



uOttawa

ENG 1100 A: Workshop in Essay Writing

Fall 2015

LECTURE: Wednesday 13:00-14:30, VNR 3035

DGD 1: Friday 11:30 – 13:00, SMD 422

DGD 2: Friday 11:30 – 13:00, TBT 0021

Professor: Thomas Allen

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Office Hours: Wednesday 11:00-12:00, Thursday 2:00-3:00, and by appointment.

Teaching Assistant: Nick Milne

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Office Hours: Friday 1:00-2:00

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the basics of academic essay writing at the university level. Topics covered will include the development of sound and persuasive arguments, use of evidence, research, organization of ideas, grammar, and style. Students will analyze examples of successful essays and produce their own writing.

The course is divided between lectures, on Wednesdays, and smaller discussion groups, on Fridays.

Required Text:

Eric Henderson, *Writing by Choice* (third edition), published by Oxford University Press, ISBN 978-0-19-900861-2. Available at Benjamin Books, 122 Osgoode Street.

Assignments:

Quizzes (5 in workshop, 1 online; best 5 out of 6 counted): 10%

Workshop attendance, exercises and participation: 10%

Essay #1 (4 pages): 10%

Essay #2 (written in class): 10%

Essay #3, research paper (8 pages): 20%

Portfolio with self-evaluation: 10%

Final exam: 30%

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Policies:

Communication: You are encouraged to come to office hours to talk to your instructors. Email is also a good way to reach the instructors outside of class. However, please keep in mind that professors and teaching assistants are not “on-call.” Twenty-four hours is a reasonable time to allow for an instructor to respond to an email. Therefore, if you have questions about an assignment, you should contact your instructor well before the deadline.

Originality: You must do your own writing and research. Learning to write well and to do research on your own are key goals of the course. Therefore, the use of paid or voluntary research assistants or editors is prohibited. Students may solicit advice about their research and writing from peers, from librarians, and from tutors in either the SASS or Arts Writing Centre. However, another person should not edit or revise the work of a student for this course.

Academic Honesty: The University has a policy on academic fraud; this policy is strictly enforced. Please read the information at:
<http://web5.uottawa.ca/mcs-smc/academicintegrity/home.php>

Plagiarism means passing off someone else’s words or ideas as your own. Plagiarism can result in failure of the course and/or other penalties.

The University of Ottawa also identifies additional areas of academic fraud: “Academic integrity touches on a wide range of academic activities. Plagiarism is definitely one of the most common examples of academic fraud. Academic fraud also includes, among other things, unauthorized collaboration on individual work, buying papers online, reusing an assignment (yours or someone else’s), falsifying or inventing data, falsifying records and helping someone commit academic fraud.”

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Roll will not be taken in the Wednesday lectures, but students are responsible for all material presented in lecture. Attendance will be recorded at Friday workshops. Quizzes and other workshop activities must be completed during the scheduled class session. Students who miss a workshop will receive a zero for any in-class work scheduled for that day.

Submission of written work: Essays should be submitted in hard copy (no email attachments) at the beginning of class on the due date. Essays that are submitted by the following week will be accepted with a reduction of 10% to the mark. Essays will not be accepted after this one-week grace period. Please understand that we will be receiving a large number of essays for this course, so we cannot make exceptions to this policy, except where required by University regulations.

Portfolio: You should keep a pocket folder containing all completed and marked work for the course (workshop assignments, drafts and essays). You will submit the portfolio along with a one-page self-evaluation of your progress at the end of the term.

Schedule of Classes:

WEEK 1

Wednesday, September 9, Lecture:

Introduction to the course. Syllabus, readings, and assignments. Resources (writing centres, library, online). Course policies and University regulations.

Friday, September 11, DGD:

Diagnostic writing assignment.

WEEK 2

Wednesday, September 16, Lecture:

Critical reading. Writing with purpose.

Sentence structure (complete sentences, fragments).

Assigned reading: Henderson, chapters 1 and 2 (pp 1-49).

Essay #1 assigned

Friday, September 18, DGD:

Quiz #1: Sentence structure (complete sentences, fragments).

Workshop activity: Discussion of essay, "Embrace the Mediocrity Principle," by Daniel Wood (pp 19-22 in textbook—reread before DGD).

WEEK 3

Wednesday, September 23, Lecture:

Essay and paragraph structure. What is a thesis?

Sentence structure (comma splices, run-on sentences).

Assigned reading: Henderson, chapter 3 (pp 50-98); essay, "It Is Expensive to Be Poor," by Barbara Ehrenreich. *Atlantic Monthly*, January 13, 2014. Available on the web. Make reading notes and bring a copy to class.

