

Course Outline for
English 0130

Joan Godbout, Instructor
Grande Prairie Regional College
Academic Upgrading Department

Office: C217
Phone: 539-2727
Email: jgodbout@gprc.ab.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

English 0130 involves six hours of class instruction per week and is designed for adults needing grade twelve English for entry into a college or university program. It covers the basic educational and communication areas: **thinking** (analyzing, interpretation, and critical appraisal), **writing, reading, researching, viewing, speaking** and **listening**.

The emphasis is on the development of formal writing skills through the study of essays, short stories, a novel, film (drama) and poetry. Not only are written compositions a component of this course but also class discussions, group work and oral presentations.

TEXTS AND SUPPLIES:

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

Martel, Yann. Life of Pi. Toronto: Vintage Canada, 2001.

Access to a **computer** for Blackboard, word processing and Internet research. Many computers are available (along with support services) at the College; A205 is the Learning Lab for Academic Upgrading students. In most of the labs, however, 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 are needed in subsequent college/university courses and/or professional work.

Students will have the opportunity to:

- review and master the appropriate elements of **grammar, punctuation** and **sentence structure**
- 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); summarize, paraphrase and quote from selected sources
- use MLA (Modern Language Association) style documentation for citation and preparing of Works Cited in a research paper
- 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 the plot of a **short story, novel** 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
- select details in order to make inferences
- develop the theme of the 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 poem and/or present a beginning-level Toastmaster's speech

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

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.

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.**

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 on the evaluation scheme, there are in-class writings and/or quizzes/tests to reward students who are in attendance and are prompt.

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)
- considering career choices and interpersonal dynamics (True Colors)
- examination of non-fiction writing (essays) and fiction writing (short stories)
- writer's opinion and experts' opinions
- critical analysis, discussion, presentation, writing
- **Project One: Persuasive Essay (100 pts)**
- **Project Two: Expository Essay (100 pts)**

2. Incredible Adversity – Life of Pi

3 wks

- study of the novel, Life of Pi, and the writing style of Yann Martel and other 21st century writers
- critical analysis, discussion, presentation, writing
- analysis of writing styles and techniques
- genre comparison (essay, short story, novel, drama, poetry)
- **Project Three: Mini-Research Essay (100 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
- **Project Four: Major Research Essay (200 pts)**

4. Ladies and Gentlemen

3 wks

- emphasis on the study of Canadian, American, British poets
- 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
- possibly compose and present an original poem
- **Project Five: Toastmaster Speech/Presentation (75 pts)**

ASSIGNMENTS:

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

Each unit will involve an in-class writing activity and/or test.

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 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:	Five Projects; Day-to-day assignments (Proj 1 - 4 = 6% each; Proj 4 = 13%; Proj 5 = 5% and Day-to-day assignments = 4%)	40%
	Tests (mostly in-class essays) and Quizzes	20
	PLATO Assessment and Exercises	10
	In-Class Writing (an attendance and promptness check; approx 10 to 15 writings over the semester)	15
	Final Exam (written composition)	15

In accordance with Academic Upgrading 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)
---	---