



School of Arts & Science
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

ENGL 250-02
Advanced Composition
Winter 2007

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Thom Bland		
(b)	Office Hours:	1:00-3:20 Mon and Wed and 10:00-11:30 Tues and Thurs		
(c)	Location:	Paul 335		
(d)	Phone:	370-3359		
(e)	Email:	bland@camosun.bc.ca		

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

As a result of taking this course the student will be able to:

1. Identify:
 - a) Different types of non-fiction prose (e.g., memoir, personal essay, review.
 - b) Editorial, speech, expository essay, research essay).
 - c) A variety of rhetorical strategies (e.g., description, narration, comparison and contrast, classification, cause and effect, persuasion).
 - d) The relationship among speaker, audience, and material.
2. Outline the structure of a work of non-fiction prose.
3. Evaluate the effectiveness of form, structure, and style (e.g., sentence types, sentence variety, vocabulary, figures of speech) in a range of non-fiction prose, both published and unpublished.
4. Compose different types of non-fiction prose.
5. Compare, select, and employ a variety of structures, rhetorical strategies, and styles.
6. Revise their own writing according to various articulated standards of evaluation (their own, their peers', their instructor's, the marketplace's).

3. Required Materials

(a)	Texts	<i>Inside Language: A Canadian Language Reader</i> . Edition. Eds. MacLennan and Moffat
(b)	Other	A good dictionary (Canadian preferred)

4. Course Content, Schedule, Expectations, Essay Format

Essay Format: Please follow the Modern Language Association guide for essay format such as that found in the College *Style Sheet* by Furberg and Hopkins. These guidelines are also available on the web at a number of locations—see <http://webster.commnet.edu/mla/index.shtml> Submit **ALL** essays **TWICE**. **ONE** copy should be on paper and the **SECOND** copy should be submitted electronically as an attachment to an email. You should regularly **scan your computer** for viruses; I don't want yours.

Attendance: It is impossible to pass this course without at least 80% attendance.

Plagiarism: This is putting someone else's writings (or ideas) into your work and not saying where you got these materials. You thereby imply that the other person's work is your own. This is a serious offence and will be dealt with accordingly. **SEE LINK BELOW ON CONDUCT. AN ACT OF PLAGIARISM IS ENTERED ON YOUR PERMANENT STUDENT RECORD.**

My Philosophy: your academic well being is one of my responsibilities. If you have ANY academic problems during your studies at Camosun College, come and see me. If I cannot help you myself, I will direct you to people who can. **SEE LINK BELOW FOR OTHER RESOURCES.**

A Few Notes About Your Journal: Although this does not have a point value, it is an important element in the development of your ideas and writing skills. Perhaps the best place to start is to say what the journal is not. It is **not** a set of class notes, a record of homework assignments, or a diary of your personal activities. It is a collection of your reactions to the essays and other works you will read for this class. It is a place to explore your questions and ideas without the worry of proper form etc. Regular use of your journal will help you get more from your classes and supply helpful ideas for your essays. Get into the habit of writing in your journal daily and write about the material on the reading list BEFORE and AFTER you come to class. For an excellent guide to the sorts of things that should be in your journal, read pages x, xi, and xii in your text. I will collect these journals on a regular basis—not necessarily weekly. Please have your journal ready for submission on the first day of class each week; if I take them in that week, I will read them and then return them during the second class of the same week

Seminar and Editing Guidelines

Editing:

When you write anything for this class you should have at least **TWO EDITORS**; these people MUST be from your English 250 class. They will examine your work in close detail. You should indicate that they have examined your writing by putting **THEIR INITIALS** on the bottom of the last page of your finished essay. As an editor, you are not meant to say just "nice things" about your classmate's work. Neither are you expected to say purely negative things. Your comments should be as constructive as possible. I will be going over editing techniques in the early part of the course.

Editors should try not to get too upset if the writer chooses to ignore their helpful advice. It is, after all, the writer's creation and therefore in his or her hands. I hope this editing will get you to examine other people's work with a critical eye, looking for such things as idea development, grammar, and transitions. Writing, as you know, is a highly complex act with an array of individual differences. However, the amount of time you have for each writing assignment is fixed so you should learn to pace yourself to the course requirements early in the semester. For example, as you may see from the above dates, your work must go through three distinct phases with three specific dates:

1. For the **"framework"** date you should bring a fully developed outline to the editing class. This outline should specify thesis, modes of development, support used, paragraphing etc. I will collect these documents at the end of the editing session, and you will be able to pick them up outside my office the next day or in the next class.
2. For the **"draft"** dates, you should bring a fully developed essay to the editing class. Here editors should comment on the entire essay, noting everything from surface errors to problems with the logical development of ideas. I will collect these documents at the end of the editing session, and you will be able to pick them up in the next class.
3. As you may have guessed, this is the date for the submission of your **finished, polished essay**

Note that while these editing sessions only have a total value of **19 POINTS**. Missing them will have a significant impact on your participation and final grade for this course.

