

**Grande Prairie Regional College**  
**English 1010: Critical Reading and Writing**  
**Fall/ Winter, 1997-98**

Instructor: Dr. Ian Peterson  
Office: C220  
Phone: office - 539-2174  
home - 538-1735  
E-mail: jpeterson@gprc.ab.ca  
Office Hours: MTWTh 10:00-11:00, or by appointment

Section C23 MWF 9-9:50 A212  
L23 MWF 12-12:50 B208  
A23 TR 11-12:20 A314  
H23 W 6:30-9:20 A203

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### **Description**

English 1010 is a full-year introductory course emphasising critical reading and writing. Reading assignments will introduce the major literary genres: poetry, short story, essay, drama, and novel. Students will place the works in their historical context and learn a critical vocabulary for discussing them. Writing instruction will occupy one-third of the course and will focus on the academic essay. Writing assignments will be closely related to the literature. Each student will keep a writing portfolio containing all written assignments, and will also participate in an editing group to provide feedback on major papers.

### **Objectives**

The general objectives of this course are to develop the student's ability to think critically, to write effectively at a *university* level, and to appreciate the creative and imaginative nature of literature. The specific objectives are as follows:

1. to read and analyse various literary works, employing literary terms and concepts;
2. to participate regularly and intelligently in class discussion and activities;
3. to write logically-developed and well-structured literary essays, grammatically correct, stylistically effective, and properly documented;
4. to edit work written by oneself and others, and to demonstrate understanding of the most common writing errors and how to correct them.

### **Required Texts**

Stott, Bowers, Jones, ed. HLJ Anthology of Literature.  
St. Martin's Handbook for Canadian Students, 2nd ed.  
Buscemi and Smith, ed. 75 Readings, 6th ed. (5th ed is fine; check with me for any other ed.)  
Austen, Jane. Pride and Prejudice. Oxford (World's Classics) Please get this edition.  
Dickens, Charles. Great Expectations. Penguin. Please get this edition.  
Kafka, Franz. The Metamorphosis. Bantam.  
Sophocles. The Theban Plays. Translated by Watling. Penguin. Get this edition or the translation will be different.

-Students also need a good university-level dictionary, a binder and looseleaf (do **not** use a coiling notebook), and a folder for use as a writing portfolio. A file folder is sufficient. A thesaurus is also very helpful.

## Evaluation

The work of the first term is worth 30% of the final grade, and the work of the second term is worth 35%. A composition test, held on the second-last day of class in April, will count 10% and the final examination, on the year's work, is worth 25%. Details for the second-term reading and evaluation will be handed out at the beginning of the second term. The grade for each term will be determined by performance in the written and classroom work. Improvement will be rewarded. The breakdown of each term's mark is as follows:

### Term One

Essay #1: 10% - due about Oct. 1  
Essay #2: 20% - due in November  
Midterm Exam: 15% - mid-October  
Christmas Exam: 25% - last class in December  
Other: 30%

### Term Two

Essay #3 - 30%  
Essay #4 - 30%  
Other - 40%

Note: "Other" includes writing exercises, quizzes and tests, reading tests, rough drafts, editing reports, group exercises, a library exercise, and participation (i.e. attendance, classroom participation, bringing your texts\*\*\*, and having work and reading done on time).

## Grading System

9-point Grade	Percentage Equivalence	Designation
9	90-100	excellent
8	80-89	
7	72-79	
6	65-71	good
5	57-64	
4	50-56	pass
3	45-49	fail
2	26-44	
1	0-25	

## Attendance Requirement

Regular attendance is mandatory. There is a close correlation between missed classes and poor marks!

## Assignments

-Approximate due dates for longer assignments are given above. Papers and other assignments must be on time. Extensions may be given for valid reasons, such as serious illness, hospitalisation, etc., and a doctor's note will be required. Assignments late without permission will not be accepted and will be given a zero. Special arrangements for missed tests and in-class assignments will not normally be made, and the student will be given a zero. It is vital that you attend class!

-Details of reading and writing assignments will be given in class. Reading must be done before the class discussion and students must bring their books to class. Students absent from class are responsible for finding out what they missed, including assignments given that day and due at a later date. Absence is not an excuse.

-Essays must go through the editing groups to be accepted.

## Topics

In literature this term, we will begin with selected essays and go on to Sophocles, Austen, and Marlowe (Dr. Faustus). We will consider form as well as content, technique as well as themes. We will also work on writing during both terms. The first term will concentrate on good essay form, thesis and supporting points, types of order, paragraph development, transitions, unity and coherence, use of quotations, and documentation. The second term will include any needed work on punctuation and grammatical errors, and improvement of style. Each student will keep a writing portfolio containing all writing assignments, and we will use editing groups to provide feedback on major papers. (More on editing groups later.)

## Tentative Reading Schedule

September: essays from 75 Readings, concentrating on organisation and structure, audience, paragraph development, and technique.

October: Oedipus Tyrannus and Antigone, Dr. Faustus

November: finish Dr. Faustus, Pride and Prejudice

December: finish Pride and Prejudice

Great Expectations in January, then poetry and short stories

\*\*Please feel free to come to talk to me about anything to do with our class. Especially feel welcome to come for help with writing. This is your class and I will give you all the help I can. It really is true that what you get out of a class is proportional to what you put into it.

--Another resource for help with writing is the Writing Centre.

--There is no such thing as a stupid question. Don't be afraid to ask, without hesitation or embarrassment, when you don't understand something. If you don't, probably others don't either.