Overview

Welcome to Academic Writing. In this course, you will become familiar with different aspects of formal writing and formal writing in different contexts. Always keep in mind that you will succeed in writing only if you enjoy writing. This course, by looking at different uses of writing, is designed to help you appreciate writing as an art. What you gain from a university-level writing course will serve you for the rest of your academic careers. This is why you should make the best use of this course. There are no exams for this course. You will be graded on the basis of your performance in class and the various writing assignments throughout the semester. All writing assignments are due at the beginning of class. Attendance, therefore, is vital.

Course Objectives

- To help you to think critically and communicate effectively
- To learn and practice a variety of strategies for inventing, drafting, and editing texts
- To learn and practice writing in a variety of academic genres
- To learn to read critically
- To learn to write persuasively by effectively employing elements of formal argumentation
- To help you give and receive useful feedback on writing for the purposes of revision
- To learn and practice communicating to a variety of academic audiences

Texts

*The Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs*, editor: Jennifer Speak, Oxford University Press

*Encomium of Helen*, Gorgias, Bristol Classical Press

*Late Essays and Articles*, D. H. Lawrence, Cambridge University Press

*The Metamorphosis*, Franz Kafka, W. W. Norton & Company
Grading

Class Participation 15%
Quiz 10%
Rhetorical Speech 20%
Essay on D. H. Lawrence 25%
Essay on *The Metamorphosis* 30%

Class Participation

This is a small class. Class discussions, therefore, are a vital part of the course. You are expected to attend all sessions.

Peer Workshop

Reviewing and commenting on the works of your peers is a great learning experience. Each writing assignment will be followed by a session of peer workshop. Keep in mind that you are required to hand in one hard copy of your writing to each of your teammates.

Extra Help

Hopefully, we can work together throughout the semester in order to create a friendly, professional, and effective atmosphere. I would be happy to assist you outside of class. Feel free to contact me to arrange a time to meet if you cannot come to my office during the office hours on Mondays and Wednesdays. Also, I will be emailing you regularly. This means you need to make it a habit to check your Waterloo email account regularly.

Academic Integrity

As a student of the University of Waterloo you are expected to both observe and encourage principles of honesty and responsibility. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the University policies on this matter. And please keep in mind that ignorance is not an acceptable excuse. It is the responsibility of every member of the University of Waterloo to avoid committing an academic offence. If you are unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or need help in learning how to avoid offences (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) or about rules for group work/collaboration please seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean.

Students with Disabilities

The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of Needles Hall, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the [AccessAbility Services](#) office at the beginning of each academic term.
Grievances

Any student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4.

Appeals

A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 (Student Petitions and Grievances) or Policy 71 (Student Discipline) may be appealed if there is a ground. If a judgement falls against you and you feel you have a ground for an appeal, please refer to Policy 72 (Student Appeals).

Course Schedule

Session 1 (Wednesday, September 4)—Introduction

Session 2 (Monday, September 9)—Rhetoric

Parts of a persuasive speech: introduction, narration, proposition, confirmation, refutation, and conclusion.

Session 3 (Wednesday, September 11)—Rhetorical Figures

Session 4 (Monday, September 16)—What Is a Proverb?

Text: “Literature as Equipment for Living” by Kenneth Burke

Session 5 (Wednesday, September 18)—Understanding and Using Proverbs

Individual assignment: with reference to the Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs, each student will explain and provide examples for one of the proverbs listed below.

Session 6 (Monday, September 23)—Understanding and Using Proverbs

Individual assignment: with reference to the Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs, each student will explain and provide examples for one of the proverbs listed below.

Session 7 (Wednesday, September 25)—Quiz: Proverbs

Session 8 (Monday, September 30)—Rhetorical Argumentation

Text: “Encomium of Helen” by Gorgias

Session 9 (Wednesday, October 2)—Rhetorical Analysis

Text: “Encomium of Helen” by Gorgias

Session 10 (Monday, October 7)—Workshop

Group assignment: with reference to “Encomium of Helen,” each group will draft a persuasive speech and strengthen its argument with the proverbs and rhetorical figures covered in the previous sessions.

