



School of Arts & Science  
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
ENGL 250  
Advanced Composition  
January, 2016

## COURSE OUTLINE

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

- *Please note: the College stores an electronic version of this outline for five years only. You will need this outline for any future application/s for transfer credit/s to other colleges/universities, so keep this outline with your academic records.*
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### 1. Instructor Information

Instructor:	Paul Gamache		
Office:	P 318		
Office Hours:			
Phone:	381-7812		
Email:	gamache@camosun.bc.ca		

### 2. Intended Learning Outcomes

As a result of taking this course you will be able to

a) 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;

b) Outline the structure of a work of non-fiction prose;

c) 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sentence types, sentence variety, vocabulary, figures of speech) in a range of non-fiction prose, both published and unpublished;

d) Compose different types of non-fiction prose;

e) Compare, select, and employ a variety of structures, rhetorical strategies, and styles.

f) Revise your writing according to various articulated standards of evaluation (your own, your peers', your instructor's, the marketplace's).

### 3. Required Materials

- Gamache, Paul. *Course Package for English 250: Advanced Composition*

**NOTE: Be sure to get the course package with “Paul Gamache” on the cover.**

### 4. Course Content and Schedule / Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

Assignment	Due Date	Value	Mark	Total
Argumentative essay	Tuesday, Jan. 26	10%	/10	/10
Summarizing (best three)	(see course schedule)	5% 5% 5%	/5 /5 /5	/25
Group report	Thursday, Feb. 25	10%	/10	/35
Individual revision	T.B.A.	5%	/5	/40
Review	Thursday, Mar. 3	10%	/10	/50
Biography	Tuesday, Mar. 15	5%	/5	/55
Profile	Tuesday, Mar. 29	15%	/15	/70
Persuasive essay	Thursday, April 7	10%	/10	/80
Self-reflective writing	in class, ongoing	10%	/10	/90
Tests, homework, etc.	ongoing (see schedule)	10%	/10	/100
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100%</b>		<b>/100</b>

**NOTE:** You are responsible for keeping track of the assignment schedule and for completing and submitting assignments on time. For a detailed schedule of

specific class topics, see the attached schedule. Use the attached sheets to develop assignment **start dates** and to record your assignment marks.

## 5. a) Assignment Submission Guidelines

- All “in-class” assignments and tests/quizzes are due by the end of class on their assigned date; **if you are absent that day, you will receive a grade of “0.”**
- “Out-of-class” assignments are due at the start of the class on their specified deadline. It is your responsibility to note these dates and to meet them.
- **Late or missing assignments will receive a grade of “0”** unless you have made arrangements with me beforehand or, in the case of emergencies or serious illness, you have valid (official) documentation such as a doctor’s note. (“Having to work” or “going on vacation” are not valid reasons.)
- If you know that an assignment cannot be completed on time, **contact me immediately**. Extensions can be arranged for valid reasons as long as you **contact me at least two days before the due date** (obtain a signed permission slip from me, and attach this slip to the assignment). If you have trouble with any assignment, contact me immediately.
- All assignments are mandatory, which means that to pass the course, **you must complete and submit every assignment (late / graded or not)**.

## b) Required Assignment Format\*

➤ **All submissions must be on paper; e-mailed assignments are not acceptable.**

➤ All “out-of-class” assignments must conform to these requirements\*:

- all required parts included
- word processed / typed (other than in-class assignments); 12-pt. font (other than in-class assignments), 1” margins, double spaced (every second line) with an extra two blank lines between paragraphs, printed one-side only
- a cover page that lists your name, my name, the assignment title, the course subject, number, section, and date of submission
- page numbers upper centre or upper right corner starting with Page 2 (the cover page does not count – ignore it). Start the numbering – Page 2 – on the second page of actual text)
- stapled upper left corner (no paper clips, plastic sleeves, or other covers)

(\* Each assignment may have additional requirements; read the instructions for details.)

- Any summary that fails to meet these guidelines will receive a zero. Any other assignment that contains an unacceptable level of error or that is off topic will be deemed “unacceptable” and returned to you in class for revision/correction and re-submission within 24 hours (otherwise, it is late and will receive “0”). If you are absent when unacceptable assignments are returned, you are out of luck.

