

ENG 1100 ZZ: Workshop in Essay Writing (Winter 2017)

Lecture: Mon. 7-8:30pm, FSS 1030
Discussion: Mon. 8:30-10, CBY B202/SCS C211
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Office Hours: Thurs. 10-11, SMD 327

Course Description:

This course will introduce and develop essential skills and strategies required to write effective university-level essays. The course will focus on three main goals: 1) solidifying the basic elements of academic writing (content, structure, and style), (2) developing and refining critical reading and thinking skills and, (3) reviewing and developing key elements of English grammar.

The course will be composed of lectures, readings, discussions, workshops, grammar assignments, essay assignments, a midterm test, and a final examination.

Required Texts:

ENG1100ZZ Coursepack, available at the University of Ottawa DocuCentre.

Grade Breakdown:

Workshop Exercises (Grammar Test and 6 Workshops)	10%
Short Essay (3-4 pages)	20%
Midterm Test	15%
Research Essay (6-8 pages)	25%
Final Examination	30%

Course Work

In this course, **students must complete all of the major assignments** (the two essays and the midterm) according to the guidelines laid out on the assignment pages **in order to qualify for the final examination**. Failure to do so will result in an automatic Incomplete for the course.

Reading and Assignment Schedule

January 9th	Lecture: Course Introduction Workshop: Diagnostic Assignment
January 16th	Lecture: Critical Reading and Critical Writing; Grigoriadis, "Kim Kardashian: American Woman (How We Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Selfie Queen)" Workshop: O'Rourke, "Fiddling While Africa Starves"
January 23rd	Lecture: From Topic to Thesis; Franklin, "Silence and the Notion of the Commons" Workshop: Thesis Statement Exercise

January 30th	Lecture: Using Your Sources Respectfully and Strategically; Sample Student Essays: “Against the Odds: Harry S. Truman and the Election of 1948” and “It’s in Our Genes: The Biological Basis of Human Mating Behaviour.” Workshop: Respectful and Strategic Source Use Exercise
February 6th	Lecture: Using Evidence; Howarth and Ingraffea, “Should Fracking Stop?” Workshop: Making the Most of Your Evidence
February 13th	Lecture: Your Argument, Part 1: Structure; Carr, “Rural > City > Cyberspace: The Biggest Migration in Human History.” Workshop: Structure Exercise; Rosen, “Born This Way: Lady Gaga’s New Album is a Pop Rapture.” Short Essay Due Friday, February 17th @ 5pm
February 20th	Reading Week
February 27th	Midterm Test
March 6th	Lecture: Your Argument, Part 2: Sense and Style; King, “Letter from Birmingham Jail” Workshop: Sense and Style Exercise; Bogost, “The Squalid Grace of Flappy Bird”
March 13th	Lecture: Grammar (Punctuation, Pronouns, Mixed Constructions, Subject-Verb Agreement) Workshop: Grammar Test (Open-book)
March 20th	Lecture: Editing and Revising; Carr, “Is Google Making Us Stupid?” Workshop: Editing and Revising Exercise
March 27th	Lecture: Review; Binelli, “Pope Francis: The Times They Are A-Changin” Workshop: Q&A and Individual Essay Consultation
April 3rd	No formal class; individual essay consultations Research Essay Due Friday, April 7th @ 5pm

Late Policy:

Assignments are due via Blackboard at the assigned date and time. Students who contact me no later than three days before the due date of an essay assignment may arrange an extension of one-week, without penalty, provided that they have valid reasons for doing so. Papers with an approved extension will not be accepted beyond one week from the initial due date (ie. do not try to arrange an extension and then accept the late penalty beyond that extension, you sly fox—if you need more than a week, discuss it with me).

In cases where an extension has not been arranged, assignments handed in **up to one week after the due date will be subject to a one-time penalty of 15%**. And a sort of existentially sad look. Assignments submitted beyond one week past the original due date will not be accepted. And we all know how important it is to feel accepted. Do you really want to do that to your paper? Also see the bit about having to complete all the major assignments (on the first page). No, seriously, go look again now. Don’t blow this.

Please note that essays (on time or late) cannot be accepted at the Secretariat of the English Department.

