



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – SPRING 2017

EN1201 (N4): Composition and Rhetoric – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 4 Weeks

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Craig Smith

PHONE: 780-539-2894

OFFICE: C308

E-MAIL: CrSmith@gprc.ab.ca

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday-Thursday 11:30-12:50, or by appointment

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course will help students become more sophisticated users and producers of written texts. Instruction will include basic academic essay writing skills and the various rhetorical approaches used when addressing specific audiences. The main goals of the course are to help students integrate reading and writing and to become familiar with the conventions of college- (and university-) level writing. This includes producing coherent, logical texts that are relatively free of surface errors. To achieve these goals, the course encourages students to think critically, to read closely and analytically, and to compose responses to a variety of texts, both written and visual.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: none

REQUIRED TEXTS/RESOURCE MATERIALS: It is not necessary to buy any books for this course; all the materials that you will be required to read will be posted to Moodle.

DELIVERY MODE(S): The course work includes lecture, class discussion, in-class quizzes, writing instruction and assignments.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The aims of this course are to enable students to become more technically- and rhetorically-proficient writers. Students taking this course will not only gain a greater understanding of the fundamentals of grammar and punctuation but will also have the chance to read and analyze a range of texts that will provide students with the tools to recognize and utilize persuasive rhetoric in a variety of

forms. The goal of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the ways in which critical reading and effective writing go hand-in-hand.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: After taking this course, the successfully participating students will demonstrate the following:

- The ability to identify and to employ a range of sentence structures
- The ability to compose grammatically-correct sentences
- The ability to punctuate writing proficiently and to recognize improperly-punctuated material
- The ability to recognize varied rhetorical strategies in a range of texts as well as the ability to employ a variety of rhetorically persuasive techniques in students' own writing
- The ability to produce coherent, unified, and well-structured essays
- The ability to consider factors such as the occasion, purpose, and audience for a piece of writing
- An understanding of a range of paragraph structures and patterns as well as some ability to recreate them in students' own writing
- An understanding of what makes for an effective thesis statement and topic sentence and an ability to apply that understanding in practice
- An understanding of the close interrelation between strong critical reading practices and effective writing

TRANSFERABILITY: UA, UC, UL, AU, GMU

***Warning:** Although we strive to make the transferability information in this document up-to-date and accurate, **the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.** Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca> or, if you do not want to navigate through few links, at <http://alis.alberta.ca/ps/tsp/ta/tbi/onlineSearch.html?SearchMode=S&step=2>

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

Participation – 10%

Weekly tests – 20%

Short Writing Assignment 1 – 10%

Short Writing Assignment 2 – 10%

Final assignment – 20%

Final exam – 30%

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week 1: Rhetoric – Understanding the art of persuasive speech and writing.
Considering occasion, purpose, and audience
Development Patterns I: Illustration and Narration

Week 2: Critical Reading and Persuasive Writing
Development Patterns II: Description, Process, Definition, Classification

Weeks 3-4: Grammar, syntax, diction, and style
Sentence structure: phrases, clauses, sentences
Development Patterns III: Comparison and Contrast, Cause and Effect, Argument

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Written assignments are to be submitted directly to me in hard copy form. I will not accept electronic copies. It is the student's responsibility to retain a copy of ALL assignments submitted for grading; in the unlikely event of theft or loss, a duplicate copy must be available upon request.
2. Written assignments are to be submitted *on time*. This means that they are due *before the beginning of class*. Late assignments will incur a penalty of 5% per day, with weekends counting as one day.
3. Extensions will not be granted for written assignments except in extenuating circumstances. Documentation will be required.
4. Students are expected to attend *all* classes. Given the compressed time frame in which this course will be conducted, this is especially important, as missing even a single afternoon will mean missing about a week's worth of work. More than one unexcused absence will result in students receiving a grade of zero for participation.
5. Students are required to check the Moodle site for this course before each class to stay informed concerning the schedule of readings as well as course updates and announcements.
6. Cellphones are to be turned off and kept out of sight during class time. Students who text while the instructor and/or other students are speaking will lose marks for participation.
7. The final exam for this class is scheduled for May 25th. The exam **will not** be rescheduled except in extenuating circumstances. Documentation will be required for any student wishing to write the final exam on an alternate date.

Refer to the College Policy on Student Rights and Responsibilities at
www.gprc.ab.ca/d/STUDENTRIGHTSRESPONSIBILITIES

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments. **Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.**

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.