

# DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, COMMERCE AND EDUCATION

## Grande Prairie Regional College

### English 1201: English Composition

3(3-0-0) UT

Fall 2003

**Instructor:** Dianne McDonald  
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**Office Hours:** Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs. 10:00 am – 11:00 am or Wed. 1:30 pm  
(Students are welcome anytime I am in my office)

#### Course Description:

This course concentrates on the construction of sentences and paragraphs appropriate for formal 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 16 in-class compositions. Instruction in research will also be provided.

#### Objectives:

The objective of this course 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 to the context and audience.

**Required Texts:** Quick Access Reference for Writers and Workbook

**Optional Texts:** English & Grammar Punctuation Guide  
Essays & Term Papers Academic Outline

#### Term Work Value:

Out-of-class essays:	
First essay: Sept. 19 .....	800 word essay ..... 10%
Second essay: Oct. 17 .....	800 word essay ..... 15%
Third essay: Nov. 21 .....	800 word essay ..... 30%
Mid term examination: Week of Oct. 20 – 24 .....	15%
Final examination: Week of Dec. 11 – 19 .....	20%
Participation .....	5%
*Initiative Mark (see next page) .....	5%

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\*The **Initiative Mark** is designed to encourage each student to initiate consultation with the instructor. Each student is expected to make at least *two* appointments during the semester. The student will then have the opportunity to go over draft assignments, seek extra resources or reflect on assignments/tests.

### Class Participation:

Class participation grade is determined by evaluating a student's contribution to the classroom learning environment.

The criteria to assess "participation" are students' willingness and ability to:

- 1) **attend** classes
- 2) **respond** to questions
- 3) **ask** questions
- 4) **participate** in discussion

These criteria are not given separate grades, but a cumulative record of individual student contributions will be kept.

**Good writing is good thinking expressed clearly.**

### Basic Expectations & Class Rules:

- 1) **Attend all classes**. Come prepared with assignments and readings completed. Be prepared to **participate** actively in your learning. **Composition is NOT a spectator sport!**
- 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) **Make-up tests** may not be permitted without a medical certificate or other appropriate documentation.
- 7) **Term work cannot be reconsidered** after the final exam has been written.

**Real writing is the decoding of the garble and static of inner speech, in an effort to make meaning personal, strong, connected and understandable to self [and your audience].**

**by William Strong**

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## Course Schedule

Week	Date	Ch.	Pg.	Subject	Activity
1	Sept. 2 – 4	HI	xxxv	Introductions, How to Use Text Getting Started, Parts of Speech	Introductions In Class Essays (2)
2	Sept. 8 – 12	W1a	1-30	Devising a Thesis Expository Essay Parts of Speech	In Class Essays (2) Ex. Subjects and verbs Trans and Intransitive verbs
3	Sept. 15 – 19	C1a E1a	89 105	Correct Sentences Punctuation Conciseness	In Class Essays (2) Exercises Video-Peer Feedback <b>1<sup>st</sup> Out-of-Class Essay Due (10%)</b>
4	Sept. 22 – 26	R1a	175	Research Writing: Plagerism Editing Sentences Parts of Speech Voice (Active/Passive)	Video-Comma In Class Essays (2)
5	Sept. 29 – Oct. 3	P1a T2	125 36	End Punctuation Preciseness Thinking Critically	In Class Essays (2) Video-Punctuation Exercises
6	Oct. 6 – 10	M1a	193	MLA/APA Documentation Clichés Prepositional Phrases Review, Review, Review	In Class Essays (2) Video-Grammar Exercises Video
7	Oct. 14 – 17	M1a C4 C1	193 101 89	APA In Text Citations Misplaced & Dangling Modifiers Sentence Fragments, Run-ons	In Class Essays (2) Video <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Out-of-Class Essay Due (15%)</b>
8	Oct. 20 – 24	R3	186	Paraphrasing Review	<b>Mid-Term Exam (15%)</b>
9	Oct. 27 – 31	C3e E2	98 109	Grammar Clauses Coordination and Subordination	Review of Mid-Term Exam In Class Essay (2)
10	Nov. 3 – 7	R2a E3a	177 112	Evaluating Sources Parallelism	In Class Essay (2) In Class Exercises
11	Nov. 12 – 14	G4 S1b	70 158	Verb Agreement Spelling and Mechanics	In Class Essay (1) In Class Exercises
12	Nov. 17 – 21	G3f E1a	69 105	Voice (Passive & Active) Un-needed Words	Correct Sentences In Class Essay (1) <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Essay due (30%)</b>
13	Nov. 24 – 28	G1d G2a G4	49 53 70	Verbals Sentence Patterns Subject-verb Agreement	Class Writing Exercises
14	Dec. 8 – 9			Review, Review, Review	
<b>15</b>	<b>Dec. 15 – 19</b>			<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Final Exam (20%)</b>