Formatting for Written Assignments:

Essays submitted in this course must meet the following formatting guidelines:

- All assignments must be submitted through the appropriate submission form on Blackboard in **either Microsoft Word (.docx) or PDF format**.
- Typed in a 12-point, non-ridiculous font. A plague upon you if you submit your work in Comic Sans.
- Pages must be double-spaced and have a 1-inch margin on all sides.
- Essays should not include title-pages (save your paper), though they should be properly titled. Information including the title, student name, student number, date and professor name should appear in the top-left corner of the first page. Page numbers should appear in the top-right corner.
- If you don't know how to set up or change these things on your word processor, do not ask me or make excuses. Chances are pretty high that you're reading this on a device capable of connecting you with all of human knowledge. Use it.
- Essays must be stapled. Buy a stapler. They're cheap. No one's epitaph ever said, "My only regret was the stapler."
- Essays must not be submitted in one of those flimsy plastic folder things. They're cumbersome. Also, I have small children at home; if you do submit an essay in a folder, I will keep it to build forts with.
- All citations and formatting must follow either MLA or APA guidelines. No footnotes. No endnotes. No vague approximations of things you might have sort-of learned in high school. Go here if you're not sure how to do citation formatting properly:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu>

Bookmark that website. Make friends with it. Buy it dinner. Meet its parents. I will be teaching some material on citation formatting, but I cannot possibly cover everything. That website right there will do the rest.

Now that you know about them, failure to meet all or any of these guidelines is officially your problem, and will result in a lower overall grade on the assignment.

Class Readings and Discussions

The best way to do well in this course is to do the reading. This does not mean skimming over it quickly on the way to class (or worse, *in class*). None of the essays/articles that we will deal with this term will be especially taxing on your time. My suggestion—my very strong, nudge-nudge, here's-how-you'll-do-well suggestion—is to read over each one *at least twice*. Think of it this way: once for you, once for me. The first time you read it, just read it. Enjoy the experience. Don't worry about it too much. Just get a feel for it. Take a break. Let it percolate. Then come back to it with an eye toward applying some of the critical/analytic techniques we'll be looking at throughout the course. That's a pretty good way to make this whole adventure manageable.

The class itself will revolve primarily around a combination of me chattering away about theoretical concepts and (hopefully) lively in-class discussions of those concepts as they

apply to the assigned readings. That is to say that my hope is that a good chunk of the time we spend in class will be driven by *your* thoughts, perspectives and approaches to the class material. So that means that you should come prepared to participate. It also means that everyone's gotta feel comfortable bringing up ideas, thoughts, perspectives, etc., without fear of judgement or personal attack from classmates. Be respectful of and open to the experiences and perspectives of others. There is no such thing as a stupid question in this class. If you have a question, I guarantee someone else has it too. If it helps, you should know that chances are pretty good that I'll say way more stupid things over the course of the semester than any of you ever will.

Final Examination

This semester, the examination period falls between the 11th and 28th of April. Please do not make any travel plans during this period until the FINAL examination schedule is released by the Office of the Registrar. With very, very few exceptions, pre-arranged travel-plans are not accepted as valid reasons for the deferral of an examination, and yet every semester, some poor hapless student has to cancel or change a hastily booked flight to somewhere very far away at staggering personal cost to that student. Don't let that be you.

Email Policy:

Assignments can never be submitted to me by email. Ever. Seriously. Email is a perfectly reliable mode of communication until you send an important document. Then it eats things. Please use Blackboard.

Generally speaking, questions about the course that are sent to me by email will be answered within 24 hours during the week. Weekends are a bit more of a crapshoot, though I'll try my best. If you don't hear back from me in a day or so, send a follow-up or come speak to me before/after class or during my office hours.

Note that if you email me to ask a question that can easily be answered by taking a quick glance through the syllabus, I will most likely respond with "That question can easily be answered by taking a quick glance through the syllabus." I will likely include one of the angry-looking emojis. And possibly the squid, but not for any particular reason.

Cell Phones and Laptops

Keep them on mute. Take your headphones off. Use them for good and not for evil. Be respectful of others in the class (including me). Make good choices. Them's the only rules. Deal?

Academic Fraud:

Academic fraud is taken very seriously by me and by the university. Forms of academic fraud include (but are not limited to) improper, missing or made-up bibliographical information and passing off the work of others (words and/or ideas) as your own. Evidence of deliberate plagiarism in this course will automatically result in a mark of zero for the assignment. Please see the *Faculty of Arts Calendar*, the faculty website and the departmental brochure on the subject for more information. You may also wish to consult

<http://www.uottawa.ca/plagiarism.pdf>. If you are still unclear on what constitutes academic fraud or what the expectations are for this course, please feel free to consult with me.

Student Assistance:

The Student Academic Success Service (SASS), located in MCE, offers a range of services including the Academic Writing Help Centre (www.sasss.uottawa.ca/en/awhc). The Writing Centre, located in MRT, offers assistance to students who wish to improve their writing skills (they will not, however, proof-read your essays for you). The Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI) is located in ARTS 130 and offers a range of services for students for whom English is not a first language.

You are also encouraged to contact me directly via email, during office hours or after the lectures to discuss any issues you may be having with the course.