Friday, September 25, DGD:

Quiz #2: Sentence structure (comma splices, run-on sentences).

Workshop activities: Developing a thesis. Paragraph structure.

WEEK 4

Wednesday, September 30, Lecture:

NB: September 30 is the last day to withdraw from a course with financial credit.

Arguments and thesis statements.

Assigned Reading: Henderson, chapter 5 (pp 113-153).

Friday, October 2, DGD:

Assigned reading: Before class, reread the essay, "Tarmageddon: Dirty Oil is Turning Canada into a Corrupt Petro-state," by Andrew Nikiforuk, and the critical analysis by student Tina Lalonde (pp 107-11 in textbook).

Workshop activity: Discussion of sample essays by Nikiforuk and Lalonde.

WEEK 5

Wednesday, October 7, Lecture:

Research paper assigned.

Writing a research paper.

Punctuation.

Assigned reading: Henderson, chapter 7 (pp 186-237).

Friday October 9 DGD

Essay #1 due

Assigned reading: "The Impact of Sports on Childhood Agression," by Iain Lawrence, and "The Teenage Brain: Self-Control," by B. J. Casey and Kristina Caudle (pp 225-237 in textbook).

Workshop activity: Research paper exercises (textbook); discussion of sample essays.

WEEK 6

Wednesday, October 14, Lecture:

Library resources. Visit from Librarian Ann Hemingway.

Discussion of research paper assignment.

Grammar review (quiz Friday).

Friday, October 16, DGD:

Quiz #3: Punctuation.

Workshop activity: Research strategies.

WEEK 7

Wednesday, October 21, Lecture:

Watch the film *Food, Inc.* (available on Youtube, iTunes, etc). View the film before class!

Read the following reviews:

Roger Ebert: <http://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/food-inc-2009>;

Manohla Dargis: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/12/movies/12food.html?_r=0

Friday, October 23, DGD:

Homework: Before class, find at least one *critical* evaluation of the film *Food, Inc.*

Print and bring to class.

Workshop activity: Discussion and critical analysis of film—argument, structure, use of evidence, research undertaken, forms of persuasion.

STUDY WEEK OCTOBER 26-30

WEEK 8

Wednesday, November 4, Lecture:

Argument, logic, forms of faulty reasoning.

Assigned reading: Re-read Henderson, chapter 5 (pp 113-153); blog post, "EFF Applauds Apple's Refusal of Government Demand for iMessage Backdoor," by Electronic Frontier Foundation, available on the web at:
<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2015/09/eff-applauds-apples-refusal-government-demand-imessage-backdoor>

Friday, November 6, DGD:

Workshop activity: **Essay #2**—in class writing assignment.

WEEK 9

Wednesday, November 11, Lecture:

Research papers—integrating sources into your own arguments.

MLA and other citation systems.

Sentence essentials.

Assigned reading: Henderson, chapter 10 (pp 307-334).

Friday November 13 DGD

Quiz #4: sentence essentials.

Workshop activity: Using and citing sources.

WEEK 10

Wednesday, November 18, Lecture:

Style and clarity.

Punctuation.

Assigned reading: Henderson, chapter 11 (pp 335-357).

Friday, November 20, DGD:

Workshop activity: Clarity, punctuation.

Research paper due

NB: November 20 is the last day to withdraw from a course without financial credit.

WEEK 11

Wednesday, November 25, Lecture:

Writing style, voice, diction.

Agreement and Parallelism.

Assigned reading: Henderson, chapter 12 (pp 358-386); essay, "Secret Skin," by Michael Chabon. Make reading notes and bring a copy to class.

Friday, November 27, DGD:

Quiz #5: Agreement and Parallelism.

Workshop: Writing style; discussion of "Secret Skin" by Michael Chabon.

WEEK 12

Wednesday, December 2, Lecture:

Review and preparation for final exam.

Friday December 4 DGD

Assigned reading: Henderson, appendix B (pp 390-393).

Workshop activity: Strategies for writing essays on exams.

Complete Quiz #6 on Blackboard by Friday, December 4.

(No class on Wednesday, December 9; Monday course schedule that day.)

Final exam to be scheduled by registrar during the exam period: December 10-22.

The final exam will follow the standard template for English 1100. All final exams in English 1100 are "open book," meaning that you may use books and notes during the exam. For the final exam, you will undertake a critical analysis of a short essay provided to you at the beginning of the exam. More details will be provided closer to the end of term.