

## DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, COMMERCE AND EDUCATION

## Grande Prairie Regional College

English 1201: English Composition  
3(3-0-0) UT  
Winter 2002

**Instructor:** Dianne McDonald  
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**Office Hours:** Mon. & Wed., 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
 Tue., Thurs. & Fri., 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. or by appointment.

**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 ten 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:** Fit to Print – The Canadian Student's Guide to Essay Writing  
**Optional Texts:** English & Grammar Punctuation Guide  
Essays & Term Papers Academic Outline

**Term Work Value:**

## Out-of-class essays:

First essay: Week of Jan. 21..... 800 word essay .....	10%
Second essay: Week of Feb. 18..... 800 word essay .....	15%
Third essay: Week of Mar. 18..... 800 word essay .....	30%
Mid term examination: Week of Feb. 19.....	15%
Final examination: Week of Apr. 15.....	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 will 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) No make-up tests will 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