writing Now (AWN)</i> , pp. 27-32
Week 02 Sept. 12 & 15	Why read? Critical and close reading Annotations and note-taking Required Reading: <i>AWN</i> , pp. 33-36; 39-40	Author, audience, purpose Summarizing Building paragraphs Required Reading: <i>AWN</i> , pp. 78-80 Martin Andresen, "To reduce rising crime rates, Canada needs to invest more in social services." Link on D2L. Due: Reading Assignment 1 (5%)
PART A: INTERPRETATION & ANALYSIS		
Week 03 Sept. 19 & 22	What is interpretation? Literary and rhetorical analyses Required Reading: <i>AWN</i> , pp. 42-43 <i>The Word for World is Forest (TWWIF)</i> , ch. 1	Thinking critically Fact vs. opinion Using the text as evidence: quoting and paraphrasing Required Reading: <i>TWWIF</i> , ch. 2
Week 04 Sept. 26 & 29	Rhetorical appeals Textual analysis vs. personal response Required Reading: <i>AWN</i> , pp. 61-63 <i>TWWIF</i> , ch. 3	Essay anatomy Thesis statements Required Reading: <i>AWN</i> , pp. 47-49 <i>TWWIF</i> , ch. 4 Due: Personal Reflection #1 (2.5%)

WEEK & DATE RANGE	Tuesday, 1:30 - 2:50 (Y-220)	Friday, 12:30 – 1:50 (WT-101)
Week 05 Oct. 3 & 6	Beginning an essay Engaging with a text Required Reading: <i>TWFWIF</i> , ch. 5	Interpretation and meaning Developing a thesis statement Required Reading: <i>TWFWIF</i> , ch. 6 & 7 Sarah Musgrave, “How a Military Base Became a Safe Haven for Endangered Species.” Link on D2L Due: Reading Assignment #2 (5%)
Week 06 Oct. 10 & 13	Developing a research question Constructing an argument Required Reading: <i>TWFWIF</i> , ch. 7	Planning an essay Outlines Required Reading: <i>AWN</i> , pp. 75-77 <i>TWFWIF</i> , ch. 8 Due: Personal Reflection #2 (2.5%)
Week 07 Oct. 17 & 20	In-class essay preparation	In-Class Essay #1 (15%)
PART B: ARGUMENTATION & RESEARCH		
Week 08 Oct. 24 & 27	Research proposal lab Developing an argument for a research essay Plagiarism and academic integrity Required Reading: Camosun College’s policy on academic integrity. Link on D2L.	Research proposal lab Using library and its resources Finding authoritative sources Required Reading: <i>AWN</i> , pp. 83-87 D Fox Harrell, “AI can help shape society for the better – but humans and machines must work together.” Link on D2L. Due: Reading Assignment #3 (5%)
Week 09 Oct. 31 & Nov. 3	Finding and evaluating authoritative sources Required Reading: <i>AWN</i> , pp. 109-110	Strengthening your thesis statement Citation workshop (MLA & APA) *Bring five resources to class! Required Reading: <i>AWN</i> , pp. 70-75 Due: Research Proposal (10%)

WEEK & DATE RANGE	Tuesday, 1:30 - 2:50 (Y-220)	Friday, 12:30 – 1:50 (WT-101)
Week 10 Nov. 7 & 10	Where to begin? Pre-writing and drafting Required Reading: AWN, pp. 55-59	Research essay structure Methods of development Required Reading: Marie Lamensch, “The World of Online Gaming Is “Uniquely Uncivil” for Women and People of Colour.” Link on D2L. Due: Reading Assignment #4 (5%)
Week 11 Nov. 14 & 17	Developing body paragraphs for research essays Integrating supporting evidence Required Reading: AWN, pp. 120-122	Putting it all together: writing the essay Due: Annotated Bibliography (10%)
Week 12 Nov. 21 & 24	Transitions between paragraphs Required Reading: AWN, pp. 116-117	Logic and organization Required Reading: AWN, 151-153; 156-157;
Week 13 Nov. 28 & Dec. 1	In-class essay preparation	In-Class Essay #2 (15%)
Week 14 Dec. 5 & Dec. 8	Revising, editing, and proofreading Required Reading: AWN, pp. 160-165; 168-169; 176-178	Last Day of Class! No lesson today, but I will be in the classroom if you need last minute help on your research essays.
Sunday, Dec. 10:	Due: Research Essay (25%)	

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 notice is required. Deadlines can 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

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Personal Reflection (2) Short reading responses to <i>The Word for World is Forest</i> (required text)	5%
Reading Assignments (4) Reading comprehension, rhetorical analysis, and paraphrasing	20%
Research Proposal A detailed plan of a research topic, including a working thesis statement, an outline of argument, explanation of the topic’s significance, and how it will be investigated	10%

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Annotated Bibliography A list of works cited or references in MLA or APA with a maximum of five (5) credible/academic resources that will be used for the research essay	10%
Rhetorical Analysis [In-Class] Essay 1: Literary Analysis An interpretation and analysis of a literary text that includes a thesis statement and engages with the literary text	15%
Rhetorical Analysis [In-Class] Essay 2: Argumentative Analysis A critical essay that examines a specific topic, issue, or text while presenting and defending a persuasive argument	15%
Research Essay A final argumentative research essay, using MLA or APA documentation, that presents a structured argument based on thorough research and evidence (6-7 pages)	25%
TOTAL	100%

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

D2L: Lecture material will be posted to D2L after the lesson. Additional resources, readings, and information will be posted to D2L on a regular basis. It is your responsibility to check the course page on D2L, as well as your Camosun email account.

