

English 150 (Composition)

Winter 2005

In this course, you will focus on writing expository prose. Essentially this means that you will master the essay form from beginning to end. *Generating ideas, narrowing a topic, structuring an argument, differentiating between fact and opinion--these are all part of the writing process, as is good research.*

Faced with a blank white page, writers sometimes lack the *inspiration* to write. You will be reading and discussing the work of other writers to help understand different contexts, goals, and audiences for communication. Looking in detail at other writing will also help to review the fundamentals of good style.

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Texts:

- *Course Package for English 150*
- Buckley. *Checkmate* (Scarborough: Nelson Canada, 2003). OR any other up-to-date reference guide.

Learning Objectives:

In this course, students will learn to:

- write expository prose for various purposes and audiences
- develop a mature writing process which may include prewriting, planning, drafting, conferring, revising, 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 and persuasive prose by identifying controlling ideas, supporting ideas, dominant rhetorical pattern, tone and features of style
- summarize expository prose in one's own words to reflect coherently the ideas, organization and tone of the original
- 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:

You can expect to submit assignments that will total 4000 to 4500 words. But, since the only way to improve your writing is to write, you will be producing much more than just the assignments for grading.

Short Essay	20%
Proposal and Annotated Bibliography	20%
Research Paper	20%
Mid-term Exam (in class)	20%
Final Exam	20%

The short essay will be a minimum of four typed pages (double-spaced), and the research paper a minimum of eight. Although your grade will be based on the final product (the quality of the writing and research), your assignments will be considered incomplete unless they are accompanied by the lead-up work we have done in class (including outlines, peer review, etc.). Details will be given for each assignment.

- IMPORTANT NOTE:**
- 1. In-class work (such as peer reviews) cannot be made up.**
 - 2. Students who cannot pass the in-class writing assignments will not be able to pass the course.**
 - 3. To complete this course with a passing grade, ALL assignments must be completed (in order).**