



Grande Prairie Regional College

Academic Upgrading Department

COURSE OUTLINE –SPRING 2008 English 0130 (6-0-0)

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Office Hours	Monday to Thursday 1:00-1:30		

Prerequisites:

EN 0120 (or equivalent) or EN 0130 placement test score.

Texts and Resource Material:

English 130 Readings Package. (Available at the GPRC Bookstore.)

GPRC Blackboard Resources for EN 0130. (Computer and Internet access are necessary for this course. You may use your home computer or computer labs available throughout the College. In some labs, however, you will need to supply your own paper for printing.)

Hosseini, Khaled. The Kite Runner. Anchor, Canada: Random House, 2004.

Description:

English 0130 is designed for adults needing English/Language Arts 30-1 (formerly called English 30) for entry into a college/university program. “This course includes a study of the five basic forms of literature: essays, short stories, novels, drama and poetry. Both oral presentations and written compositions are required – mainly essays and one major paper.” (GPRC 2007/2008 Calendar)

Delivery Mode:

EN0130 will meet Monday to Friday from 10:30a.m. -12:50p.m. from May 5 to June 25. Course work includes lectures, class discussions, in-class activities, group work and individual projects (written and oral).

Students use a variety of computer skills such as word processing, internet searches, and library searches of databases. There is extensive use of on-line resources available through GPRC Blackboard, and there are computer-based assignments. In addition, you will submit assignments through Blackboard’s drop box. You will have the option to use the word processing tool for class compositions and tests.

Learner Roles and Responsibilities:

As a member of the EN 0130 community, you will be expected to take an active role in the class **physically** and **electronically**. All participants are expected to:

- keep up-to-date with readings and discussions
- frequently check EN 0130 on Blackboard
- contribute orally and electronically to the activities of the class
- adhere to the protocol and norms of email and online discussions

In addition to managing your own learning, you will be asked to act as a team member in various learning tasks. Please be aware that collaboration is considered an essential part of this course; all learners will be expected to participate.

Each of you plays a critical role in the learning situation. It is anticipated that at several times during the course, you will act in the teaching capacity for your peers by offering feedback and advice, pointing out valuable resources, giving your interpretation of the literature and offering support.

Make a special effort to be involved; social presence is one of the key attributes of successful learners. Social presence facilitates interactions, encourages interpersonal connection and creates positive peer relationships in both online and face-to-face learning environments.

It will be helpful in the first week of the course to explore and become familiar with the capabilities of Blackboard.

Protocol for your emails and discussions postings is important:

- use salutations and greetings in your messages to identify the intended audience so that your messages do not seem vague or abrupt.
- make messages personal by using the names of those involved.
- refer to previous messages to maintain ongoing dialogue.
- include personal information such as relevant experience.
- do not post inflammatory or disrespectful messages; this includes messages which are abrupt, rude or dismissive of others' points of view.
- sign all your postings with a meaningful closing and your name.

Objectives:

The general objective of EN 0130 is to provide students with the opportunity to refine those communication skills that are needed in subsequent college/university courses and/or professional work. Students will have the opportunity to:

- review and master elements of **grammar, punctuation** and **sentence structure**
- develop strategies for **reading** difficult material
- analyze and enhance critical thinking skills through class/group discussion
- identify the thesis sentence and support in **essays** of varying length, subject and complexity
- summarize the thesis and support by writing a summary (for research essays); summarize, paraphrase and quote from selected resources
- use MLA (Modern Language Association) style documentation for citation and preparation of Works Cited in a research paper
- plan original essays; preparing the topic, thesis, and support and prepare an outline of a proposed essay
- plan and conduct research related to an essay proposal
- identify and utilize writing techniques relating to: introductions, transitions, organizational patterns (exposition, comparison, contrast), and conclusions
- summarize the plot of a **short story, novel** and **film/play**
- identify aspects of setting, plot, characterization, theme
- identify the writer's point of view and show how it affects the story
- analyze how setting, plot, mood and climate influence the development of the plot
- select details in order to make inferences
- develop the theme(s) of a selection
- read, write, discuss a **critique** of a short story, movie and/or book
- explain how **poetry** differs from prose in style, purpose and form
- identify devices of figurative language such as metaphor, irony, allusion
- identify musical elements such as rhyme, rhythm and alliteration
- read poetry aloud and discuss its meaning and impact
- **present** a beginning-level Toastmaster's speech

