

CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts and Science
English Department

English 150 - 35: English Composition (3 credits)

Instructor: Shannon Whissell
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Office hours: Monday 1:00 - 2:00pm
Wednesday 10:00 – 11:30 am
For other times call, drop by my office, or email me

Class Time: Monday 4:00 – 5:20 pm
Wednesday 4:00 – 5:20 pm

Class Location: Fisher 268

Course Description:

This course centres on 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.

Prerequisites:

Completion of English 12 with a grade of C+ or better **or** assessment.

Course Objectives:

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

Read mature expository and persuasive prose by student and professional writers

- vary their reading 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

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

Evaluation

The only way to improve writing is to practice it regularly. Thus, this course is composed of regular small assignments. *All assignments MUST be completed. Those who skip an assignment will receive an "F" for the entire course.

Attendance / In-Class Work 10

Attendance is essential to your success, will be taken every class, and is included in your final mark. Frequent in-class exercises will be collected as part of your participation and as a means help me determine progress. These may not always graded, but they do contribute to your mark. Anyone who misses more than 50% of classes will receive an "F" for the class.

Journal 10

The journal is your chance to show how you interact with language, with the concepts we discuss, and with your identity as writer. Specific starting points for discussion and focus will be given out in class. This is not a personal "Dear Diary" type exercise but a means of developing in you the habit of regular writing and of critical thinking about your learning and the texts. The journals will be collected 5 times – bring them to class each day!

Compare / Contrast Paper (750-1000 words) 10

Comparison and Contrast is a crucial argumentative style that you will use in a wide variety of writings for many classes. Specific topics regarding the text will be given out. You can not write on another topic without my approval ahead of time.

Narrative / Descriptive Paper (500-750 words) 10

The narrative or descriptive expository style is vital to creating a human connection

between yourself as the author and your reader. It is also your chance to explore your personal style within the framework of an academic paper. Again, topics will be assigned.

Summary (in-class writing assignment) 10

Summary is a key skill in both critical reading and critical thinking. A sample of typical academic research writing will be given out in class, and you will have ample time to read, evaluate, and summarize the piece.

Group Grammar Presentations 10

Presentations are increasingly important as you progress towards your academic goals. This introduction to presenting gives you a chance to have fun, work as a team, and help teach the rest of the class important information.

Research Paper

The research paper is the most common evaluative tool in academics, and you will develop one through a careful step by step process that will include:

Topic, Thesis, and Outline	10
Annotated Bibliography (10 sources)	10
Final Draft (2000 words min.)	20

Required Texts (bring all texts to class each day)

Essay Essentials with Readings. Second Edition. By Sarah Norton and Brian Green.

Ishmael: A Novel. By Daniel Quinn.

Oxford College Dictionary (or comparable dictionary)

Late Policy

Assignments are due *at the beginning of class* on the due date. Late papers will lose marks at a rate of 10% per day, including weekends, to a maximum of 50%. Assignments will not be accepted if they are more than five days late. Extensions may be granted in case of emergency, if you speak with me before the due date and provide suitable proof. Skipping class to hand an assignment in late is NOT ACCEPTABLE.

Teaching Philosophy and Values

I truly enjoy teaching and see my job as helping you learn to express yourself clearly in writing and in speaking. I am committed to keeping our class discussions free and respectful while still having fun. I am always happy to discuss any academic concerns that you are having. You can also come see me at any point in the writing process to get feedback or to give me feedback. The ultimate responsibility for your success is in your hands, but I will do all I can to help you reach your goals.

My personal values influence how I manage a classroom and my relationships with my students. In regards to teaching, my values include

Respect -- respect is more than being polite. The academic classroom is a setting for open and spirited debate, for the free sharing of ideas, and for fun with learning. In order for all persons to feel safe to participate in this atmosphere, language will be respectful and will encourage conversation rather than shutting it down.

Fairness – I do not grade on a curve. It is my belief that all students begin the course equally capable of earning an A. I will mark each assignment based on its exhibited merits, and not based on the student's behaviour in class, personal relationship with myself, or prior marked assignments. In matters of academic honesty, every opportunity will be afforded the student to erase doubts.

Openness – students learn best and I teach best if communication is open and the expectations, evaluations, and measures of both my work and yours are clear and openly expressed. I will fully disclose any information that will help you be successful with your academic goals, and I ask that you openly approach me with constructive feedback that will help me improve as a teacher.

Mutual learning – one of the greatest things about my job as an instructor is that I am continually given the chance to learn. I do not profess to know everything, and I value the lessons in life, writing, expression and relating that students offer me. I will try to manage class discussion in a way that fosters this mutual sharing of knowledge.

Fun – Learning best happens in an atmosphere that is congenial and friendly, and in which the class members feel comfortable together. Humour joins people across barriers, relieves stressful situations and encourages mental stimulation. Thus, fun and humour will be not just tolerated but encouraged in our classroom within the broader goals of learning together and showing respect for all.

Camosun Grading System (from College Calendar 2002-2003 page 39)

<i>% Equivalent</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Grade Point</i>
95+	A+	9
90-94	A	8
85-89	A-	7
80-84	B+	6
75-79	B	5
70-74	B-	4
65-69	C+	3
60-64	C	2
50-59	D	1

Minimum Level of Achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.

<50	F	0
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Minimum Level is not achieved.

*I An "I" grade will be assigned when a student has been unable to complete the requirements of a course due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family. Course requirements must be completed and a grade change submitted within 6 weeks of the "I" grade being assigned or the "I" grade will convert to an "F".

*AUD Audit.
NA

*NS No Show. (Students who do not attend the first class meeting of a course and who do not contact the instructor with a satisfactory explanation for their absence will be assigned an "NS" grade and their seat will be forfeited.)

*W Official withdrawal has taken place. (Students who do not withdraw prior to official published deadlines and fail to successfully complete the course will be assigned an "F" grade.)

*Courses assigned these grades may not be used as prerequisites.