

# School of Arts & Science ENGLISH DEPARTMENT ENGL 151

# **Academic Writing Strategies**

Fall 2015

#### COURSE OUTLINE

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

Ω Please note: the College electronically stores this outline for five (5) years only. It is strongly recommended you keep a copy of this outline with your academic records. You will need this outline for any future application/s for transfer credit/s to other colleges/universities.

#### 1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	J. Iribarne		
(b)	Office Hours:	Monday and Wed	Monday and Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. or by appointment	
(c)	Location:	Paul 328		
(d)	Phone:	370-3349	Alternative Phone:	
(e)	Email:	Iribarne@camosun.bc.ca		
(f)	Website:	(see course website on D2L)		

#### 2. Intended Learning Outcomes

(No changes are to be made to these Intended Learning Outcomes as approved by the Education Council of Camosun College.)

Upon completion of this 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.
- 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.
  - 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) Texts
- Course package for English 151, Fall 2015
   (please confirm that my name is on this--J. Iribarne--to be sure you have the right course package)
- De Witt, Patrick. The Sisters Brothers. Toronto: House of Anansi Press, 2013.

## (b) Other

#### 4. Course Content and Schedule

(This section can include: class hours, lab hours, out of class requirements and/or dates for quizzes, exams, lectures, labs, seminars, practicums, etc.)

Date	Topic	Major Assignments and Readings
Week 1 (Sept 8 to 11)	Course introductions. Academic writing.	"Teen Researchers Defend Multitasking" (handout)
Week 2 (Sept 14 to 18)	Theme: Media multitasking and learning. Facts, inferences, theories.	Levitin (43); Kahnemann(48)
Week 3 (Sept 21 to 25)	Theme: Definitions of "nature." Definitions.  fee deadline—Sept 22	Aristotle (59); Darwin (62); Carson (67); MacKinnon(74)
Week 4 (Sept 28 to Oct 2)	Quotation, paraphrase, summary.	
<b>Week 5</b> (Oct 5 to 9)	Theme: Persuasion and leadership. Documentation systems (Part I).	Machiavelli (86); Lao Tzu (92); Useem (98) *mid-term (20%) in class

Week 6 (Oct 12 to 16)	Evaluation of Sources (Part I).  Thanksgiving—Oct 12	
Week 7 (Oct 19 to 23)	Theme: Gender and sexuality.  Arguments.	Maticka-Tyndale (107); Pyne (118)
		*Essay 1 due (20%)
Week 8 (Oct 26 to 30)	Types of Reasoning.	
Week 9 (Nov 2 to 6)	Theme: Population and Urban Living. Problems in deductive reasoning.	Malthus (126); Rubin (132); Montgomery (145); "Out My Window" from Highrise (the documentary project) –link on D2L (lab class)
Week 10 (Nov 9 to 13)	Analysis.	*preliminary bibliography due
Week 11 (Nov 16 to 20)	Remembrance Day—Nov 11  Theme: History and Responsibility.  Problems in inductive reasoning.	Wagamese (156); Alfred (163)  *Essay 2-Argument and Annotated
	last day to withdraw—Nov 16	Bibliography (20%)
Week 12 (Nov 23 to 27)		
Week 13 (Nov 30 to Dec 4)	Theme: The Modern Western. Problems in textual interpretation.	The Sisters Brothers

Week 14 (Dec 7 to 11)		
	Final exam period—Dec 14 to 22	* Final Exam in exam period (20%)

#### 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(This section should be directly linked to the Intended Learning Outcomes.)

You can expect to submit assignments that will total 4000 to 4500 words. But, since the only way to improve your writing is to write, we will be working on exercises and practice far beyond the assignments.

Mid-term (in class)	20%
In-class writing (unannounced)	20%
Essay 1 (Comparison)	20%
Essay 2 (Argument + Analysis of Sources)	20%
Exam (exam period)	20%

Although there is no grade for participation in discussions, students who come to class and participate tend to perform better and enjoy classes more.

## 6. Grading System

(No changes are to be made to this section unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through the Education Council of Camosun College for approval.)

#### Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	Α		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	В		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	С		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** for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	Incomplete: 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	In progress: 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	Compulsory Withdrawal: 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.

# 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 <a href="mailto:camosun.ca">camosun.ca</a>.

#### 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.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AS APPROPRIATE OR AS REQUIRED

(see next page for important course policies)

# **IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES**

- Out of respect for the dynamics of classroom conversation, I will ask you to refrain
  from using electronic devices in the classroom, particularly during discussions (i.e. no
  cell phones and laptops during class). Please see me if this policy will present
  difficulties for you.
- 2. In-class work (such as in-class writing and exams) cannot be rescheduled without medical documentation.
- 3. Students who cannot pass the exams will not pass the course.
- 4. To complete this course with a passing grade, ALL four major assignments must be completed.
- 5. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date.

You are welcome to discuss your work with me in person during office hours or by appointment, by telephone or by email.

For reasons of bookkeeping and general sanity, **I do not accept electronic** submissions of assignments (i.e. by email, text, D2L, etc.). Unless we negotiate otherwise, late assignments will be accepted for one full week after the initial due date with a penalty of 10% per day, but these assignments will receive no written comments (only a grade). After one week, late assignments will not be accepted at all. Please keep track of deadlines.

- 6. At the college level, we make an assumption of basic literacy and mechanical polish in all assignments. This means that a paper with significant grammatical errors will not pass no matter how wonderful the ideas are. Also, please note that "re-writes" are not accepted except under extraordinary circumstances.
- 7. Your happiness and well-being as a student here are important to me and are important factors in your success. Please come see me if I can help you navigate through the college system in any way (even if the issue relates to another course).