

English 150: English Composition

Section 36
Tuesdays 4:00 – 5:20 PM in Ewing 201

Instructor: Marc Christensen
Thursdays 4:00 – 5:20 PM in Fisher 206

Part A: Common Course Information

This course centres on generating, organizing, and expressing ideas in clear and effective written prose. Instruction and practice in writing college-level expository prose, based on appropriate models, form the core. Finished assignments total 4000-4500 words.

Pre-Requisite: C+ in English 12 or assessment.

Course Particulars: 3 credits (3,0,0,0), for 16 weeks, totaling 48 contact hours.

Major Goals

Students will write expository prose for various purposes and audiences:

- Develop a mature writing process which may include prewriting, planning, drafting, conferring, revisiting, and editing/proofing.
- Select and use rhetorical patterns purposefully.
- Write correct, clear, cohesive, and effective English.
- Vary style purposefully through manipulating sentence rhythms, sentence variety, vocabulary, and figurative language.

Students will also read mature expository and persuasive prose by student and professional writers:

- Vary their approach for different purposes.
- Analyze expository prose by identifying controlling ideas, supporting ideas, dominant rhetorical pattern, tone and features of style.
- Summarize expository prose in own words to reflect coherently the original's ideas, organization and tone.

In addition, students will research topics for expository papers:

- Use a variety of sources, which may include personal knowledge, interview, print, and other media.
- Choose to summarize, paraphrase, or directly quote from sources.
- Integrate the results of research into expository papers
- Document sources fully and ethically, according to specified bibliographic conventions.

Grading System

See Page 39 of the Camosun 2002-3 Calendar.

Part B: Course Details

Course Content Outline:

Like all composition courses, in this class you will do a lot of reading and writing. Unlike many similar courses, however, you will use a broad range of writing as it appears in the outside world as a model for your own writing. We will use a common group of essays, magazines and articles from newspapers to explore the way successful writing styles are constructed. By drawing

conclusions about what makes good writing from examples in the world at large, it is hoped that successful completion of this course will help students bypass post-college writing blocks.

Basis of Assessment (Grading):

Assignments: 70% of final grade.

4 short writing assignments, and 1 longer assignment, totaling approx 4500 words.

Will be weighted according to block word counts. (Every word counts the same.)

Quizzes: 20% of final grade.

4 reading quizzes and one editing quiz.

Participation: 10% of final grade.

Course Schedule:

Class Hours: Tuesdays 4:00 – 5:20 PM in Ewing 201 Thursdays 4:00 – 5:20 PM in Fisher 206

Dates:

- Week 1: You, the world, and your writing
 Thinking ahead: authority, persuasion, conviction
- Week 2: Preparing to Write
 Inventing, Clustering & Narrowing In...
- Weeks 3-4 : Complexity, open-ended inquiry, and incomplete conclusions
 Keeping your readers awake.
 Sept. 19: Quiz on assigned reading.
- Week 5-6 : Providing a balance of Principles and Examples
 Oct. 10: Quiz on assigned reading.
- Week 7: Techniques: Outlines & Transitions
- Week 8-9: Revision: Developing (& knowing when to deploy) an internal editor
 Exercises in revision
 Oct 31: Mid-term quiz on editing and assigned reading.
- Week 10: Sources: Research, Sources, Quoting
- Week 11: Techniques: Perspective and immersion
 Nov. 14: Quiz on assigned reading.
- Weeks 12+: Practicum
- Week 14: Preparation of Portfolio

Required Texts:

The Admen Move on Lhasa ESSAYS + 8 magazines to be determined during first week of class

Class Policies

All papers must be typed, double-spaced, with a readable font no smaller than 12 point type. Margins must be between 1 and 1.5 inches on each side. Papers produced by dot-matrix printer will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor.

Attendance. All students are expected to arrive on time and be prepared for class on a regular and consistent basis. Failure to appear in class more for more than four sessions (two weeks' worth of class time) will negatively impact the class participation component of a student's final grade.

Late papers. Late papers are reduced by one grade (as documented on page 39 of the Camosun 2002-3 Calendar) for each school day late. A paper which would otherwise receive a grade of "B+" would, if turned in one day late, become a "B."

Final Exam. Although final exams, as traditionally administered, may not be entirely appropriate to the composition classroom, an optional final exam will be given. This exam will allow students who have missed either one small paper or one quiz to recoup lost points, but will only correct one missing grade.

Instructor Availability:

Office hours are from 3:00 – 3:50 Tuesday & Thursday, and by appointment, in Paul 322.

Phone: 370-3345

Email: christensen@camosun.bc.ca