

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: ENGL-151: Academic Writing Strategies

CLASS SECTION: 014

TERM: Winter 2024

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](#).

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Dr. Candace Fertile (please call me Candace)

EMAIL: fertile@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Paul Building 337

HOURS: MW 9:30-10:30 and 14:00-16:00

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

EQUIVALENCIES:

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

The Essays Only You Can Write, by Irene Papoulis (in Camosun Bookstore)
Best Canadian Essays 2023, edited by Mireille Silcoff (in Camosun Bookstore)
 8.5 X 11 inches lined paper, plus pen (blue or black ink) or pencil—bring to class.
 Budget for printing (work submitted and essays on 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.

I'll remind you at the end of each class what to prepare for the next class. In addition to the readings listed, classes will include discussion of various aspects of writing, such as grammar, outlining, logic, audience, creativity, voice, and much more. It's important that you have the material read and bring your book and any required print-outs to class.

This schedule may change slightly depending on how quickly we proceed. The course includes lectures, small and large group discussions, in-class writing, and other in-class work. Students must read assigned material before the class in which the material is to be considered. Students will also participate in peer review; in other words, students will share their work with other students for critique.

You should have the work listed below (from *The Essays Only You Can Write*, or *Best Canadian Stories 2023*, or linked on D2L) read before you come to class. That way we can have good discussions.

January 8

Introduction to course

January 10

In-class writing

January 15

The Essays Only You Can Write pages 9-31 and pages 82-95
 Orwell's "Politics and the English Language"

January 17

The Essays Only You Can Write pages 34-47 and 158-168
 Orwell "Shooting an Elephant" (link on D2L—please print)

January 22

The Essays Only You Can Write pages 170-179
 King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail" (link on D2L—please print)

January 24

The Essays Only You Can Write pages 48-63
 Swift's "A Modest Proposal" (link on D2L—please print)

January 29

The Essays Only You Can Write pages 64-78 and 182-205

Using evidence (summary, paraphrase, quotations)

January 31

Peer review

February 5

FIRST ESSAY DUE

Library orientation

February 7

The Essays Only You Can Write pages 96-121

February 12

Return of first essays and commentary

The Essays Only You Can Write pages 124-153

February 14

Catch-up and grammar review

February 20-24

Family Day and Reading Break—no classes

February 26

IN-CLASS ESSAY

February 28

TBA

From March 4 to the end of the course, you will be working on your research paper with some interim deadlines and time in class for peer consultation and questions. And we will be discussing essays from *Best Canadian Essays 2023* as the questions on the final in-class essay will be based on those essays.

The interim steps for the research paper are the following:

March 6: Deadline to submit research paper topic for approval (by email or on paper or by speaking to me)

March 11: Deadline to submit draft References (APA) or Works Cited (MLA) for research paper, properly formatted

March 20: Peer consultation on research paper drafts (you need to bring a copy of your essay to class)

March 27: RESEARCH PAPER DUE

From March 5 to April 8 (excluding March 20), we will discuss the following essays from *Best Canadian Essays 2023*:

Gilchrist “Genetic Mapping” 9-29

Rachman’s “Where Is Intellectual Courage in the Age of Twitter?” 31-39

Good’s “Play Indians’ Inflict Real Harm on Indigenous People” 41-48

Chaudhary “The Sun Is Always in Your Eyes in Rexdale” 49-60

Hu’s “Why the Filet-O-Fish Is My Gold Standard for Fast Food” 61-64

Rogan’s “Quitting America” 65-81

Page’s “That Other Place” 83-100

Howe’s “We’re All Teenagers Now” 135-145

Stratton’s “Rescuing the Radicalized Discourse on Sex and Gender: Part Two of a Three-Part Series” 147-163

Marche’s “Toil and Trouble” 177-184

Cheung’s “Blind Spots” 195-202

April 10

IN-CLASS ESSAY

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](https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams). <https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Essay	15
Essay in-class	25
Essay (research with interim steps)	35
Essay in-class	15
In-class work and participation	10
	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](https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information.
<https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

Please note that English 151 has a great deal of reading and writing. It's all about ideas, the uses (and maybe misuses) of language, and communication. It's a wonderful course to teach, and I hope you enjoy being a student in English 151. Welcome.

Tips for Success

- Attend class on time
- Be prepared
- Read actively
- Be curious and ask questions
- Make a schedule of all assignments' due dates to see how work is spread over the term
- Do not leave work until the last minute—that's a recipe for disaster
- Write your own essays (don't plagiarize)
- Submit work on time (at the beginning of class on the due date)
- Get any missed material from another student
- Save your work
- If you find yourself overwhelmed and falling behind, please talk to me (or email). I want students to succeed.
- Remember that everyone needs help sometime. It's a sign of strength to know when to ask for help.