Seminar:

The seminar is meant to generate discussion from the rest of the class. You may choose to do this in a number of different ways. Generally speaking, the seminar should look at such things as the content of the piece (what the writer is writing about) and the writer's techniques (how he or she goes about putting the piece together). For the latter you should look at such things as a writer's presentation, logical development, rhetorical design, construct of arguments and transitions. This term the pieces you read will all be from professional writers. Of course, this does not mean that they are, by definition, perfect.

You should arrive at the seminar with a favourite passage or two. These can be passages that don't work or that work particularly well or that stand out for some other reason. What the rest of the class will expect from you is that you have thought about the piece in some depth. You may expect the same of the rest of the class. **DO NOT COME TO CLASS UNLESS YOU HAVE READ THE ARTICLES UNDER DISCUSSION. YOU MAY BE ASKED TO WRITE ABOUT A PIECE AND IF YOU HAVE NOT READ IT, THINGS COULD GET EMBARRASSING.**

By the way, you will most likely want to use some of this material for one or two of your essays.

Reading List for Essay Four—Choose ONE.

Behind the Scenes at the Museum, Kate Atkinson
True History of the Kelly Gang, Peter Carey
White Teeth, Zadie Smith
Autograph Man, Zadie Smith
On Beauty, Zadie Smith
The Peppercorn Moth, Margaret Drabble
The Horses Mouth, Joyce Cary
After Rain, William Trevor
The Story of Lucy Gault, William Trevor
A Bit on the Side, William Trevor
The Children of Dymmouth, William Trevor
Paddy Clark, Ha Ha Ha, Roddy Doyle
The Son of the Circus, John Irving
The Fourth Hand, John Irving
Family Matters, Rohinton Mistry
Shakespeare's Dog, Leon Rooke
River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze, Peter Hessler
Fall on your Knees, Ann-Marie Macdonald
The Concubine's Children, Denise Chong
The God of Small Things, Arundhati Roy
Into Thin Air, Jon Krakauer.
Things That Must Not Be Forgotten, Michael David Kwan.
South: The Endurance Expedition, Ernest Shackleton
The Imaginary Indian, Daniel Francis.
No Great Mischief Alistair MacLeod.
A Gesture of Life, Chang-rae Lee
Larry's Party by Carol Shields
White Noise Don DeLillo
The Shipping News, Annie Proulx
Snow Falling on Cedars, David Guterson
Red Azalea Anchee Min
Angela's Ashes Frank McCourt
'Tis Frank McCourt
Life and Death in Shanghai, Nien Cheng
A Hundred Years of Solitude Marquez
Farming of Bones, Edwidge Danticat

From the Land of Green Ghost: A Burmese Odyssey
Pascal Khoo Thwe
After Goodlake's Terence Young
Amazon Extreme, Colin Angus
Lost in Mongolia, Colin Angus
So Many Ways to Begin, John MacGregor
The Innocents, Ian Mcewan
Enduring Love, Ian Mcewan
Norwegian Wood, Murakami
The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle, Murakami
Kafka on the Shore, Murakami
Morality Play, Unsworth

I will add to this list as the semester progresses. You may add to the list if the book you select is one that I have read recently. I read quite a bit!

A final note:

You should collect EVERYTHING you write for this course, including research documents and outside sources, and save them in some sort of file folder. I may ask to see this folder to clarify your progress as a writer or to assess my evaluation of your writing. This may be a little more “order” than you are used to but it is necessary. Thanks.

