

# COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: ENGL-151: Academic Writing Strategies

CLASS SECTION: 018

TERM: Fall 2023

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](#).

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## INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

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NAME: Maureen Niwa, PhD, English

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

OFFICE: Paul 332

HOURS: Tues., Paul 12:30-1:30 pm.; Thurs. virtual, 11:30-12:30 pm; also by appt.

*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

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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

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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

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*English 151 Academic Writing Course pack*, Instructor: Maureen Niwa

*Why Write? A Guide for Students in Canada* (BC Campus). Authors: Nancy Ami, Natalie Boldt et. al. Available (free) at: <https://pressbooks.bccampus.ca/whywriteguide/>

One of the following:

*The Illegal* by Lawrence Hill **OR,**

*Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka [online at: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/5200/5200-h/5200-h.htm>]

**CHOOSE THE COURSE THAT SUITS YOUR LIFE-STYLE & LEARNING STYLE:** This course is completely in-person delivery; it is only supplemented with the D2L course site—it is not hyflex or hybrid. This means that **you need to attend class in person** to learn through lectures, discussions, activities, personal reflections and group work. In this course, D2L material does not duplicate class instruction. Core class content and several graded assignments will be delivered and completed in class. If you cannot attend in class in-person or have scheduled an extended absence (e.g., a two-week vacation during the term), consider enrolling in a hybrid or online-section. If you must miss a limited number of classes (e.g., 1-3) during the term, I am available for consultation, and to support your learning by expanding on topics, clarifying assignments, discussing selected texts, and answering your questions, as long as you request a meeting with me. If you miss more than that, it is a possibility that you will jeopardize your chances of doing well in this class. Questions? Please ask.

Here is the rhythm of our week:

1. Attend class; fully participate in all learning activities, and submit in-class work. In-class activities & discussions will provide more context and insight into essay structure, terminology, readings and interpretations.
2. After each class, check D2L for selected materials that we have covered in class; use links to access readings and exercises. Complete any assigned readings or exercises before the next class.
3. Occasionally, we will all share materials on D2L that follow-up points from class and/or delve into writing practice that you request. *You are all welcome to use D2L for general or specific questions!*
4. Doing the readings, studying materials, setting up individual meetings with me, and applying feedback on your written assignments will deeply enrich your learning and increase your grade.

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

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

WEEK 1: WELCOME	-Welcome; description of course; ice-breaker; sample in-class writing. -Idea? Detail? Paragraph and essay structure. -Literal & figurative imagery.	Submission of in-class writing.
WEEK 2: A PICTURE'S WORTH	-Requirements for Assignment #1 "Branded." - Introductory & body paragraphs. -Brainstorming; writing a 3-part thesis. <i>Grammar focus: Sentence structure. Dress up's!</i>	Bring brand material. <a href="#">Engagement Activity #1.</a>
WEEK 3: MIRRORS – IMAGERY'S ARGUMENT	The Arts of Persuasion – dichotomies, assumptions, rhetorical elements, logical fallacies. <i>Grammar Focus: comma splices, sentence fragments.</i>	<b>Assignment #1 Branded</b> Due, end of Week 3.
WEEK 4: ON THE OTHER HAND	Persuasion articles and group work: Zero Poverty, Nature Fix, Agitate! <i>Grammar Focus: fused sentences, active vs passive voice.</i>	<a href="#">Engagement Activity #2.</a>
WEEK 5: PERSUASION'S STRATEGIES	"Persuade Me" in-class debates. Potential Research topics. <i>Grammar Focus: Indefinite/vague pronouns, broad references.</i>	Debates presented in class.
WEEK 6: WARMING UP TO RESEARCH	Midterm: Persuasive Essay – do not miss class (worth 20%) Research Project requirements. Choose your research topic from list.	<b>Persuasive Essay</b> completed in class.
WEEK 7: YOUR OWN WORD	Citation mode: Integrating direct quotation; intext citation. Academic Integrity / Plagiarism. Summary.	Start researching. <a href="#">Engagement Activity #3.</a>
WEEK 8: BUCKET-TO-PAIL LIST	Narrowing your topic. Meet your Research group! Grammar Quiz, due. <i>Grammar focus: Semicolon and comma placement.</i>	<b>Grammar Quiz</b> must be completed in class.
WEEK 9: RESEARCH ESSENTIALS	Library Research Source Class. Annotated Bibliography. Documentation styles: MLA, APA, IEEE, others? Group research presentation proposal.	<i>Library instruction – do not miss!</i> <a href="#">Engagement Activity #4</a> due. Proposal (written in class) due.
WEEK 10: TO THE RESCUE	Structural outline & topic sentences. Writing tips! <i>Grammar focus: Capitalisation, spelling.</i>	<b>Annotated Bibliography Due.</b>
WEEK 11: PASSIONATE PRESENTATION	Research Group Presentations. Research Essay drafting support – structure, content, documentation.	Draft research essay. <a href="#">Engagement Activity #5</a> due.
WEEK 12: DIVING DEEP	Style: clarity, coherence, concision. Documentation	<b>Research Essay Due.</b>
WEEK 13: READING FOR PLEASURE	Close reading – <i>The Illegal</i> or <i>The Metamorphosis</i> . Discussion questions on your choice of novel to prepare for in-class writing.	Prep for final in-class writing.
WEEK 14: THE FINISH LINE	Novel response writing.	Novel response writing must be completed in class.

**ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES:** Subject to change.

ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE
“Branded” Paragraphs	Thursday, Sept. 21, 11:59pm, D2L
Midterm - Persuasive Essay (written in class)	Thursday, Oct. 12, 1:30-2:50pm in-class
Grammar Quiz	Thursday, Oct 26, 1:30-2:50 pm in class
Annotated Bibliography	Thursday, Nov. 9, 11:59pm, D2L
Group Research Presentation – in class	Tuesday, Nov. 14 or Thursday, Nov. 16, 1:30-2:50pm
Individual Research Essay	Thursday, Nov. 23, 11:59pm
Novel Response	Last class – Thursday, Dec. 7, 1:30-2:50pm
5 Engagement Activities	Sept. 14, Sept. 28, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, Nov. 16

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

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
<p><b>“Branded” Paragraphs</b>            Short critical analysis examining the use of cultural assumptions, dichotomies, figurative/rhetorical imagery in a brand of your choice; correct use of critical analysis terminology; composition of 3-part thesis; support of thesis through your own analysis of visuals/audio/text; use of research sources to examine brand’s ethics</p>	15%
<p><b>Midterm - Persuasive Essay, written in class</b>            Analysis of, and response to, a thesis argued in a scholarly article; summary of in-class debate; use of citation modes (paraphrase, summary, direct quotation); composition of 3-part thesis; correct use of topic sentences and in-text MLA, APA, or IEEE parenthetical citation</p>	20%

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
<b>Research Project – Group Presentation</b> Presentation of your group’s research through a short oral presentation or alternate medium (many options are available); exploration of key points for research essay; paraphrase vs. analysis; mixed mode delivery & presentation skills as an oral “draft” of concepts	10%
<b>Annotated Bibliography</b> Works Cited or Reference list using MLA, APA or IEEE documentation style for variety of eight research sources for your presentation/individual research essay, <u>five</u> of which are annotated	5%
<b>Research Essay</b> A 6-page analytical, argumentative research essay using MLA, APA or IEEE documentation, based on your Research Project presentation; use of summary, research skills, essay structure, research integration including charts, images or diagrams, citation modes, 3-part thesis; correct grammar, style, and punctuation	25%
<b>Novel Response, written in class</b> A three-paragraph response to a topic question on one of the assigned novels; forming and supporting a thesis; close reading skills; presenting your own interpretation; self-reflection	15%
<b>Engagement Activities</b> Five engagement activities emerging out of in-class lectures, discussions, and weekly lessons, marked “complete” or “incomplete.”	5%
<b>Quiz</b> Grammar, style and punctuation quiz requiring short answers ( <b>not</b> multiple choice)	5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	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

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**This course is a safe, inclusive, non-judgmental and respectful space.** Through readings, videos and discussions, we will be exposed to and sharing a wide variety of perspectives and experiences. Be sensitive to

others and their responses. If you find that any works or discussion comments trigger you, please let me know so that you can feel safer and be well supported.

**This course involves intensive writing, reading, deep thinking, and self-reflection.** This course develops your skill in a particular style of writing called the *academic style*. This style calls for attention to structure, content and development of ideas and details. Academic writing offers divergent, critical ways of thinking and ways of being. Crafting your words with thoughtfulness, sensitivity and originality is encouraged.

**Use of AI (artificial intelligence) will be guided and limited.** As we come to learn the benefits and limitations to the use of AI in composition and writing, we will use an exploratory approach, with the full awareness and agreement that AI will not author written assignments for this course, and with the understanding that we must submit our own work, generated from our own minds and using our own words. We will use AI as one of available writing and revising tools, and only in close alignment with assignment guidelines and requirements.

**Participation allows us to consider different views that enrich our own understanding.** Learning how to share your own views and to experience learning through others benefits your communication and interpretive skills. Become curious and always ask questions to develop your critical thinking skills. No judgments!

**Complete all assignments by the deadlines.** Deadlines are put in place to help you move through the class smoothly and at a regular pace. However, it is true that “life happens.” Therefore, one late assignment will be accepted, but tell me that it will be late. Plus, it must be submitted before the last class. Late assignments will not receive commentary. If you have trouble submitting *any* assignments on time, please contact me.

**Assignments follow the proper documentation style and formatting; no rewrites!** All assignments must be typed, paginated, and double-spaced. *There are no re-writes.* There are no make-ups for the midterm, quiz or the novel response in-class writing, unless you submit documentation verifying an emergency and the fact that you could not attend class that day. You will do make-up on your own time.

**If you are registered with the Center for Accessible Learning (CAL),** you must book your midterm, novel response writing and quiz two weeks in advance (see due dates above and book now).

**Check our D2L course site and your email regularly.** All course materials, news announcements, and reminders will be uploaded or sent that way. If you cannot access the D2L course site during the first week, please let me know. Redirect your D2L email if you would prefer to receive your email through a different email address (such as “gmail”).

## SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

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**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.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

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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

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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.

## IMPORTANT DUE DATES FOR FALL 2023:

Fall 2023 term starts	Sept. 5
Course add/drop deadline	Sept. 11
Stat Holidays	Oct. 2, Oct. 9, Nov. 11 (College closed)
Fall Bursary deadline	Oct. 17
Last day to withdraw	Dec. 9 / Last day of classes
Winter Bursary deadline	Dec. 12
Final Exam period	Dec. 14-19