



School of Arts & Science  
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
ENGL 151-014  
Strategies for Academic Writing  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10-11:20 F214  
Fall, 2015

## COURSE OUTLINE

The course description is online @ <http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/engl.html>

**Calendar Description:** This course provides core critical thinking, reading, research and writing skills transferable to academic disciplines. Students practice various forms of academic writing, including summary, critical analysis, and written research. Analysis of textual rhetoric, discourse, and style, along with academic essay-writing, develops students' self-awareness of methods of inquiry, critique, and reflection.

### Instructor Information

Instructor:	Thea Todd
Office Hours:	Tuesday, 12-2, or by appointment
Office Location:	P326
Phone:	250-370-3342
Email:	<a href="mailto:toddt@camosun.bc.ca">toddt@camosun.bc.ca</a> (Please type carefully!)

### Intended Learning Outcomes

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

#### Form critical responses to ideas.

- Distinguish between fact and opinion.
- Analyze 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 high school and academic writing.

#### 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 individually and collaboratively for specific results.
- Critique his/her own and others' writing.

#### 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, including 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 her/his own and others' writing.

### **Research and develop information media and literacy skills.**

- Use a wide variety of appropriate research sources.
- Paraphrase and summarize texts to reflect accurately and coherently the original's ideas, organization and tone.
- Use print and electronic library resources to locate sources.
- Assess and evaluate a variety of online media sources.
- Evaluate sources for authority, relevance, reliability, usefulness and other criteria.
- Incorporate and integrate research through correct use of summary, paraphrase and quotation writing skills.
- Document sources fully and ethically, according to specified bibliographic conventions.

### **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.
- Express interest in an academic pursuit of one or more disciplines.

### **Required Materials**

Text: Henderson, Eric. *Writing by Choice*, 3rd ed. Don Mills: Oxford, 2015. Print.

### **Course Schedule & Location**

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10-11:20

F214

### **Student Assessment**

Most of the writing we do this term will be workshopped. Students will meet in pairs to read and discuss work in progress. We will be writing in every class, sometimes working on assignments that will be handed in for assessment. It is therefore essential to your grade that you attend and participate in all classes.

Essays receive complex evaluation. I look for organization, originality of ideas, and effectiveness of details used in support. I also look for your particular developing voice or style. Accurate grammar and spelling are, of course, essential to good writing and do have an effect on grades. Although we will briefly look at grammar points as they arise, students are responsible for reviewing grammar if necessary. (See Henderson, chapters 10 through 12, and Appendix A.) Talk to me if you need guidance.

Late assignments may lose marks at the rate of 5% per day. If there are circumstances that will hinder you from completing an assignment on time, please speak with me as soon as you can.

Students who fail to complete any out-of-class assignments by the final class date, or who fail to achieve at least D on the final in-class writing project, will fail the course. It is up to you to make sure that all of your assignments are handed in.

Out-of-class assignments are to be **typed and double-spaced**. Assignments that are not double-spaced will be handed back ungraded. Leave 2.5 cm. (1 inch) margins on all sides. Indent the first line of each paragraph (use Tab); do not leave additional spaces between paragraphs. Please don't forget to put your full name on your assignments.

There will be written guidelines for each major assignment. (For due dates, see Class Schedule.)

I suggest that you keep all of your essays and other writing assignments, along with drafts. I may ask to see previous work.

#### **Assignments**

- Rhetorical Analysis (10%)
- Library Assignment (in class) (5%)
- Paragraphing Assignment (in-class) (10%)
- Definition Paragraph (in-class) (5%)
- Research Proposal (5%)
- Bibliography Test (5%)
- Progress Report (10%)
- Annotated Bibliography (15%)
- Research Essay (20%)
- Final In-Class Writing Project (15%)

If you will have an unavoidable absence, please speak to me ahead of time. **There is no final exam for this course.**

## Grading System

### Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+	Exceptional (A+), outstanding (A), and excellent (A-) performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students, these grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectations, and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.	9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+	Very good (B+), good (B), and solid (B-) performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students, these grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or an excellent grasp in one area balanced with a satisfactory grasp in the other area(s).	6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+	Satisfactory (C+) or minimally satisfactory (C) performance. These grades indicate a satisfactory (only) performance and knowledge of the subject matter.	3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	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 E-1.5 at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca) for 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, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. (For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3 <sup>rd</sup> course attempt or at the point of course completion.)
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.

## 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](http://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 the College web site in the Policy Section.