Reading List Tentative	Week or Weeks (approximate)
Hyakawa 9	1
MacLennan 37	1-2
Booth 314	2-3
Fry, 33	4
Shoveller 57 Kostash 62	5
Orkin 79 and Davidson	6
Tannen 180	7-8
Wente 190	7-8
Lutz 267	9
Nash 220	9
Rushdie and Jonas 217—215	10-11
Lakoff in library	10-11
Orwell, 204	11-12
Bosmajian in library	11-12
English in library	12-13
Berger in library	12-13
Novel or Non Fiction piece	13-14

5. Basis of Student Assessment

Evaluation: Your evaluation is based upon FOURTEEN items:

Jan 09	Bio	1
Jan 11	Framework of Essay #1	1
Jan 18	Draft of Essay #1	5
Jan 25	Essay #1 (1500-2000 words)	20
Feb 01	Framework of Essay #2	1
Feb 15	Draft of Essay #2	5
Mar 01	Essay #2 (1500-2000 words)	25
Mar 15	Framework of Essay #3	1
March 22	Draft of Essay #3	10
March 27	Essay #3 (2000 words)	25
April 05	Framework of Essay #4	1
April 12	Draft of Essay #4	5
Exam Week	Essay #4 (Final Exam, In-Class Format)	30
Various	Individual Seminars and in-class writing	<u>30</u>
TOTAL		160

NOTE: IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PASS THIS COURSE WITHOUT COMPLETING ALL ASSIGNMENTS.

**** Failure of in-class writing (final etc) will result in failure for the course.**

Due Dates: All work is due on the dates specified. 10% will be deducted for **EACH** of the first two days a paper is late. (Total = -20%) After this period, the work will not be accepted.

Writing Assignments

Essay One:

Read the MacLennan article (pages 36-39) and then apply her questions to another essay which is NOT on your reading list for this course. This essay may or may not be within *Inside Language: A Canadian Language Reader*. Note that you will have to rework questions number four and five since they apply specifically to the MacLennan essay. If the essay you are writing about is NOT in your text, please attach a copy of the article under discussion to your finished work. **(20 points and due January 25th)**

Essay Two:

Select any pair (three if you wish) of articles from your reading list and compare them. Your job is to convince your reader that the two pieces are worth looking at “together.” Your job is also to say something new about the subject through the very act of comparing different writers. For example, both English and Bosmajian say something about the language of war. Orwell, Lakoff and Tannen all say something about power or control in language. Rushdie and Nash say something about the news and censorship and how its creation directs the way we think. This essay may go in a multitude of directions. Be creative. **(25 points and due March 1st)**

Essay Three:

Jennifer MacLennan (the real live human being) has actually made this offer so we are going to turn it into a writing exercise. *Inside Language* is soon to be republished by Oxford Press. Dr. MacLennan is open to your suggestions as to what new essays to include in the newly revised text. I will be forwarding your essays to her.

Here is what your essay should look like: Your work should include a clean copy of the essay under discussion and your detailed analysis of why it should be part of the new textbook. You should also consider how the chosen work would fit with the rest of the articles in the old version of the textbook. Feel free, by the way, to jettison an essay from the original text if you think your selection would work better.

Remember that this is also a research paper, so your finished work should include references to other people's ideas, works etc. For example, if you were arguing for the inclusion of an essay about the Canadian involvement in Afghanistan, you might want to cite some newspapers or journals which would support your idea that this particular essay should be part of the new edition of *Inside Language*. **(25 points and due March 27th).**

Essay Four:

This essay is designed to help you in writing under pressure. You will prepare, edit, polish and practice an essay on one of the books on the last page of the outline. You will then write that piece in a three-hour exam. More on this later. **(30 points and due in the exam week)**

6. Grading System

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
95-100	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
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy at camosun.ca or information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that are designed to have an anticipated enrollment that extends beyond one term. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course.
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at camosun.ca for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Evaluation Guide: As you can see, this does not match the College's grading system. However, I hope it will give you a general idea about my expectations and show you how these translate into rough grade equivalencies.

- F Lack of clear expression makes failure automatic. Subject being discussed is obviously not understood or is obviously inaccurately presented.
- D Several errors in spelling, punctuation, or difficult language expressions. Subject not thoroughly discussed and/or thoroughly understood.
- C Occasional weakness in expression. The basic material is obviously understood, but the sentences are unvaried and simple.
- C+ Very few mechanical errors. The basic material is understood. Some attempt at sentence

- variety and original expression. Not much creative imagination is involved in trying to put the subject into a new light.
- B Virtually no errors in expression are present; that is, all is very clear. Subject is thoroughly studied and understood. Some degree of originality is involved in the unified fashion.
- A The kind of work that might be expected at the next level. Complete and clear understanding with a high degree of originality. Logical, clear development; no mechanical errors.

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

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, at Student Services or the College web site at camosun.ca.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services and on the College web site in the Policy Section.