ENGL 109: Introduction to Academic Writing
Fall 2019

Instructor: Dr. Lamees Al Ethari
Class Times: Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 – 2:20
Location: HH 138

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Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 11:30-12:30 (By Appointment)

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Email: vuher@uwaterloo.ca
Office: PAS 2222
Office Hours: Thursdays 4:00-5:00

Course Description

Calendar Description: The course will explore a variety of issues in academic writing such as style, argument, and the presentation of information. Frequent written exercises will be required.

Welcome! ENGL 109 focuses on the writing process and presents different ways of constructing clear, effective and persuasive arguments. The course presents students with the opportunity to develop academic writing strategies and rhetorical devices that help them shape their writing styles through scaffolded short and long assignments. Students will also learn research methods, work on numerous drafts and outlines, present arguments and participate in group workshops in order to collect feedback from their peers and their instructor.

Course Objectives

Students will:
- learn to think and read critically and communicate effectively.
- learn and practice a variety of strategies for inventing, drafting, and editing texts.
- learn to write persuasively by effectively employing elements of formal argumentation.
- learn to give and receive constructive feedback on writing for the purposes of revision.
- learn and practice communicating their opinions and perspectives to a variety of academic audiences.

Required Texts: All course materials will be provided through Learn.
## Schedule

Please keep in mind that certain topics and discussions may be changed in the schedule due to unseen circumstances or cancellations. Students will be informed ahead of time when such changes take place.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Activities &amp; Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 5</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
<td>Syllabus &amp; Assignment Overview</td>
<td>In-Class Writing Assignment</td>
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| Sept. 10 | The Persuasive Essay & Preparing Your Sources | Read: 
- “Persuasion” 
- Knott, “Writing an Annotated Bibliography” 
- Freedman, “Summarizing” | Group Discussions                  |
| Sept. 12 | Introductions, Theses & Outlines      | Read: 
- Ruszkiewics and Dolmage, Chapters 30 & 31 
- Ruszkiewics and Dolmage, “Fallacies” 
- “Thesis Statement” 
- King “How Twitter is Reshaping the Future of Storytelling” | Group Discussions+ In-class Assignment |
| Sept. 17 | Rhetoric & Persuasive Introductions   | Visitor: Dr. Ashley Mehlenbacher                                         |                                        |
|         |                                       | Read: 
- “What is Rhetoric?” 
- Swales, “Three-Move Model for Introductions” 
- “Determining Audience” |                                        |
| Sept. 19 | Research Tools                        | Meet at DC Library with Rebecca Hutchinson                             |                                        |
| Sept. 24 | Peer Review & Editing                 | Bring Your Drafts (Annotated Bibliographies)                           | Workshop                               |
| Sept. 26 | Analyzing and Arguing                 | Read: 
- Casselman “Shut Up About Harvard” 
- Turley “Shut Up and Play Nice: How the Western World is Limiting Free Speech” | Due: Annotated Bibliography 1          |
| Oct. 1  | Peer Review & Editing                 | Bring Your Essay Drafts                                                | Workshop                               |
| Oct. 3  | Instructor/ Student Feedback          | Bring Your Essay Drafts                                                | Workshop                               |
| Oct. 8  | The Research Essay                    | Read: 
- Graff, Birkenstein and Durst “Entering the Conversation” & “Three Ways to Respond” | Due: Essay 1                            |
| Oct. 10 | Outlines & Organization               | Read: 
- Davis “Like Me on Facebook”                                         | Group Discussions+                     |
Please Note: All assignments MUST be submitted on the due date. Please contact the instructor before the due date, if you are unable to submit your work on time. Keep in mind that late assignments will have a late penalty of 5% per day.

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotated Bibliography 1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>September 26, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>October 8, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Minute Thesis Presentation</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>October 24 &amp; 29, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction Essay 2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>November 5, 2019</td>
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Grade Distribution

Please Note: All assignments MUST be submitted on the due date. Please contact the instructor before the due date, if you are unable to submit your work on time. Keep in mind that late assignments will have a late penalty of 5% per day.
Brief Assignment Descriptions

Please Note: More information regarding grading, assignment descriptions and due dates will be discussed in class throughout the term.

Participation and Attendance:

Participation and attendance in this course are **required and non-negotiable**.

To receive full marks for participation, you will need to participate fully in both large and small group discussions and in workshops. **If you feel anxiety about formal or informal public speaking**, please meet with your instructor in the first week of classes to discuss accommodations. Generally speaking, such accommodations may include weekly goals for increasing participation over the course of the term and alternative forms of participation. Failure to participate without having arranged for accommodations or without meeting the requirements of your arranged accommodation will result in deductions to your grade.

For a full participation mark (10 points), students are required to actively participate in group discussions and workshops.

- **Individual Participation (3):** Students will be required to actively engage in class discussions and share their points of view with their instructor and their classmates.

- **In-Class Assignments (3):** Students will be required to write a paragraph length assignment in almost every class. The assignment may be a response to an article, a summary of an article excerpt, a draft for an assignment, or a short critical analysis of a colleague’s work. Please have a pen/pencil and paper with you for all our classes.