Late Assignments & Extensions: While I encourage everyone to submit on the deadline as indicated on the course schedule, I understand that things happen; because of this, there is a 24-hour grace period for each assignment. Late submissions will lose 10% if submitted fewer than eight days after the due date and will lose 40% if submitted more than seven days after the due date. Late assignments will receive a grade only (no comments). Requests for extension, if asked 24-hours *before* the due date, will be considered. Extensions will not be granted less than 24 hours before the assignment is due. Extensions must be approved in writing (via email).

Required Readings: All readings must be completed ahead of class in order to get the most of the lesson and to engage in classroom discussion. Readings are listed in the course schedule and on D2L.

Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL): If you are registered with CAL, please remember that you must schedule in-class essays two (2) weeks in advance.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence: Using AI (artificial intelligence), such as Chat GPT-3 and GPT-4, as well as other GenAI tools, is restricted for the completion of any writing assignments for this course. As we all become more familiar with both the advantages and restrictions of AI in writing, art, and other cultural outputs, our approach in this class will be exploratory only. It is essential to note that AI-produced compositions, in part or in entirety, will not be accepted in this course and will be considered as plagiarized content.

Contesting a Grade: If you feel that you have been unfairly awarded on an assignment, I would be happy to speak with you about it. If you would like your grade changed, please highlight the areas of the assignment where you believe a mistake has been made, and write a brief defence explaining why your assignment is deserving of a higher (or lower) grade. Refer to both the grading criteria outlined in the “information on grades” section of this syllabus (see below), and the grading rubric included with the relevant assignment to support your defense.

Rights & Responsibilities: Please familiarize yourself with Camosun’s Academic Integrity policies, which applies to students, faculty, and staff: <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.13.pdf>

You can expect your instructor to:

- teach to the course goals
- give clear instructions for assignments and exercises
- advise and support students in their course work
- treat students with respect
- act in a fair manner
- be available during office hours or, if necessary, arrange an alternative time to meet
- evaluate students fairly and constructively, based on criteria made clear to students beforehand

Your instructor will expect you to:

- Keep up with course material and announcements on D2L
- prepare for class by completing readings and assigned work on time
- actively participate in class activities
- ask questions if you need clarification
- submit all assignments according to instructions, complete, and on time
- submit your own, original work
- use instructor comments and feedback to improve future work
- cooperate with and act respectfully toward other students and the instructor
- communicate with the instructor about problems or concerns as soon as possible

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

Guidelines for Preparing & Submitting Written Assignments

All formal written assignments for this course should be typed according to assignment specifications. When you use sources, your papers should include correct and complete citations MLA format. All papers should be clearly marked with your name and submitted on time, as a PDF, through D2L Assignments.

If you would like to receive in-line feedback on a written assignment, you must your assignment on the due date. Late submissions will not receive comments or feedback.

Plagiarism & Cheating

Plagiarism is the submission of work that is not your own, and/or that does not appropriately document original sources. Having someone else write all or part of your assignment is also plagiarism. AI, editors and tutors should only offer advice or suggestions on how to improve your writing; they should not write, rewrite or correct your work. The Camosun College Writing Center, English Help Center, and instructor can assist you with your writing. Be aware that the College considers plagiarism a serious offense. Any attempt to plagiarize will be met with serious consequences, including a zero on the assignment, and possibly a failing grade in the

course. If you are feeling desperate or anxious, and are tempted to plagiarize, please contact me for help. Consult the Camosun Arts & Science Academic Honesty Guidelines before beginning this course:

<http://camosun.ca/learn/school/arts-science/images/Arts%20and%20Science%20Academic%20Honesty%20Guidelines.pdf>

Emergency situations. When you are able, please contact me if you are experiencing illness or strife. Options can be found to support you.

Professionalism, Attendance, & Active Engagement

You can demonstrate your professionalism through your attendance, active engagement, respect of your instructor and peers, and thoughtful completion of assigned tasks. Your attendance and active engagement in the class will comprise ten percent of your final grade.

Low engagement in class discussions and exercises may affect your grade as a natural consequence of poor performance on assignments due to missed class work and inattentive participation in class activities.

Each week, you will be given several ways to access lesson content and resources. It is your responsibility to know the material covered and to complete the assignments due. If you have difficulty accessing course materials or assignments, let your instructor know well in advance of the due date.

If you think you may miss a class or two due to work, religious holidays, medical appointments, family obligations, etc., please let your instructor know as soon as possible.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Creating an Atmosphere of Respect

If you encounter circumstances that you feel impede your learning in this course, or if throughout the term you discover ways in which I could better support your learning, please let me know.

Safe Space: Each of us deserves a safe and respectful learning environment. In my classroom, there will be zero tolerance for hurting each other. Sexism, racism, transphobia, homophobia, ableism, fatphobia, intimidation, or any other kind of hatred or bullying will not be tolerated. Community accountability and the well-being and safety of everyone in the classroom is a priority.

Pronouns & Chosen Names: To ensure that I am referring to each of you by your correct pronouns and chosen names, please feel free to share them with me in class, via email, or on any of your assignments beside or beneath your name.

Sharing Space in the Classroom: Sharing the space in the classroom means showing respect to the learning environment, your classmates, and your instructor. This includes making room for peers to sit next to you, wearing a mask or staying home if you are unwell, arriving to class quietly when late, and not engaging in personal conversation while the instructor or a classmate is speaking. Please demonstrate respect by remaining quiet while another person is speaking.

Technology & Devices: Earbuds or headphones are not permitted to be worn during class time. Phone calls must not be answered during the class. If you receive a phone call during class time, wait until you are fully outside of the classroom with the door closed securely before answering your call.

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

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. To contact the Office of Student Support: 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.