

# ENGLISH 150: ENGLISH COMPOSITION

## SECTION 12, Fall 2004

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OFFICE HOURS: Mon. 1:00-2:00; Tues. 10:00-11:30, Wed. 10:00-11:30, 1:00-2:00.  
If you need to see me outside of scheduled office hours, please make an appointment.

### REQUIRED TEXTS:

M. Garret Baumann. *Ideas and Details*. Fifth Edition. **Mandatory.**  
English 150, Sections 10, 12, 19 *Course Pack*. **Mandatory.**  
Jane E. Aaron and Murray MacArthur. *The Little, Brown Compact Handbook*. (Highly recommended).  
College/university level English dictionary (such as Oxford's or Webster's).

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

*English 150* introduces you to writing and research skills for producing effective college and university-level essays. Effective writing is a **balance and relationship of ideas and details**. In this course, writing skills are developed through essay compositions that conform to an academic standard style of writing. The skills gained in this course are directly transferable to other college and university courses, and programs that require essay writing. The essays assignments here include a wide variety of essay writing styles: analytical, descriptive, persuasive, and argumentative. Based on individual class needs, we will integrate grammatical components as needed.

Keep in mind that English 150 is an intensive writing course, and that effective writing requires time!

We will cover all of the different compositional stages required for **effective writing**: brainstorming, planning, scheduling, structuring, drafting, revising, editing, and proof reading. These stages will be initiated in class through lectures, writing exercises and activities, group work, group/class discussion, and individual writings. In writing workshops, peer-edit reviews will improve your drafts and allow you to gain the editing skills needed for academic writing.

Peer reviews are an essential part of this course—don't miss them!

The **research essay**, a major component in this course, started early in the term, is an on-going project throughout this course. Through this assignment you will gain the academic skills required for academic research, including: library use, source search, source synthesis and integration, bibliography, and MLA documentation.

Valuable notes and exercises, as well as class readings, can be found in the course-pack. They will form the basis for a number of our lessons, so buy a course pack as soon as possible. Textbook readings in *Ideas and Details* will accompany specific assignments.

*English 150 equips you with the skills you need to become a better writer, researcher, and editor.* Ultimately, writing is a process of self-discovery and self-expression. I look forward to helping you bring your ideas into print!

"My aim is to put down on paper what I see and what I feel in the best and simplest way."  
~ Ernest Hemingway ~

### **IMPORTANT:**

Read this syllabus in its entirety.

Consult the *Course pack, Section One* for important information you need regarding **assignment expectations, presentation, and submission, letter grading and explanation of evaluation.**

*Our classroom environment is one of mutual respect and active exchange. Be prepared to listen attentively, as well as contribute to class discussion in a spirit of good will at all times.*

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Write well-structured essays which present an integration of ideas and details for specific audiences and purposes;
- Develop thesis statements which accurately reflect the arguments of your essays;
- Be familiar with various methods of outlining;
- Make informed decisions regarding essay planning, scheduling, and structuring;
- Make critical readings of texts written by professional writers and identify logical fallacies;
- Collaborate with a peer-group in a professional manner on all aspects of writing;
- Know how to give effective, critical feedback on essays for editing and proofing;
- Have an accurate understanding of how readers interpret your writing;
- Use direct quotation, paraphrase, summary, examples and other supporting details in your essay;
- Control all stylistic factors of writing, including voice, tone, figuration and perspective;
- Use the college / university libraries as research sources;
- Demonstrate all technical writing skills: paragraph construction and organization, sentence structure, coherency and unity, transitions, clarity and coherence, mechanics (grammar, syntax, punctuation, spelling, capitalization);
- Identify common grammatical and punctuation errors, and know how to correct them.

"The art of writing is the art of discovering what you believe."  
~ Gustave Flaubert ~

### **EVALUATION:**

Evaluation for English 150 is based on two important factors: peer reviews and essay assignments.

For both of these, **CLASS ATTENDANCE IS ABSOLUTELY COMPULSORY**. Students who do not attend class regularly, or who fail to hand in assignments, are advised to drop the course by the designated deadline.

**MISSED CLASSES:** It is your responsibility to get the lecture notes and handouts that you have missed in class. You may consult me about missed class content during office hours (not during our class period).

**PEER REVIEWS:** You cannot “make up” a missed peer-edit review. If you miss a peer review, provide written documentation of a medical emergency, or other valid reason for absence.

ALL peer-edit reviews must be handed in with your final assignments. *\*\* Please be prepared to take some peer-review material for home-work, if class-time does not allow you to fully complete the peer-review process.*

**LATE ESSAYS:** Late essays will receive a letter grade and percentage, *but no commentary*. No essays are accepted if handed in later than two weeks after the assignment date.

### **ESSAY ASSIGNMENT/ EXAM DESCRIPTION AND DUE DATES:**

Asterisked (\*) assignments are written in-class. Due to time constraints on marking, these assignments will not received extended written feedback, but you are welcome to review these with me further if desired.

Assignments/Exams	Length	Value	Due Date	Focus
In-class Narrative	1 - 1.5 pages	0%	First day of class	Diagnostic
Descriptive Essay	600 words; 3 pp.	15%	September 28	Paragraph structure
* Persuasive Essay	600 words; 3 pp.	15%	October 26	Persuasive structure.
Research Essay	1500 words; 8 pp.	35%	November 18	Argue; documentation
Comparison/Contrast	Approx. 600 words (Oral and written)	15% (10% oral presentation; 5% abstract)	See schedule for presentations; Abstract due: Dec. 7	Analytical
* Final Exam, includes Grammar	700 words	15%	Last class day: Dec. 9	Grammar, critical reading, composition
* Participation, PR		5%	All term	Active contribution

Assignment	Peer Review	Due Date
Descriptive Essay	Sept. 23	Sept. 28
Research Essay	Nov. 16	Nov. 18
Comp./Contrast	Dec. 2	Dec. 7

### **ENGLISH 150: CLASS DESCRIPTION & PREPARATION**

Note that this schedule is tentative and may be subject to change during the term. “Preparation” includes weekly readings in *Ideas and Details* (listed after this schedule) and the Coursepack (assigned in class).

