

English 150 Distance Education

Instructor: Raj Mehta

Office: Paul 318

Email: Use internal D2L email

Web Portal: <http://online.camosun.ca/> or <http://camosun.ca/de/>

For Technical Assistance contact desupport@camosun.bc.ca

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Credit Value: 3

Prerequisites: C+ in English 12; or English C in 082 & 084; or assessment

Course Description

This course centers on generating, organizing and expressing ideas in clear and effective written prose. Instruction and practice in writing college-level expository prose, based on appropriate models, form the core. Finished assignments total 4000-4500 words.

Core Learning Objectives

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 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 convention

Required Texts

Texts: Birks, Eng, and Walchli: *Landmarks* (for weekly readings).

Assignments

Due Date	Name of Assignment	Percentage Value
February 19th & March 30th	Journal and Reading Logs	2 @ 10% each
Weekly	Participation	10%
January 26th	Evaluation of Source	10%
February 12th	Plan	5%
February 26th	Midterm Essay instructions will be emailed at noon on the 26 th .	15%
March 5th	Outline	10%
March 12th	Documentation	10%
April 9th	Final Paper	20%

More detailed instructions are listed in List of Assignments online.

Evaluation

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

I only issue letter grades for assignments. General grading guidelines for essays are listed below.

The marks for midterm and final essay will be based on organization, quality of ideas and support, style and grammar, according to the following criteria:

A Range (85 - 100%) Superior level of achievement - worth consulting.
exceptional insight into material or topic
detailed, significant discussion
effective organization for paper's purpose
fluent, error-free expression

B Range (70 - 84%) High level of achievement - worth keeping.
competent treatment of material or topic but less originality or perception than for an A
full but not so detailed discussion as for A
organization contributing to sense but remaining workmanlike
expression free of errors

C+ (65 - 69%) More than satisfactory level of achievement - worth doing.
sound content, reasonably well organized
clear but somewhat mechanical organization
expression generally free of errors that confuse sense. May display content at the B or even A level but with more than one or two serious mechanical errors

C (60 - 64%) Sufficient level of achievement to proceed with next level – readable.
acceptable but commonplace content adequately supported
mechanical but generally coherent organization
adequate but sometimes confusing expression

D (50 - 59%) Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted - worth reworking.
limited or misleading content with inadequate or inappropriate support
incomplete or confusing organization
frequent errors in expression that confuse sense

F (Below 50%) Minimum level not achieved - worth discarding.
inadequate or inaccurate content
incoherent organization
many errors in expression
basically, no apparent effort made in the paper at all

A word about grading standards: Merely fulfilling the terms of an assignment, and doing so in a competent, reasonable manner is generally only enough for a grade in the B- range. 'A' grades will only be awarded when work demonstrates notable creativity, insight and excellence. As this is an online course, there are issues with inserting comments on uploaded documents. This is in part because of compatibility issues between platforms and versions of software, but also because there is no set standard for formatting comments online. As such, please note that my comments are usually itemized at the bottom of submitted assignments as grading online

presents some technical difficulties. If you require more specific feedback, please make an appointment to see me.

Course Policy

Participation:

This course requires participation by class members with weekly postings and peer review work, so it is important that you follow the weekly requirements. Regular postings are required. Please avoid 'binge' postings – you are required to post according to the weekly schedule. Binge postings will NOT be credited for class participation marks. You are responsible for completing all of the course material for me to issue a final mark.

Assignments:

If you miss assignments you fail the course – all assignments are mandatory and due according to the dates & times specified. Late work will not be accepted (except under extraordinary circumstances) and will receive a grade of 0 (zero).

Assignments are uploaded into the drop box online. Please note that you are expected to anticipate online and computer glitches. This is an online course, so I presume some familiarity with computer skills – I cannot workshop students through computer-related concerns. Please anticipate deadlines and note that exceptions will not be made for technical problems.

Do not e-mail assignments. All assignments must be uploaded in the drop box. Please keep a copy of all work - including material you hand in - until final marks have been posted.

Email Policy:

While I make every effort to check email regularly, I would appreciate up to two days to respond to questions. PLEASE NOTE: I commit to the course as any in-class one. Hence I usually schedule two blocks of time each week to tend to the course and student questions/postings. I do not administer to the course at other times – nor in the evenings or on weekends.

Academic Honesty:

I develop a sense for the style and syntax of your writing, and it is relatively clear when a written submission is not representative of your work. Plagiarism is a serious offence. All offences will result in a failing grade for the course. If you have any questions about source materials you are using, talk with me before turning in the assignment in question. Students are assumed to be familiar with the "Academic Policies and Procedures" in the Camosun Calendar. Plagiarism occurs where an individual submits or presents oral or written work of another person as his or her own - when another person's words (i.e. phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, organizational format, or entire work is used, you must acknowledge such sources in your text by using an accepted form of academic citation. Simply put, plagiarism is taking the words or ideas of another person, and submitting them without the proper acknowledgement of the original author.

