

Course Outline for
English 0130

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

English 0130 is designed for adults needing grade twelve English. It covers the basic educational and communication areas: **thinking** (analyzing, interpretation, critical appraisal), **writing, reading, researching, speaking** and **listening**. The emphasis is on the development of formal writing skills through the study of essays, short stories, a novel, modern drama, film and poetry. Not only are written compositions a component of this course but also class discussions, group work and oral presentations.

TEXTS AND SUPPLIES:

Aaron, Jane E. and Murray McArthur. The Little Brown Book Compact Handbook. Toronto: Pearson Education Canada, Inc., 2002.

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

Shakespeare, Nicholas. The Dancer Upstairs. Anchor Books, 2002.

Access to a **computer for word processing** and Internet research. Many computers are available (along with support services) at the College. In many of the labs you will need to supply your own paper for printing.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The general objective of EN 0130 is to provide students with opportunities to gain the communication skills that they will need in subsequent college/university studies, in their professional lives and in their personal lives.

Students will have the opportunity to:

- develop strategies for **reading** difficult material
- analyze and enhance critical thinking skills through class/group discussion
- identify thesis and support in **essays** of varying length, subject and complexity
- summarize thesis and support by writing a summary (for research essays)
- plan original essays, preparing the topic, thesis and support
- 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)
 - conclusions
- summarize, paraphrase and quote from selected sources
- use MLA (Modern Language Association) style documentation for citation and preparing Works Cited in a research paper

- review and master the appropriate elements of **grammar, punctuation** and **sentence structure**
- summarize the plot of a **short story, novel, modern play, and film**
- 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 story
- read and appreciate a **play** in written, live and/or film form
- read and write a critique of a play, 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 poem and research its poet

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- The Academic Upgrading Department wants you to succeed in your courses, therefore, guidelines have been established to ensure this. We will be reviewing these in the opening days of the course.
- English 0130 is a course in which students are invited to read, think about and discuss the works of successful writers and to experiment with composing their own pieces. The greater the participation in class, the greater the learning and perhaps even greater the enjoyment. Therefore, **attendance and promptness are critical and required** (note that a percentage is awarded for both of these). Because this is only a thirteen-week course, if you must be away, call (or email) to notify the instructor of your absence. This is especially important on test days since you will not be permitted to write tests unless the instructor receives a call before class and is provided with a medical certificate. Note that occasionally there are surprise quizzes/tests.

COURSE CONTENT: (see the attached calendar)

1. What's Fair?

4 wks

- two English assessment tests with supplementary assignments in order to improve basic English skills. This is done through a computer program called **PLATO**. It includes: **MECHANICS** (spelling, plurals and possessives, commonly misspelled words, punctuation marks, commas, capitalization) and **SENTENCE STRUCTURE** (fragments, independent and dependent clauses, misplaced modifiers, parallel structure, awkward sentences)
- career choices
- examination of non-fiction writing (essays) and fiction writing (short stories)
- writer's opinions and experts' opinions
- mini research essay; documented essays
- critical analysis discussion, presentation, writing
- **Project One: Persuasive Essay (100 pts)**
- **Project Two: Expository Essay (100 pts)**

2. The Human Journey

3 wks

- study of the novel, The Dancer Upstairs, and the writing style of Nicholas Shakespeare and other 21st century writers
- critical analysis discussion, presentation, writing

- analysis of writing styles and techniques
- modern drama and/or film study
- comparison of the short story, the novel and a modern drama
- writing a theatre review
- **Project Three: Mini-Research Essay (100 pts)**
- **Project Four: Major Research Essay (200 pts)**

3. The Human Mind—a fascinating place to visit 3 wks

- study of several short stories, a film, the authors and their styles
- setting, structure, figurative and stylistic devices, mood, tone, point of view, irony
- characterization and theme

4. Ladies and Gentlemen 3 wks

- emphasis on the study of Canadian poetry
- explain how poetry differs from prose in style, purpose and form
- identify devices of figurative language such as metaphor, irony, symbols, allusion
- identify musical elements such as rhyme, rhythm and alliteration
- read poetry aloud and discuss its meaning, impact, theme
- compose and present an original poem
- **Project Five: Poetry Presentation (75 pts)**

ASSIGNMENTS:

There are three kinds of assignments: (1) homework assignments that are used in class as discussion and learning activities (2) in-class individual/group assignments that are submitted or presented, and (3) five projects. Each unit will involve an in-class writing activity and/or test.

The due dates for assignments will be provided as will the evaluation schemes and their point value. Late assignments will be accepted (with 10% per day penalty) for up to three days, and no assignments 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.

EVALUATION:	Projects (5), Day-to-day assignments	45%
	Tests and Quizzes	20
	PLATO Assessment and Exercises	10
	Attendance and Promptness	10
	Final Exam (written)	15

In accordance with college policy, your percentage standing will be converted to the 9-point stanine system—

A+ (90-100); **A** (85-89); **A-** (80-84); **B+** (76-79); **B** (74-75); **B-** (70-72); **C+** (67-69); **C** (64-66); **C-** (60-63); **D+** (55-59); **D** (50-54); **F** (0-49).