Course Schedule and Content:

1. **Friends and Enemies** 2 wks
 - study the novel, The Kite Runner; the vocabulary and the writing style of Khaled Hosseini and other 21st century writers
 - practice critical analysis through questioning, discussion, presentation and writing
 - analysis of personal and professional writing styles and techniques
 - in order to improve basic English skills, three elements of **MECHANICS** will be reviewed – commas, semi-colons, apostrophes
 - **Project One: Expository Essay** (based on the novel) -- 100 pts

2. **What's Fair?** 1.5 wks
 - examine non-fiction writing (essays) and fiction writing (short stories)
 - consider both writer's opinion and experts' opinions
 - practice critical analysis through discussion, presentation, writing
 - more elements of grammar
 - **Project Two: Mini-Research Essay**
(topic and the database resources are provided) -- 100 pts

3. **The Human Mind—a fascinating place to visit** 1.5 wks
 - study several short stories, a film, the authors/directors and their styles
 - examine setting, structure, figurative and stylistic devices, mood, tone, point of view, irony, characterization and theme
 - focus Shakespeare on film – Othello
 - **Project Three: Major Research Essay (200 pts)**

4. **Ladies and Gentlemen** 1.5 wks
 - study modern poets, especially Alberta poets
 - identify figurative language such as metaphor, irony, symbols, allusion
 - identify musical elements such as rhyme, rhythm and alliteration
 - read poetry aloud and discuss its message, meaning, impact, and unique Prairie themes
 - compose and present an original poem
 - **Project Four: Speech/Presentation -- 75 pts**

Grading Criteria:

Four Projects and Class Assignments	45%
Tests (mostly class compositions) and Quizzes	25
Grammar Exercises and Tests	5
Final Exam	25

In accordance with the Academic Upgrading Department guidelines, your percentage standing will be converted to the alpha system— **A+** (90-100); **A** (85-89); **A-** (80-84); **B+** (76-79); **B** (73-75); **B-** (70-72); **C+** (67-69); **C** (64-66); **C-** (60-63); **D+** (55-59); **D** (50-54); **F** (0-49)

There are three kinds of assignments: (1) homework assignments that are used as in-class learning activities, (2) in-class individual/group assignments that are submitted and/or presented, and (3) four individual projects.

Each unit will involve a class composition test. You will have the opportunity to use the computer as a writing tool if you wish.

The due dates for assignments have been provided as are the evaluation schemes. Late assignments will be accepted (with 10% per day penalty) for up to two days, and **no assignment will be accepted after the work has been returned to the class**. If you require an extension on an assignment, bring what you have done to show how much of the assignment you have completed.

Course Requirements:

English 0130 is a course where students are invited to read, think about, and discuss the works of successful writers. Students will also be able to experiment with composing their own pieces. The greater your participation in class, the greater your learning, and perhaps even the greater your enjoyment. Therefore, **attendance and promptness are critical and required**.

The Academic Upgrading Department wants you to succeed in your courses; therefore, **guidelines** (these are attached) have been established to ensure this. We will be reviewing these in the opening days of the course.

Statement on Plagiarism:

Students have both rights and responsibilities. These are outlined in the GPRC Calendar under "Student Conduct". It is especially important that students understand what constitutes plagiarism and the instructor of EN 0130 reserves the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on any assignment submitted for grades.

Library Hours:

The Library has hours Monday to Friday 8:30-4:30 during the spring and summer and is closed weekends and statutory holidays.