



**CAMOSUN COLLEGE**  
**School of Arts & Science**  
**Department of English**

**ENGL-151-D28**  
**Academic Writing Strategies**  
**Winter 2018**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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

Ω Please note: This outline will not be kept indefinitely. It is recommended students keep this outline for their records, especially to assist in transfer credit to post-secondary institutions.

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**1. Instructor Information**

(a) Instructor	Raj Mehta
(b) Office hours	Tuesdays 12-1pm; Thursdays 2:30-4pm
(c) Location	Paul 218
(d) Phone	3328 <b>Alternative:</b> _____
(e) E-mail	D2L email
(f) Website	<a href="http://online.camosun.ca">online.camosun.ca</a>

**2. Intended Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course a 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) Texts:

1. Double Helix – Watson (Simon & Schuster, paperback, ISBN 9780743216302)
2. Cosmopolitanism – Appiah (Norton, paperback, ISBN 978-0-393-32933-9)
3. Spunk and Bite – Plotnik (Penguin Random House, paperback, ISBN 9780375722271)

(b) Other:

D2L notes and links

### 4. Course Content and Schedule

- Attached on D2L

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

(a) Assignments

Watson Essay	25%
Source Evaluation	25%
Appiah Essay	25%
Final Exam	25% (on campus, during exam period – to be scheduled by the College)

(b) Other (e.g. Project, Attendance, Group Work)

Note course policies posted on D2L

### COURSE POLICY

#### Grading

I cannot access documents in Pages (Apple) format since the default platform here at Camosun is Windows. To avoid issues with formatting when documents get uploaded between platforms and different versions of software, assignments **MUST** be uploaded in .pdf format. Assignments that are not in the required format will not be graded.

Assignments are due on the dates/times specified. No late assignments are accepted save for verifiable medical emergencies. Note that problems with online access, software and printing will **NOT** be accepted as reasons for extensions.

Deadlines for assignments are listed in the Dropbox. Note too that the deadline is 11:59PM of the day an assignment is due. All time references in the course are presumed to be in Pacific Daylight Time (PDT).

All assignments are to be submitted in 12-point, Times New Roman. Submissions must follow MLA style.

You must complete ALL assignments to earn a "C" or higher in this course.

There are issues with how I insert comments on your uploaded assignments. My comments are usually itemized in the comment box of submitted assignments. So there is some uniformity in the nature of my criticisms I use a grading rubric. This is not ideal - but seems the best tack. I usually take one to two weeks to complete the grading. To see your feedback, go to the Dropbox where you uploaded your assignments.

Grading standards: We presume correctness and fluency in your writing. Your instructor evaluates essays and makes suggestions for improvements in organization, use of evidence, critical thinking, and style. In that sense, please note your writing is assumed to be fluid and free of mechanical mistakes. This is not a grammar course.

Grades are administered on assignments as letter grades .

Merely fulfilling the basic requirements for 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 excellence. **There is no difference in other words, between an 'A' and a 'B' paper save on matters of content.** Both are free of sentence-level issues.

A "C" level grade denotes average college-level writing and achievement. The writing is a competent response to the assignment: it meets, to some degree, all the assignment requirements, and demonstrates that the author has put significant time and effort into communicating his/her ideas. It moves from point to point in an orderly fashion, but there are some sentence-level errors that at times prevent comprehension.

A "B" level grade highlights a strong example of college writing and thinking. In addition to meeting the "C" level requirements, such an essay goes further in some way(s): it demonstrates some insight into the "gray areas" of the assignment, reads smoothly at both the sentence and paragraph levels, and/or exhibits a personal "voice" or style. It has no sentence-level errors.

An "A" level grade marks an assignment that anticipates and responds to possible reader questions, uses effective supporting evidence, engages the reader in a provocative conversation, provides unexpected insights, and/or uses language with outstanding facility.

"D" and "F" level assignments do not meet the basic expectations of the assignment.

### **Academic Honesty**

In cases of academic misconduct, students will receive an F on the assignment and may also be subject to additional college sanctions. Students will respect the standards of academic integrity.

Review this tutorial:

<http://camosun.ca/services/library/plagiarism/>

Student writers are often confused as to what should be cited. Some think that only direct

quotations need to be credited. While direct quotations do need citations, so do paraphrases and summaries of opinions or factual information formerly unknown to the writer or which the writer did not discover. Exceptions to this include factual information which can be obtained from a variety of sources, the writer's own insights or common knowledge. What constitutes common knowledge can sometimes be unclear; what is common knowledge for one audience may not be so for another. In such situations, it is helpful to keep the reader in mind and to think of citations as being "reader friendly." If in doubt, provide the citation(s).

In addition to in-text citation, writers must also include a list of sources at the end of their essay, providing full bibliographic information for every source cited in their essay.

Different disciplines have different citation styles and conventions. In this course you will use MLA style. If you have questions about a citation practice, confer with the appropriate handbook or librarian.

## 6. Grading System

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Competency Based Grading System

## 7. Recommended Materials to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

n/a

## 8. College Supports, Services and Policies

### Immediate, Urgent, or Emergency Support

If you or someone you know requires immediate, urgent, or emergency support (e.g. illness, injury, thoughts of suicide, sexual assault, etc.), **SEEK HELP**. Resource contacts @ <http://camosun.ca/about/mental-health/emergency.html> or <http://camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence/get-support.html#urgent>

### College Services

Camosun offers a variety of health and academic support services, including counselling, dental, disability resource centre, help centre, learning skills, sexual violence support & education, library, and writing centre. For more information on each of these services, visit the **STUDENT SERVICES** link on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/>

### College Policies

Camosun strives to provide clear, transparent, and easily accessible policies that exemplify the college's commitment to life-changing learning. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of College policies. Policies are available on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/>. Education and academic policies include, but are not limited to, Academic Progress, Admission, Course Withdrawals, Standards for Awarding Credentials, Involuntary Health and Safety Leave of Absence, Prior Learning Assessment, Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal, Sexual Violence and Misconduct, Student Ancillary Fees, Student Appeals, Student Conduct, and Student Penalties and Fines.

## A. GRADING SYSTEMS <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html>

The following two grading systems are used at Camosun College:

### 1. 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		1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

### 2. Competency Based Grading System (Non GPA)

This grading system is based on satisfactory acquisition of defined skills or successful completion of the course learning outcomes

Grade	Description
COM	The student has met the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
DST	The student has met and exceeded, above and beyond expectation, the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
NC	The student has not met the goals, criteria or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.

## B. 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 at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html> 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 are designed to have an anticipated enrollment that extends beyond one term. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course.
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.