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Your Preparation</i>
<b>Sept. 7</b>	Introduction to Course & Class Members Diagnostic in-class Essay	Read syllabus & Course pack: Section One.
<b>Sept. 9</b>	Ideas & Details in effective writing. Critical Reading Skills: Ad Critique (unmarked).	Bring an advertisement to class.
<b>Sept. 14</b>	Brainteasers: Mind, Senses, Imagination Grammar Focus: <i>Sentence Types</i> Paragraph Construction	Grammar exercises

<b>Sept. 16</b>	Essay Structure; Beloved object brainstorming. Sensory Imagery.	Choose research essay topic. Bring a beloved object.
<b>Sept. 21</b>	Research Essay Topics. Poetic Elements in description.	Draft Descriptive essay.
<b>Sept. 23</b>	Grammar: <i>Transitions, Broad References</i> Figurative Language: The Power of Poetry in description.	<b>PEER-REVIEW: DESCRIPTIVE ESSAY, in class Sept. 23.</b>
<b>Sept. 28</b>	Research Essay Topic: Looping Exercise From Outline to Thesis; Outline Styles. Effective Thesis Statements	<b>DESCRIPTIVE ESSAY DUE, in class: Sept. 28</b>
<b>Sept. 30</b>	Library Visit. Collecting Research Sources.	
<b>Oct. 5</b>	Grammar Focus: <i>Run-on, Fused Sentences; Comma Splices</i>	<b>LIBRARY EXERCISE due in class, Oct. 5.</b>
<b>Oct. 7</b>	Persuasive Essay Structure and Logical Fallacies. Rhetorical figures.	Study and analyse poems and essays in Persuasive section in course pack.
<b>Oct. 12</b>	Discussion of poems.	Prepare for in-class essay by doing the readings.
<b>Oct. 14</b>	Discussion of poems. Grammar Focus: <i>Modifiers, Passive voice.</i>	Prepare for in-class essay by forming an outline.
<b>Oct. 19</b>	Anticipating an Audience in persuasive essays. Discussion of selected essays. Grammar Focus: <i>Commas.</i>	
<b>Oct. 21</b>	Completion of text discussion. Preparing for the in-class essay.	
<b>Oct. 26</b>	Persuasive essay written in class (80 mins.).	<b>PERSUASIVE ESSAY DUE, written in class October 26.</b>
<b>Oct. 28</b>	Bibliography: Sources, Styles, Formatting. Note-taking; citations.	Draft research paper bibliography.
<b>Nov. 2</b>	MLA Documentation. Grammar Focus: <i>Pronoun and subject-verb agreement.</i>	Invited to submit bibliography.
<b>Nov. 4</b>	Plagiarism.	Skits.
<b>Nov. 9</b>	Quotation Integration in MLA format.	Finish Draft of Research essay.

<b>Nov. 11</b>	Grammar Focus: <i>Parallelism</i> .	
<b>Nov. 16</b>	<i>Remembrance Day: no class.</i> Peer review of research essay.	<b>PEER REVIEW: RESEARCH PAPER, in class Nov. 16.</b>
<b>Nov. 18</b>	Introduction to comparison and contrast analysis. Class discussion of shared short story.	<b>RESEARCH PAPER due in class, Nov. 18.</b> Have short story read in advance.
<b>Nov. 23</b>	Guidelines for Oral Presentations. In-class group-work on oral presentation.	
<b>Nov. 25</b>	Oral Presentations on short stories.	
<b>Nov. 30</b>	Oral Presentations on short stories.	
<b>Dec. 2</b>	Peer-review of Comparison/Contrast abstract. Grammar review.	<b>PEER-REVIEW: COMPARISON/CONTRAST ABSTRACT due in class Dec. 2.</b>
<b>Dec. 7</b>	Final exam prep. Class Party.	<b>COMPARISON/CONTRAST ABSTRACT due in class, Dec. 7</b>
<b>Dec. 9</b>	In-class final exam.	<b>FINAL EXAM, written in class, Dec. 9.</b>

### **English 150: Reading Assignments**

All readings refer to the textbook, *Ideas and Details* (5<sup>th</sup> edition) by Garrett Baumann. Readings from the *Coursepack* will be assigned at each class. Readings are to be completed *before* scheduled classes on the following weekly basis. *Come to class prepared!*

<b><i>DATE</i></b>	<b><i>IDEAS &amp; DETAILS</i></b>
Week One	Chapters 1, 2
Week Two	Chapters 3, 4
Week Three	Chapter 8
Week Four	Chapters 5, 9, 10, 11
Week Five	Chapter 14, pp. 301-320
Week Six	Chapter 12
Week Seven	Chapters 8, 16 (Grammar)
Week Eight	Chapter 14, pp. 320-323
Week Nine	Chapters 6, 14, pp. 324-348
Week Ten	Chapter 7
Week Eleven	Chapter 13

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**IMPORTANT DATES:**

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September 21	<i>Tuition fees due.</i>
October 11, November 11	<i>College closed for holidays.</i>
November 9	<i>Last day to withdraw without a failing grade.</i>
December 13-18, 20-21	<i>Exam period.</i>

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**\*\*IMPORTANT:** See the [Coursepack, Section One](#) for detailed information on:

- Essay presentation guidelines;
- grading standards & evaluation;
- late assignments;
- missed classes and
- peer-edit reviews.

**Any questions? Please ask!**

