

# COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: ENGL-151: Academic Writing Strategies

CLASS SECTION: 025

TERM: Winter 2022

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): In person

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](#).

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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

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NAME: Maureen Niwa, PhD, English

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

OFFICE: Paul 332, and virtual

HOURS: Tuesday, Paul 332 & virtual, 4:15-5:15pm; Friday, virtual 11:30am-12:30pm; 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

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>]

This course is offered in-person and supplemented using the D2L course site, which means that for the most part (Covid restrictions permitting), you will learn in class through lectures, discussions, activities, reflections and small-group work. For this reason, attendance in class is required; online materials are supplementary. Core class content will be delivered in class (unless we are required to switch to online learning). Prep for and explanation of assignments will be done in class, *so be sure to attend!* I am available for consultation, and to support your learning by expanding on topics, clarifying assignments, discussing selected texts, and answering your questions. Here is the rhythm of our week:

1. See D2L for selected materials that we have covered in class each week; complete any assigned readings before class. Be aware that for in-person delivery, D2L material cannot duplicate class instruction.
2. In class, I will use videos, PowerPoints/lectures, activities and other links/materials to teach academic writing essentials.
3. In-class activities & discussions will provide more context & insight into essay structure, terminology, readings and interpretations.
4. Occasionally, I will post short videos on D2L that provide a follow-up from class and/or delve into writing practices that you will need for your assignments.
5. Doing the readings, studying materials, and applying feedback on your written assignments will increase your grade and deeply enrich your learning.

## 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 writing. -Idea? Detail? Paragraph and essay structure. -Literal & figurative imagery.	Sample writing due at the end of the week.
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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 your brand.
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</b> Due, end of Week 3.
WEEK 4: ON THE OTHER HAND	Persuasion articles and group work: Zero Poverty, Nature Fix, Agitate! <b>Discussion Post #1.</b> <i>Grammar Focus: fused sentences, active vs passive voice.</i>	Discussion Post #1 Due.
WEEK 5: PERSUASION'S STRATEGIES	"Persuade Me" in-class debates. <b>Grammar Quiz #1.</b>	Grammar Quiz #1 Due.
WEEK 6: WARMING UP TO RESEARCH	Research Project requirements. Citation mode: Integrating direct quotation; intext citation. Potential Research Topics. Persuasive In-class Writing – do not miss class (worth 15%)	<b>Persuasive in-class writing</b> must be completed in class.
WEEK 7: WHAT YOU BELIEVE	READING BREAK – choose your research topic from the assigned selections; preliminary research activity. Prepare <b>Discussion Post #2.</b>	Start researching.
WEEK 8: BUCKET-TO-PAIL LIST	Narrowing your topic). Meet your Research group! Citation Modes: paraphrase, summary, direct quotation. <i>Grammar focus: Semicolon and comma placement.</i>	Discussion Post #2 Due.
WEEK 9: RESEARCH ESSENTIALS	Library Research Source Class. Annotated Bibliography. Documentation styles: MLA, APA, others? Group research presentation work. <i>Grammar Focus: Indefinite/vague pronouns, broad references.</i>	Library instruction – do not miss! Research presentation proposal due.
WEEK 10: TO THE RESCUE	Structural outline & topic sentences. Writing tips! <b>Grammar Quiz #2.</b> <i>Grammar focus: Capitalisation, spelling.</i>	Grammar Quiz #2 Due. <b>Annotated Bibliography Due.</b>
WEEK 11: PASSIONATE PRESENTATION	Research Group Presentations. Research Essay drafting support – structure, content, documentation..	Draft research essay.
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 in-class writing.	Novel in-class writing must be completed in class.

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

ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE
Assignment #1 – "Branded"	Friday, January 28, 11:59pm, D2L
Discussion Post #1	Friday, February 4, 11:59pm, D2L

Grammar Quiz #1	Friday, February 11, 11:59pm, D2L
Persuasive In-class Writing	Friday, February 18, 10:00-11:20am, in-class
Discussion Post #2	Friday, March 4, 11:59pm, D2L
Grammar Quiz #2	Friday, March 18, 11:59pm, D2L
Annotated Bibliography	Sunday, March 20, 11:59, D2L
Group Research Presentation – in class	Wed., March 23 or Friday, March 25, 10:00-11:20am
Individual Research Essay	Friday, April 1, 11:59pm (*this is not April’s Fool’s!)
Novel In-class Writing	Last class – Wednesday, April 13, 10:00-11:20am

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

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DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
<p><b>“Branded” Paragraphs</b></p> <p>Short critical analysis examining the use of cultural assumptions, dichotomies, figurative/rhetorical imagery in a brand of your choice; correct use of critical reading terminology; composition of 3-part thesis; support of thesis through an analysis of visuals/audio/text</p>	10%
<p><b>Persuasive In-class Writing</b></p> <p>Analysis of, and response to, a thesis argued in a scholarly article; use of citation modes (paraphrase, summary, direct quotation); correct use of topic sentences and in-text MLA or APA parenthetical citation</p>	15%
<p><b>Research Project – Group Presentation</b></p> <p>Presentation of your 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 &amp; presentation skills</p>	10%
<p><b>Annotated Bibliography</b></p> <p>Works Cited or Reference list using MLA or APA documentation style of eight research source entries for your individual research essay, <u>five</u> of which are annotated</p>	5%

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
<b>Research Essay</b> A 6-page analytical, argumentative research essay using MLA or APA documentation, based on your Research Project presentation; use of research skills, essay structure, research integration including charts, images or diagrams, citation modes, 3-part thesis; correct grammar, style, and punctuation	25%
<b>Novel – In-class Writing</b> A three-paragraph in-class writing responding to a topic question on one of the assigned novels; arguing and supporting a thesis; close reading skills; presenting your own interpretation	15%
<b>Discussion Forum Activities</b> Two different postings & responses based on assigned readings; identification and critique of logical fallacies; summary; articulation of your own thesis (5% each)	10%
<b>Quizzes</b> Two different grammar, style and punctuation quizzes requiring short answers ( <b>not</b> multiple choice; 5% each)	10%
<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 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 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 and critical ways of reading, writing, thinking, and ways of being that shape your responses.

**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 formatting guidelines in the course pack.** All assignments must be typed, paginated, and double-spaced. *There are no re-writes.* There are no make-ups for the in-class writing, unless you submit documentation verifying an emergency and the fact that you could not attend class that day.

**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”).

**At the time of publication, this class is exclusively face-to-face delivery.** Attendance is required for each and every class for the full class period. If you miss classes regularly, you will jeopardize your ability to pass this course. Your probability of passing the course without attending or attending rarely is extremely slim (*see below*). If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get and learn the material that you missed.

## 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. Editors and tutors should only offer advice or suggestions on how to improve your writing; they should not 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.

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## COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

### 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](http://camosun.ca/services/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 WINTER 2022:

Jan. 10	Winter 2022 term starts
Jan. 21	Fee deadline
Feb. 21	Family Day (College closed)
Feb. 22-25	Reading Break
March 13	Last day to withdraw without academic penalty
April 14	Last day of classes
April 19-27	Final Exam period