

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

Grande Prairie Regional College

English 1201: English Composition

3(3-0-0) UT

Fall 2008 EN1201 B3

Instructor: Dianne McDonald **Office:** C214

Room: B202 Wed., & Fri. Time:13:00 to 14:20

Phone: (W) 539-2987(H) 513-9775

E-mail: dmcdonald@gprc.ab.ca

Office Hours: Mon., Tue., Wed., Thur., Fri. 2:30-4pm
or by appointment and drop-ins welcome

Course Description

This course concentrates on the construction of sentences and paragraphs appropriate for formal academic research essays. Written assignments offer reviews of the conventions of formal English grammar and the mechanics of good writing and editing. There will be discussions and analyses of readings. Students will write a minimum of twelve in-class compositions. In addition, research documentation will be provided.

Objectives

The objective of formal compositions is to increase the student's abilities to develop and support a thesis for a particular audience. Students will organize sentences and paragraphs to achieve unity and coherence. The course will stress the need to create a clear and concise thesis statement. Students will also be assisted in developing a writing style appropriate for specific contexts.

Required Texts: The Brief Penguin Handbook (text and exercise booklet)

Term Work Value:

Out-of-class essays:

First essay: Jan., 19 800 word essay 5%

Second essay: Feb., 23. ., 800 word essay 10%

Third essay: Mar., 23 800 word essay 20%

Oral Presentations: Start Jan., 26 10%

Participation/Initiative Mark 10%

Learning Summary 10%

Mid term examination: Feb., 23 15%

Final examination: Apr., 16

OR 1500 word essay 20%

Class Participation

The class **Participation Grade** is determined by evaluating a student's contribution to the classroom learning environment. The **Initiative Grade** is designed to encourage students to initiate consultation with the instructor. Each student is expected to have at least **two** consultations with the instructor during the semester. The student will then have the opportunity to go over assignment drafts, seek extra resources or discuss assignments or tests.

Learning Summary

At the conclusion of this course students will be asked to write a **Learning Summary** of everything they have learned in the course. This summary will include rules of grammar and composition and examples will be used to demonstrate the student's competency in applying these rules. The **Learning Summary** should contain between 600 and 800 words.

Basic Expectations and Class Rules

- 1) **Attend all classes.** Come prepared with assignments and readings completed. Be prepared to **participate** actively in your learning.
- 2) Essays may **not be accepted after the due date** unless prior arrangements have been made or compelling circumstances are demonstrated.
- 3) **Essays will lose marks** if they are significantly less or more than the **required** word length.
- 4) **Students are required** to make **two** copies of each of the three out-of-class essays.
- 5) **Each student is responsible** for any changes to this syllabus which may be announced when the student is not in class.
- 6) **Please see the College Policy on "Plagiarism" under Student Conduct pg. 49.** Plagiarism is never allowed. Plagiarism includes representing the ideas or words of another person as your own without proper acknowledgment and extends to the work of other students, the Internet, books, magazines, journals, TV shows, films, etc. This would not only include direct copying without citing the source, but paraphrasing as well.
- 7) Students who earn **less than 69% (C)** on an assignment may request a rewrite.

Grading System

| Letter Grade | Grade Point Value | Percentage Range | Description |
|--------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| A+ | 4.0 | | <i>Outstanding</i> |
| A | 4.0 | 95 - 100 | <i>Excellent</i> |
| A- | 3.7 | 90 - 94 | |
| B+ | 3.3 | 85 - 89 | |
| B | 3.0 | 80 - 84 | <i>Good</i> |
| B- | 2.7 | 75 - 79 | |
| C+ | 2.3 | 70 - 74 | |
| C | 2.0 | 65 - 69 | <i>Satisfactory</i> |
| C- | 1.7 | 60 - 64 | |
| D+ | 1.3 | 55 - 59 | |
| D | 1.0 | 50 - 54 | <i>Minimal Pass</i> |
| F | 0.0 | Below 50 | <i>Fail</i> |

ENGLISH COMPOSITION 1201

COURSE SCHEDULE

Winter Session 2009

| Week | Date | Subject | Activity |
|-----------|------------|---|---|
| 1 | Jan. 5 | Introductions, How to Use Text Getting Started, Parts of Speech | Introductions In Class Essay |
| 2 | 12 | Devising a Thesis, Pronoun Case Expository Essay Parts of Speech | In Class Essay Ex. Subjects and verbs Trans and Intransitive verbs |
| 3 | 19 | Correct Sentences Punctuation, Conciseness Subject Verb Agreement | In Class Essay Exercises Video-Parts of Speech III <u>1st Out-of-Class Essay Due (5%)</u> |
| 5 | Feb.2 | End Punctuation Preciseness Thinking Critically | In Class Essay Video-Common Errors Video-Punctuation Exercises |
| 7 | 16 | APA In Text Citations Misplaced & Dangling Modifiers Sentence Fragments, Run-ons Paraphrasing Review & Review of Exam | In Class Essay Video |
| 9 | Mar. 2 | Evaluating Sources Parallelism Most Common Mistakes | In Class Essay In Class Exercises Video-The Wily Comma |
| 10 | 9 | Verb Agreement Spelling and Mechanics Expletives | Essay In Class Exercises Video-Semicolon, colon, dash |
| 11 | 16 | Voice (Passive & Active) Wordiness Sentence Variety | Correct Sentences In Class Essay Video-Surrounding Information |
| 12 | 23 | Verbals Sentence Patterns Subject-verb Agreement | Class Writing Exercises Video-Punctuation Potpourri <u>Third Essay Due (20%) Oral Presentations Conclude (10%)</u> |
| 13 | 30 | Introductory Words Phrases and Clauses. Review, Review, Review Review, Review, Review | In-Class Exercises, Essay <u>1st Out-of-Class Essay Due (5%)</u> |
| 14 | Apr. 16 | Exams 20% | |