Session 11 (Wednesday, October 9)—Due: Rhetorical Speech

Thanksgiving (Monday, October 14), Reading Week
Session 12 (Monday, October 21)—Thesis Statement and Supporting Evidence

Text: “Thinking about Oneself” by D. H. Lawrence

Individual assignment: summarize the main argument of the essay, identifying the problem that the author describes and the solution that he proposes. Next, explain how the author supports his argument.

Session 13 (Wednesday, October 23) —Thesis Statement and Supporting Evidence

Text: “Insouciance” by D. H. Lawrence

Individual assignment: summarize the main argument of the essay, identifying the problem that the author describes and the solution that he proposes. Next, explain how the author supports his argument.

Session 14 (Monday, October 28) —Thesis Statement and Supporting Evidence

Text: “Master in His Own House” by D. H. Lawrence

Individual assignment: summarize the main argument of the essay, identifying the problem that the author describes and the solution that he proposes. Next, explain how the author supports his argument.

Session 15 (Wednesday, October 30) —Thesis Statement and Supporting Evidence

Text: “Ownership” by D. H. Lawrence

Individual assignment: summarize the main argument of the essay, identifying the problem that the author describes and the solution that he proposes. Next, explain how the author supports his argument.

Session 16 (Monday, November 4)—Preparation for the Essay

Individual assignment: you will be given the essay question. You will draft an outline for your essay in class.

Session 17 (Wednesday, November 6)—Peer Review

Group assignment: you will bring to class 4 copies of your essay. Each student will read and provide feedback on the essays of his/her teammates. As the last step of preparing the final draft of your essay, you will take into account the comments of your teammates. In short, your group will help you to revise your essay.

Session 18 (Monday, November 11)—Grammar

Review of basic grammar: independent and dependent clauses, relative clauses, different types of sentences, run-on sentences and comma splices, and conditional sentences.

To prepare you for the final essay, we will also go over common writing errors, especially those found in your writing.

Due: Essay on D. H. Lawrence

Session 19 (Wednesday, November 13)—Critical Reading: The Metamorphosis

Text: The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka, part I

Due: in one paragraph, summarize important events that occur in this part of the novella.
Session 20 (Monday, November 18)—Critical Reading: *The Metamorphosis*

Text: *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka, part II

Due: in one paragraph, summarize important events that occur in this part of the novella.

Session 21 (Wednesday, November 20)—Critical Reading: *The Metamorphosis*

Text: *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka, part III

Due: in one paragraph, summarize important events that occur in this part of the novella.

Session 22 (Monday, November 25)—Preparation for the Essay

Individual assignment: you will be given the essay question. You will draft an outline for your essay in class.

Session 23 (Wednesday, November 27)—Peer Review

Group assignment: you will bring to class 4 copies of your essay. Each student will read and provide feedback on the essays of his/her teammates. As the last step of preparing the final draft of your essay, you will take into account the comments of your teammates. In short, your group will help you to revise your essay.

Session 24 (Monday, December 2)—Due: Essay on *The Metamorphosis*
List of Proverbs:

1. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.
2. Absence makes the heart grow fonder.
3. An idle brain is the devil’s workshop.
4. Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.
5. Better to wear out than to rust out.
6. Discretion is the greater part of valour.
7. Distance lends enchantment to the view.
8. Do not call a wolf to help you against the dogs.
9. Fine words butter no parsnips.
10. Forewarned is forearmed.
11. Give a dog a bad name and hang him.
12. Good fences make good neighbours.
13. He who hesitates is lost.
14. Hunger drives the wolf out of the wood.
15. Necessity is the mother of invention.
16. Never too late to mend.
17. Once bitten, twice shy.
18. One hand washes the other.
19. Out of sight, out of mind.
20. Set a beggar on horseback, and he will ride to the devil.
22. Sue a beggar and catch a louse.
23. The Caribou feeds the wolf, but it is the wolf who keeps the caribou strong.
24. The cat would eat fish, but would not wet her feet.
25. The cowl does not make the monk.
26. The same fire that melts the butter hardens the egg.
27. The squeaky wheel gets the grease.
28. The sun loses nothing by shining into a puddle.
29. Too many cooks spoil the broth.
30. While the grass grows, the steed starves.