

CAMOSUN COLLEGE - COURSE OUTLINE
ENGLISH 250 D01
ADVANCED COMPOSITION

Instructor: Debbie Gascoyne
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Course URL: <http://online.camosun.ca>
Office Hours: T, Th 9:30 - 11:30 am Or by Appointment

Required Texts: The Mercury Reader (Custom Text)

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 student's ability to order and structure material into its most effective form. Finished assignments total 5000-5500 words* and will be written over the semester.

*This is the *total* of assignments, individual assignments are approx 1000 words each.

As a result of taking this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify:

- Different types of non-fiction prose (e.g., memoir, personal essay, review).
- Editorial, speech, expository essay, research essay).
- A variety of rhetorical strategies (e.g., description, narration, comparison and contrast, classification, cause and effect, persuasion).
- 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sentence types, sentence variety, vocabulary, figures of speech) in a range of non-fiction prose, both published and unpublished.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).

Evaluation:

Diagnostic Essay	0%
Discussions	10%
Blog	20%
Three draft essays @ 10% each	30%
Portfolio of Writing	40%

Brief description of assignments (complete instructions will be given over the term)**Diagnostic essay.**

This is a very short essay. You will be given a fairly detailed evaluation which will help point out your strengths and weaknesses.

Draft Essays. As we discuss styles and forms of non-fiction writing, everyone will be asked to experiment with short writing assignments. You will peer edit five essays over the course of the term, and all five will be submitted to me at the deadline required. You will also choose **three** of them for detailed criticism and feedback from me over the course of the term.

Discussions.

There will be twelve discussion questions posted in the “Discussion” forums over the course of the term. You must respond to at least TEN of these (you will receive one mark for each), but you can earn a couple of bonus marks by answering all twelve. You must also comment on other students’ postings. This is your formal participation mark.

Blog This is becoming an increasingly important aspect of the writer’s life these days, and you are required to keep a blog in which you will reflect on the required reading from the text. You are also expected to read and comment on your classmates’ blogs.

Portfolio: It is my intention that you will leave the class with a collection of polished, finished essays in a variety of genres. You will write five essays over the course of the term, three of which you will have criticism from me on and all of which you will have peer edited. At the end of the term, you will submit electronically a portfolio of your four best essays, with an introduction for each one outlining your writing process.

Peer Editing: Peer editing sessions are compulsory; you will make use of the online service “Google docs” and connect with at least two or three other students. All peer edited work is to be submitted to me by the deadline in the calendar. Three essays of your choice will also be critiqued and evaluated in detail by me.

Participation: Active participation in peer editing and the blogs and the discussion forum is a requirement of this course. You are required to read and comment on other students blogs and to participate fully in peer editing. The instructor reserves the right to refuse to accept work from a student who has not participated fully in the process. Work

must be completed by the deadlines in courtesy to other students and to the instructor.
Procrastination is a tool of the devil!

Grading System:

A+ = 90-100%	B- = 70-72%
A = 85-89	C+ = 65-69
A- = 80-84	C = 60-64
B+ = 77-79	D = 50-59%
B = 73-76	F = Below 50%
	IN = Incomplete, must be negotiated

Specific expectations and a grading rubric will be supplied for each assignment.

Notes:

All assignments must be completed and submitted on the specified due dates to complete the course.

Late submissions, without prior negotiated extensions, will be penalized 10% per day up to a maximum of 5 week days. After a week, the paper will be read but no comments will be provided; grade will be complete 60% only, assuming the paper is worth that much.

Proven cases of plagiarism will result in an automatic F grade for the work involved. Work suspected of plagiarism will be given a C for the first offense, and may be revised after discussion with instructor. A second offense of proven plagiarism will result in an F for the course; a second offense of suspected plagiarism (if the first was unchallenged) will result in an automatic F for that assignment with no chance for revision.