- **Group Discussions (3):** The class will be divided into small groups responsible for answering and discussing a certain topic assigned to them. The group is required to present feedback to each other and to the instructor on the main points discussed in written form.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Rarely participates or contributes to class and group discussions.</th>
<th>Participates occasionally and sometimes contributes to class and group discussions.</th>
<th>Actively participates and contributes to class and group discussions.</th>
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<td>0-1 points</td>
<td>1-2 points</td>
<td>2-3 points</td>
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- **Bonus Point (1):** Students can receive an extra bonus point for attending an educational talk or a reading, if they provide proof of attendance. Additional information on this topic will be discussed in class.

**Attendance:** To receive full marks (10 points) for attendance, **students MUST attend a total of 20 classes** for a full attendance mark. Students receive a 0.5 point for each class they attend.
Annotated Bibliography:

This assignment will help you prepare the research you need to support your essays. Each student will be required to choose 4 references for research and summarize each reference in 150-200 words.

Introduction Paragraph:

Introductory paragraphs present the background information for essay topics and identify the research/thesis statement for readers. Students will have the chance to discuss their ideas with the instructor and their peers in order to receive constructive feedback before handing in a final draft.

Essay 1- Persuasive Essay:

For this assignment students are required to find an advertisement that presents a specific “controversial” theme and try to persuade a target audience of their point of view by using logical and supported arguments. Topics should be discussed with the instructor beforehand. Further information will be provided during the course and on LEARN. We will work together in groups and one-on-one throughout the course to ensure that you successfully develop your writing skills. The length of the essay should be no more than 4 pages, double-spaced, and the font size and style are 12/ Times New Roman.

Essay 2- Research Essay:

This essay will help students expand and develop their research skills. We will discuss the steps for writing a successful research essay and students will learn to organize their ideas and critically approach different topics through analyzing, writing, and proofreading written work repeatedly. Topics for this essay will be provided on LEARN later in the course. If you would like to write about a particular topic, please discuss it with me first. The second essay should be no more than 7 pages in length, double-spaced, and the font size and style are 12/ Times New Roman.

3 Minute Thesis Presentations:

Students will present a summary of their research thesis statements and arguments to the class within 3 minutes. They will also provide ONE slide that reflects the topic of their argument.

The Final Portfolio:

The portfolio is made up of 2 sections:

1. An Author’s Note (400-500 words), which concisely describes the student’s personal writing process throughout this course.
2. Both marked essays and a revision of the lowest marked essay.

Important Information

- Please bring paper and pencils/pens to class. We will work on developing our writing skills in almost every class. You may bring your laptops to class for workshops or for taking notes.
• All assignments should be in **MLA format**, double-spaced, written in font size and style 12 / Times New Roman. (Please consult your instructor if you wish to use a different font style or size)

• **Cell phones should be turned off during class.** Students are not allowed to call, text or browse on their phones. Please contact Accessibility Services (link below) if you need to use your phone during class for any medical condition.

• All assignments **MUST** be handed in on the due date. Medical issues and other emergencies will be taken into consideration. Please contact your instructor if you are unable to submit an assignment on time. **Late assignments will have a late penalty of (5%) per day.**

• You are always welcome to talk with me or email me about problems you may have concerning the course. I have office hours twice a week, however anytime you feel overwhelmed or confused about the material or assignments that we have, please contact me immediately.

**Resources for Students**

The following sources will be provided through links on the LEARN course website for your section:

- The Writing and Communication Centre, [https://uwaterloo.ca/writing-and-communication-centre/](https://uwaterloo.ca/writing-and-communication-centre/) provides one-on-one consultations, tutorials, and drop-in sessions to support student writing and related assignments

  1. The centre works across all faculties to help students clarify their ideas, develop their voices, and write in the style appropriate to their disciplines. Writing Centre staff offer one-on-one support in planning assignments and presentations, using and documenting research, organizing and structuring papers, and revising for clarity and coherence.

  2. You can make multiple appointments throughout the term or drop in at the Library for quick questions or feedback. To book a 50-minute appointment and to see drop-in hours, visit [writingcommunication@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:writingcommunication@uwaterloo.ca) Group appointments for team-based projects, presentations, and papers are also available.

  3. Please note that writing specialists guide you to see your work as readers would. They can teach you revising skills and strategies, but they will not proof-read or edit for you. Please bring hard copies of your assignment instructions and any notes or drafts to your appointment.

- Student Success Office < [https://uwaterloo.ca/student-success/](https://uwaterloo.ca/student-success/), providing workshops, study sessions, and online resources in the areas of academic performance, study skills, and stress management

- [http://writingcommons.org/](http://writingcommons.org/)

- [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/)
**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. For more information please see [http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/Academic_Integrity/index.html](http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/Academic_Integrity/index.html).

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 – Student Discipline, [http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.html](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.html).

**Grievance:** A 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 ([https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70)). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

**Appeals:** A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72, Student Appeals ([https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72)).

**Note for Students with Disabilities:** The AccessAbility Services office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (NH 1401), 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 AS office at the beginning of each academic term.