

CAMOSUN COLLEGE
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCE
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
ENGLISH 151 - ENGLISH COMPOSITION
COURSE OUTLINE

1. Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Nigel Brooks

Office: Paul 327A

Phone: 370 3302

E-mail: brooks@camosun.bc.ca

Web site: www.camosun.bc.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday: 10:30 – 11:20am

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course the student will be able to:

- 1. Form critical responses to ideas.**
 - Distinguish between fact and opinion.
 - Analyse and articulate the reasoning behind an argument.
 - Demonstrate a critical examination of ideas through close reading, inquiry, divergent thinking, evaluation of evidence and interpretation, as well as an understanding of rhetoric, reason, logic and word usage.
 - Produce writing under exam conditions, as well as outside class.
 - Differentiate academic and non-academic writing.
- 2. Write in an academic style common to multiple disciplines.**
 - Approach writing as an active exploration of multiple perspectives on a topic.
 - Compose effective summaries.
 - Select and use rhetorical patterns purposefully.
 - Employ a comprehensive writing process, which includes prewriting, focusing, planning, multiple drafting, conferring, revising and editing/proofing.
 - Develop an argument with a controlling thesis; write unified, coherent paragraphs, including effective introductions, transitions and conclusions in correct, clear, effective English.
 - Develop effective, focused research questions.
 - Demonstrate control, clarity and cohesion in the development and organization of ideas.
 - Vary style purposefully for planned rhetorical strategies.
 - Write for specific results.
 - Critique his/her own and others' writing.
- 3. Read and analyze complex texts from various academic disciplines.**
 - Vary reading approaches for different purposes, such as personal response, persuasion, and criticism.
 - Participate and engage in a dynamic, stimulating exchange of ideas based upon close textual readings.

- Discuss and debate text using terminology appropriate to the discipline and context of those texts.
 - Analyze textual readings, which may include visual texts, by identifying controlling ideas, supporting details, dominant rhetorical pattern, subtext, tone and stylistic features.
 - Summarize readings to reflect coherently the original's ideas, purpose, organization, and tone.
 - Critically read your own and others' writing.
4. Demonstrate information literacy skills.
- Determine the nature and extent of the information needed.
 - Know and use what information resources are available, in different formats.
 - Use print and electronic resources effectively and efficiently.
 - Evaluate sources for authority, relevance, reliability, currency and other criteria.
 - Incorporate and integrate research through correct use of summary, paraphrase and quotation.
 - Document sources fully and ethically, according to specified bibliographic conventions.
5. Develop self-awareness as an academic writer and contributor.
- Articulate one's position in a critical debate of ideas.
 - Reflect on one's own writing for continuous improvement.

3. Required Materials

(a) *Strategies for Successful Writing: a rhetoric, research guide, reader, and handbook*. FIFTH Canadian Edition. Edited by Reinking, von der Osten, and Fleming

(b) A dictionary

4. Course Content and Schedule

Purpose of 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 of the course there will be recourse to discussion groups and peer reviewing so that the student is made aware of how he or she can write for different audiences and not just for the instructor. The role 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 second week. Students will give oral progress reports to the class as whole, in the form of the oral report. Later in the semester there will be debates 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 vital importance and will be asked to drop the course. To end on a positive note, however: this course is designed to let students explore many of their 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:

Exploration of the evolution of the English language.

In-class test on Moses Milstein's *Memories of Montreal--and Richness* and Evelyn Lau's *An Insatiable Emptiness*--with weighting of 5%--and other class exercises.

In-class activities during the semester will carry an overall course weighting of 25%.

Library orientation tour.

Week Three:

In-class expository essay with weighting of 10%.

Review grammatical errors.

In-class group work on advertisement that promotes some aspect of Camosun College--it could be something that the college already has or that it should have.

In-class test on Candace Fertile's *The Oldest Profession: Shopping* and Mark

Kingwell's *Ten Steps to Creating a Modern Media Icon*--with weighting of 5%

Week Four:

In-class 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.

In-class test on Celia Milne's *Pressures to Conform* and Robert

M. MacGregor's *I Am Canadian: National Identity in Beer Commercials*--with weighting of 5%.

Week Five:

Oral report on progress in the research essay project with weighting of 10%

300-word outline of the research essay due in with weighting of 10%

Week Six:

Form debating teams and start preparing debates.

In-class test on Julie Traves' *The Church of Please and Thank You* and Neil

Bissoondath's *No Place Like Home*-- with weighting of 5%.

Research essay due in with a weighting of 20%.

Week Seven:

In-class debates with weighting of 10%.

Final in-class argumentative essay with weighting of 10%.

5. Basis of Student Assessment

To summarise: there are three in-class essays of between 500 and 750 words each, four in-class multiple choice tests, an advertisement, a debate in which each participant must speak for a minimum of 5 minutes, an essay outline of 300 words, an oral report of 7 to 10 minutes and a research essay of between 1000 and 1500 words

6. Grading System

The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

90 - 100% = A+ Grade Point Equivalent: 9

85-89% = A 8

80-84% = A- 7

77-79% = B+ 6

73-76% = B 5

70-72% = B- 4

65-69% = C+ 3

60-64% = C 2

50-59% = D 1

0-49% = F 0

7. Learning Support and Services for Students

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them at the college. Information on these services is available in the College Calendar, the Registrar's Office and on the College website at www.camosun.bc.ca

8. 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, the Registration Office and on the College website in the Policy Section.