

CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School Of Arts & Science
English Department

ENGL 150 - English Composition
Summer 2005

COURSE OUTLINE

The Approved Course Description is available on the web @ www.camosun.bc.ca

1. Instructor Information

- (a) Instructor: Dr. Nigel Brooks
- (b) Office hours: Wednesday: 1:00-3:00
- (c) Location: Paul 327A
- (d) Phone: 370-3302
- (e) E-mail: brooks@camosun.bc.ca
- (f) Website: www.camosun.bc.ca

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- 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 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

3. Required Materials

- (a) *Strategies for Successful Writing: A Rhetoric, Research Guide, Reader, and Handbook*.
Second Canadian Edition. Reinking, Hart, von der Osten, Cairns and Fleming.
- (b) A dictionary.

4. Course Content and Schedule

Purpose of the Course:

The overall purpose of the course is to turn the student into a clear and effective writer by emphasising the stages through which an essay evolves: brainstorming on a subject, choosing a thesis, drawing up an outline, prewriting a rough draft, revising the draft, producing a more polished version of the essay and realising that further improvements can be made to this version. The other basic premise of the course is that the ability to write well stems from the ability to read effectively. Active reading and writing activities will occur in class and all such work will count towards the final grade. There may be occasional supplementary essays to read--essays that are not in the main text.

From the outset there will be constant recourse to discussion groups and peer reviewing so that the student is made aware of how he can write for different audiences and not just for the instructor. The function of the instructor is to facilitate the writing process in a workshop environment and thus the instructor does not lecture exclusively but fosters discussion in a seminar situation. Study period time will be devoted to various projects, both group and individual. Students will also assess their own progress in the course and voice any concerns they may have; these study periods provide an opportunity for feed-back from student to instructor.

There will be analysis of essay writing successes and failures drawn anonymously from the students' own work. From the very first week, preparation will begin for the research paper; close attention will be paid to research techniques and a library orientation tour will be organised in the first few weeks. Students will give progress reports on their work to each other, and finally, to the class as a whole, in the form of the oral report. Later in the semester there will be debates in class to help students organise a coherent argument.

Because of the active participation of the students in classroom strategies, regular class attendance is crucial. If a student is frequently absent from class, he or she is

missing much of crucial importance and will be asked to drop the course. To end on a positive note, however, this course is designed to let the student explore many of his or her own interests through writing, reading and discussion, thereby creating greater self-awareness and self-confidence for all future endeavours.

Assignment Schedule:

Week One:

Course Introduction.
In-class narrative essay with weighting of 5%.
Introduce peer-reviewing and establish discussion groups.

Week Two:

Students should have read Philip Ross's *The Boy and the Bank Officer* and Evelyn Lau's *An Insatiable Emptiness*.
In-class test on the above essays.
In-class activities during the semester will carry an overall course weighting of 15%.
Library Tour.

Week Three:

In-class descriptive essay with weighting of 10%.
Review grammatical errors.
In-class group work on advertisement for some aspect of Camosun College.
Students should have read Candace Fertile's *The Oldest Profession: Shopping* and Stephen Perrine's *The Crystal Healer Will See You Now*.
In-class test on the above essays.

Week Four:

Instruction on how to give oral reports.
Sign-up for oral reports on progress in research essay project and prepare for reports.
Conferences with Students.
Students should have read Christopher Dewdney's *After Deep Blue* and Stephen L. Carter's *The Insufficiency of Honesty*.
In-class test on the above essays.
In-class expository essay due in with weighting of 10%.

Week Five:

Oral progress reports on the research essay project with weighting of 10%.
Outline of research essay due in with weighting of 10%.

Week Six:

Form debating teams and start preparing debates.
Students should have read Brad Evenson's *Native Postmodern* and Kalle Lasn's *Media Carta*.
Research essay due in with a weighting of 20%.

Week Seven:

Debates begin with weighting of 10%.
In-class argumentative essay with weighting of 10%.

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(a) Assignments

There are four essays of between 500 and 750 words in length, classroom activities and exercises, an outline, an oral presentation of ten minutes, a debate and a research essay of between 1000 and 1500 words. This schedule does not detail everything that will be done in the course and it is subject to alteration, for example, more than two of the essays may be written in class.

(b) Quizzes

(c) Exams

(d) Other (e.g. Project, Attendance, Group Work)

6. Grading System

The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

A+ = 95 - 100%	B = 75 - 79%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 90 - 94%	B- = 70 - 74%	F = 0.0 - 49%
A- = 85 - 89%	C+ = 65 - 69%	I = See Calendar for details
B+ = 80 - 84%	C = 60 - 64%	AUD = Audit

W = Official withdrawal has taken place

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College Calendar, Registrar's Office or the College web site at <http://www.camosun.bc.ca>

ACADEMIC CONDUCT POLICY

There is an Academic Conduct Policy. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, Registration, and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-8