## 6. Homework

**a) Assigned homework:** Given the limited amount of time available, much of the work must take place outside of class. **This work is essential.** All homework is mandatory and will contribute to your final grade. Submitted or checked homework is due at the beginning of the class. Uncompleted homework must be completed before you can re-join the class; if necessary, I will ask you to complete it elsewhere.

If you are absent for a class, you are still responsible for completing that day's homework. Show it to me when you return.

**b) "Extra" homework:** Once you identify your weak areas, start to improve them by using the coursepack information and exercises (along with my help). The amount of "extra" homework that you will need to do will depend upon your level of skill (i.e., the amount of practice that you require to meet the course outcomes). Set aside some time regularly for English practice.

## 7. Classroom Etiquette

➤ Be courteous to everyone. Listen when someone is speaking, and do not disturb other people's learning.

➤ English class is for English work; if you wish to do other work, do it

elsewhere.



➤ **Please turn off / put away all electronic devices: phones, computers, etc.**

Focus on reading, thinking, discussing, and writing. If you must use your phone, please do so outside.

Treat electronic devices the same as if they are cigarettes – use them outside, not in the classroom.



➤ Prepare before the class, and arrive with the assigned homework completed.

➤ Please arrive on time, and plan on staying for the whole class. If you must enter late or leave early, do so with as little disturbance to others as possible.

➤ If you must leave a class early, please let me know ahead of time so that I don't worry that you are lying in the hallway breathing your last breath.

➤ Keep the room neat. If you bring something into the classroom, take it away with you. Remember: neither the floor nor the desk is a garbage can. If you spill it, clean it up!

Remember that showing up to class is not enough. Be prepared to engage the material and to participate in the lesson. If you "space out" in class, you might as well not be here. Part of my job is to ensure that the classroom environment supports the learning needs of everyone in the class, and I will do whatever I must to create such an environment.



What you get out of the course depends entirely on what you put into it.

## 8. Attendance

Since much of the work (and learning) for this course will happen in class, you are expected to attend every class. More than 3 absences without proper documentation will seriously affect your mark.

- If you attend all of the classes, you will receive a bonus (your final grade x 1.05).
- If you miss 1, 2, or 3 classes, your final grade will be unaffected.
- However, should you miss a fourth class (without proper documentation), your grade will be multiplied by 0.83, the percentage of classes that you attended.
- Should you miss a fifth class, your grade will be multiplied by 0.78.

In short, the more absences, the more your final grade will be reduced. The table below shows the effect of missing up to 10 classes on grades between 60% (C) and 90% (A).

Number of Classes Missed	Multiplication Factor	90%	80%	70%	60%
0	1.05	95%	84%	74%	63%
1	1	90%	80%	70%	60%
2	1	90%	80%	70%	60%
3	1	90%	80%	70%	60%
4	0.86	77%	69%	60%	52%
5	0.82	74%	66%	57%	
6	0.79	71%	63%	55%	
7	0.75	68%	60%	53%	
8	0.71	64%	57%	50%	
9	0.68	61%	54%		
10	0.64	58%	51%		

## 9. Your Responsibilities

- You are responsible for reading, understanding, and applying the information presented in the coursepack.
- You are responsible for asking for help should you encounter problems.
- You are responsible for the information, handouts, etc. covered in your absence.
- You are responsible for knowing and meeting all due dates, for keeping track of your marks, for reviewing returned assignments to see what needs to be improved, and for following the advice given on marked work.
- You are responsible for your own learning. Your job is to let me know how to help you learn and what you need in order to learn effectively.

10. **Grading System**  
**Standard Grading System (GPA)**

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		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	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.

TemporaryGrade	Description
<b>I</b>	<b>Incomplete:</b> 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.
<b>IP</b>	<b>In progress:</b> 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. <i>(For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the third course attempt or at the point of course completion.)</i>
<b>CW</b>	<b>Compulsory Withdrawal:</b> 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.

11. **Recommended Materials or Services to Assist You Throughout the Course**

**LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS**

The College offers a variety of services to assist you throughout your learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services, or on the College website at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca).

**STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY**

The College has a Student Conduct Policy, which includes plagiarism. You are responsible for becoming familiar with the content of this policy, which is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services, and in the Policy Section of the College website.