

# DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

## Grande Prairie Regional College

### English 1201: English Composition

3(3-0-0) UT

Fall 2008

**Instructor:** Dianne McDonald  
**Office:** C214  
**Phone:** (W) 539-2987 (H) 513-9775  
**Office Hours:** Mon., Wed., Fri. 9-10  
By appointment or drop-ins welcome  
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#### 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)  
**Optional Texts:** English & Grammar Punctuation Guide  
Essays & Term Papers Academic Outline

#### Term Work Value:

Out-of-class essays:

<b>First Essay:</b> Sept. 26 .....	800 word essay .....	5%
<b>Second essay:</b> Oct.17. ....	800 word essay .....	10%
<b>Third Essay:</b> Nov.21 .....	800 word essay .....	25%
<b>Oral Presentations</b> begin Sept. 22.....		5%
<b>*Learning Journal</b> .....		10%
<b>Mid-Term</b> Examination: Oct.20 .....		15%
<b>Final Exam or Research Essay</b> (1500 words): Dec.10.....		20%
<b>Participation</b> .....		5%
<b>*Initiative Mark</b> .....		5%

## English Composition 1201

\*The **Learning Journal** will include individual student's synthesis of the content of each class and each assigned reading. It will reflect the student's understanding of the key grammatical concepts and the essentials of academic writing. The **Learning Journal** may take the form of traditional class notes or may be very unique using mind-maps or drawings and colored markers to develop meaning and express understanding of the content of the course.

\*The **Initiative Mark** 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.

### Class Participation:

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

### 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.

### Grading Conversation Chart

Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Percentage Range	Description
A+	4.0	90-100	<i>Outstanding</i>
A	4.0	85-89	<i>Excellent</i>
A-	3.7	80-84	
B+	3.3	76-79	
B	3.0	73-75	<i>Good</i>
B-	2.7	70-72	
C+	2.3	67-69	
C	2.0	64-66	Acceptable
C-	1.7	60-63	
D+	1.3	55-59	
D	1.0	50-54	<i>Minimal Pass</i>
F	0.0	Below 50	<i>Fail</i>

English 1201  
**COURSE SCHEDULE**  
 Fall 2008

Week	Date	Subject	Activity
<b>1</b>	Sept. 4-5	Introductions, How to Use Text Getting Started, Parts of Speech	Introductions In Class Essay
<b>2</b>	8-12	Devising a Thesis, Pronoun Case Expository Essay Parts of Speech	In Class Essay Ex. Subjects and verbs Trans and Intransitive verbs
<b>3</b>	15-19	Correct Sentences Punctuation Conciseness Subject Verb Agreement	In Class Essay Exercises Video-Parts of Speech III <b>Oral Presentations Begin(5%)</b>
<b>4</b>	22-26	Research Writing: Plagiarism Editing Sentences Parts of Speech Voice (Active/Passive)	Video-Comma In Class Essay Video- Parts of Speech <b>1<sup>st</sup> Out-of-Class Essay Due (5%)</b>
<b>5</b>	29- <b>Oct.</b> 3	End Punctuation Preciseness Thinking Critically	In Class Essay Video-Common Errors Video-Punctuation Exercises
<b>6</b>	6-9	MLA/APA Documentation Clichés Prepositional Phrases	In Class Essay Video-Grammar Exercises Video- Acceptable Errors
<b>7</b>	13-17	APA In Text Citations Misplaced & Dangling Modifiers Sentence Fragments, Run-ons Paraphrasing	In Class Essay Video <b><u>2nd Essay Due (10%)</u></b>
<b>8</b>	20-24	Grammar Clauses Coordination and Subordination Modifiers	In class essay Review of Exam <b><u>Mid Term (15%)</u></b>
<b>9</b>	27-31	Evaluating Sources Parallelism Most Common Mistakes	In Class Essay In Class Exercises Video-The Wily Comma
<b>10</b>	<b>Nov.</b> 3-7	Verb Agreement Spelling and Mechanics Expletives	Essay In Class Exercises Video-Semicolon, colon, and dash
<b>11</b>	10-14	Voice (Passive & Active) Wordiness Sentence Variety	Correct Sentences In Class Essay Video-Surrounding Information
<b>12</b>	17-21	Verbals Sentence Patterns Subject-verb Agreement	Class Writing Exercises Video-Punctuation Potpourri <b>Third Essay Due (30%) <u>Oral</u></b>
<b>13</b>	24-28	Introductory Words Phrases and Clauses.	In-Class Exercises In Class Essay <b><u>Presentations Conclude (10%)</u></b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Dec.</b> 1-9	<b>Review, Review, Review</b>	<b>Sept. 10 Exams begin or 1500 word paper due (20%)</b>

**From:** Suzanne [s.brinton@ns.sympatico.ca]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 24, 2008 9:25 PM  
**To:** Veronica Rondeau; Tera Pezsat; Tammy Hemphill; Shirley Daigle; Molly McLaughlin; Phyllis Elliott; Marlene and Bert Pigott; Joyce Filippone; Joyce Buckler; McDonald, Dianne; Dawson Troop; Charlie Brinton; Becky Dudman; Art & Beth  
**Subject:** Fw: two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Rick Purves](#)  
**To:** [Ben Treidlinger](#) ; [charlene silver](#) ; [Donna Rioux](#) ; [Janet Sherman](#) ; [James Cooper](#) ; [Hilda & Leon](#) ; [Keri Reeder](#) ; [Lori & Steve](#) ; [Mike & Robin Purves](#) ; [Tina](#) ; [Suzanne Brinton](#) ; [Shirley R.](#)  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 23, 2008 5:42 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Holly](#)  
**To:** [Undisclosed-Recipient:](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2008 9:45 AM  
**Subject:** two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings

***How do non-natives ever learn all the nuances of English???***

***There is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is 'UP.'***

***It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP ?***

***At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report?***

***We call UP our friends and we use it to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, we warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP the old car.***

***At other times the little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and***

*think UP excuses.*

*To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special. And this UP is confusing:*

*A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP.*

*We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixedUP about UP !*

*To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and can add UP.*

*If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.*

*When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, it wets UP the earth.*

*When it doesn't rain for awhile, things dry UP.*

*One could go on & on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now my time is UP, so ...*

*Time to shut UP .....!*

*Oh...one more thing:!*

*What is the first thing you do in the morning & the last thing you do at night?*

*U* *P*

*Don't screw UP. Send this on to everyone you look UP*