Further Information

- Work must be handed in on time (at the beginning of the class on the due date) unless prior arrangements have been made. Extensions will be granted only at the discretion of the instructor. Late work gets zero. If deadlines are missed, there is no such thing as a late penalty. I do not accept late work.
- No make-up work exists.
- No extra work for extra credit exists.
- If you miss a class and get notes from another student and don't understand them, please come see me. I cannot repeat a class, but I can try to help you.
- Office hours are for students. Just drop by.
- As a courtesy to everyone else in the class, please turn off all devices (cell phones, laptops etc.) unless you have the assigned reading material on a device. In that case, please let me know in advance. Students using devices in class for anything other than classwork will be asked to stop. Repeat offenders will have to leave. If you are registered with CAL and have an accommodation for using devices in class, I should have that information in a letter from CAL.
- Please do not bring hot, smelly, or noisy food to eat in the class. Coffee, tea, and water are all fine (I will almost always have both coffee and water as I love coffee).
- The best way to contact me apart from talking to me in class is to email me. I check email at least once a day and will reply within 24 hours except on weekends. Please put your course and section (English 151-014) in the subject line and include your name (first and last) if it's not clear from your email address. Otherwise, I'm likely to delete it. Also make sure the College has your current email address.
- A basic guideline for college courses is that for every hour of class, students have at least two hours of preparation/work. English courses tend to be labour-intensive because of all the reading and writing. English 151 is about developing skills, and the assignments get more difficult as the course proceeds.
- I use D2L to post the course outline, assignments, and some readings (which you should print and bring to class). The assignments will also be given to you in hard copy. Occasionally I will post supplementary material, which some of you may find useful (basic grammar information, for example). I don't use PowerPoint as I find it too restrictive, so please don't ask me to post my notes. Most of them are in my head.
- Essays are marked holistically, not by a rubric. Marking an essay for writing skills is complicated.

- *Under normal circumstances, students who cannot pass the cumulative in-class assignments will not pass the course. “Cumulative” here means multiple in-class assignments throughout the semester. Students who are concerned about this course requirement are encouraged to seek guidance and clarification from the instructor as early as possible.*

Grades and Their Meaning

- A range—superior level of achievement
 good insight into material with detailed, significant discussion
 effective organization for paper’s purpose
 fluent, error-free expression
- B range—high level of achievement
 competent treatment of material with full but not as detailed a discussion as A
 organization contributes to sense but lacks effectiveness of an A paper
 free of common errors
- C+ a little above satisfactory
 sound content, somewhat mechanical organization
 may have one or two serious errors in expression
- C satisfactory
 acceptable but commonplace content adequately supported
 coherent but mechanical organization
 sometimes confusing expression because of errors
- D minimum level to achieve credit
 limited content with weak support
 organization may be confusing
 numerous errors in expression that hinder communication
- F unsatisfactory—a failing paper
 inadequate or inaccurate content with limited or no support
 numerous errors that prevent communication

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

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 camosun.ca/services.

Support Service	Website
Academic Advising	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising
Accessible Learning	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning
Counselling	camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre
Career Services	camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services
Financial Aid and Awards	camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services
International Student Support	camosun.ca/international
Learning Skills	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills
Library	camosun.ca/services/library
Office of Student Support	camosun.ca/services/office-student-support
Ombudsperson	camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson
Registration	camosun.ca/registration-records/registration
Technology Support	camosun.ca/services/its
Writing Centre	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills

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.

COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all College policy regarding academic integrity; which is about honest and ethical behaviour in your education journey. The following guide is designed to help you understand your responsibilities: <https://camosun.libguides.com/academicintegrity/welcome>
Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.13.pdf> for Camosun's Academic Integrity policy and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

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:
<https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning>

Academic Progress

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/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 <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <https://camosun.ca/registration-records/tuition-fees#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

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 <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-07/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: <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education. To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-370-3841

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 <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Looking for other policies?

The full suite of College policies and directives can be found here: <https://camosun.ca/about/camosun-college-policies-and-directives>

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.

Please keep this course syllabus as it includes information you will need throughout the term. It is also posted on D2L (where you can click on the links), and any changes will be announced in class and posted on D2L. Please consult this outline if you have a question before asking me/emailing me to see if the answer is included in the outline.
