

English 250 Section 1: Advanced Composition--Spring 2003

Instructor: Dr. Candace Fertile

Office: Paul 337 Telephone: 370-3354 (office; with 24 hour voice mail)

Email: <fertile@camosun.bc.ca >(no attachments, please)

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 12:15-1:15 or by appointment

Calendar Description:

This course offers practice in writing in a variety of prose forms, with emphasis upon the expository essay. Stress is placed on developing the students' ability to order and structure material into its most effective form.

Required Texts:

*Inside Language*, edited by Jennifer MacLennan and John Moffat  
a handbook, such as *A Canadian Writer's Reference* by Diana Hacker, is useful  
students may be asked to acquire magazine articles or other material  
a dictionary (I recommend *The Canadian Oxford Dictionary*.)

Course Objectives:

Because writing is inextricably linked to reading, this course includes both. Through the examination and analysis of selections from various sources, students will increase their understanding of and appreciation for what language can (and perhaps cannot) do. Please note that English 250 is NOT a remedial English course but a course in extending established satisfactory writing skills.

Expectations:

It is crucial that students read all the assigned material, complete all writing projects, and attend all classes. Anyone missing 25% or more of the classes will be given a failing grade. Please note that it is impossible to pass this course without completing all the assigned written work, and 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. All work submitted must be that of the student; the use of any words or ideas from another writer or speaker must be properly documented, using the MLA style guide and following the procedure for in-text citations with a works cited page at the end of the essay. Failure to document sources properly is plagiarism, a serious offence that will be dealt with accordingly. I award plagiarized papers a grade of zero, and I give the offender a failing grade for the course. I also send a memo documenting the plagiarism to the Dean of Arts and Science. If you have any questions about this matter, do not hesitate to ask me. All written work must be submitted in proper manuscript format: for example, double-space, use 1" margins on all sides, use an ordinary font with at least a 12 pitch size, staple the pages together, number the pages in the top right-hand corner, and do not use a folder or cover. Put your title, your name, the class and section (1), the date, and my name on the title page. And keep a copy of your work. Keep all graded work until the course is over. And keep a folder of all drafts and notes used in the creation of each paper. If asked to produce this folder you must do so, or the paper will be treated as a plagiarized paper.

Evaluation Guide:

A+ 95-100; A 90-94; A- 85-89; B+ 80-84; B 75-79; B-70-74; C+ 65-69; C 60-64; D 50-59; F 0-49

Evaluation (please note: topics must be approved)

## 10% group presentation (May 26)

Each group of four students will have a topic to present on the general topic of advertising and propaganda. The selection of groups and topics will be done May 12-14. Students will have the class period on May 21 to work on their presentation. Grades will depend on content and presentation. Each group member will write a short report on the contribution and suggested grade for other members of the group. The presentation should be 10-15 minutes long, and extra time will be allotted for questions and comments. It is up to the group to decide how to present the material.

## 15% Essay (personal essay on language; due May 12; minimum 750 words)

Students may select their own specific topics. Some suggestions are the following: a childhood experience with language or books, an educational experience with language or books, an experience involving communication or lack of it, an experience with a language other than English. Please note that this essay is a personal one, so the use of "I" is not only permitted but also expected.

## 15% Creative non-fiction on subject of travel, nature, art; minimum 1000 words; due June 2

## 15% Review of new book, movie, music, performance; minimum 1000 words; due June 9

## 15% Persuasive essay--social commentary; minimum 1000 words; due June 16

## 15% Writing Skills Quiz 1:30-2:30 June 18 (no books allowed)

## 15% In-class Essay 2:30-4:30 June 18 (dictionaries allowed; choice of topics given)

Schedule (subject to change)

All reading listed are by author's last name and first page number in *Inside Language*.

May 5 Introduction, review of grammar (will continue throughout course)

May 7 Keller 69, Schaller 71, Taylor 73, Orkin 79, Miller 261, Lutz 267

May 12 Ingram 3, Hayakawa 9, Ong 16, Frye 33, MacLennan 37

May 14 Orwell 204, Rushdie 217, Nash 220, Van Evra 140, McLuhan 132

May 19 No Class

May 21 group work on presentations

May 26 Group presentations

May 28 Roberts 42, Moffatt 50, Elbow 65, Johnston 105, Grant 143

June 2 Booth 314, Bitzer 322, Swift 360

June 4 Reviews (to be distributed and to be discovered)

June 9 Munro 167, Anderson 177, Tannen 180, Poulton 193

June 11 Owen 255, Sassoon 257; dictionary research

June 16 Chapter 9 (minus Swift)

June 18 Writing skills quiz and in-class essay