English 109 (01):
Introduction to Academic Writing

Class Time: Wednesday 7-10 pm
    HH 139
Instructor: Julie Stewart
Office Hours: Wednesday 1-3 pm
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Course Description: This course aims to assist you in developing your writing and reading skills at the university level. We will explore a variety of issues in writing including audience, argument and the conventions of academic discourse. We will read essays on contemporary issues, and there will be frequent writing assignments. In addition to practising your own essay writing and revision, you will assist your peers to revise their essays. We will also explore writing within different disciplines of the university. The course will be workshop and discussion oriented and as such will require your conscientious participation in class and in the writing and reading assignments each week.

*Please Note: This course is not a course in English as a Second Language or strictly a course in grammar.

Required Texts:


Assignments:

Essay One (3-4 pages, 800 words): 15%
Essay Two (4-5 pages, 1000 words): 20%
Writing Across the Disciplines Essay (6 pages, 1500 words): 30%
Writing Notebook: 15%
Active Participation: 10%
Editing: 10%

Assignment Descriptions:

Essay One: In this essay you will form a reasonable argument in response to an issue raised in
Ackley, in chapter 6 or 7. You will use quotation, summary and paraphrase to support your point of view. As with all essays, you will practise constructing a workable thesis statement and a strong argument. More details to follow.

Draft Due (bring 2 copies): May 27 (in class)
Essay Due: Monday June 8 (in my mailbox by 3:30)

Essay Two: In this essay, you will develop an essay that deals with an issue raised in one of the chapters in Ackley that we have covered, but that you haven't discussed in Essay One. More details to follow.

Draft Due (bring 2 copies): June 17 (in class)
Final Copy Due: Monday June 30 (in my mailbox by 3:30)

Writing In the Disciplines Assignment: In this assignment you will research and write an essay on how a particular academic discipline (your own or pick one, e.g. Psychology, History, Biology, Engineering, etc) writes academically. What research sources do they use? How do they use them? What kinds of arguments do they use? What kinds of documents do they write? What kind of language do they use? How do they write differently from other disciplines? You will use at least 3 refereed academic articles for your research.

Works Cited Due: July 8 (bring your articles to class)
Draft Due(bring 2 copies): July 15 (in class)
Essay Due: July 29 (last class)

Writing Notebook: The writing notebook is designed to prepare you for class workshops and for the essays you will write in the course. Ideally, your notebook will form the beginnings of your essays and act as a log where you discover the strengths and challenges in your writing. Each week you will read from both Lunsford and Ackley and be asked to write (approx. 500-600 words) in your notebook about specific issues and questions raised in them. Notebook entries will sometimes be circulated in class, and some entries will be written in class, so bring your notebook to each class. You should be able to take pages in and out of your notebook easily. You don't need to type your notebook if your handwriting is legible, but please double space.

Your writer's notebook will be marked for completion and conscientious participation at certain times throughout the term and at the end of the term.

Active Participation: This course requires your attendance and active participation in all class room activities. Your mark will include your attendance in the class every week before and after the break, your active involvement in workshops and discussions, the fact that you have read the assigned reading and that you have thoughtful, serious essay drafts ready for the due dates.
Editing: This mark will be derived from the quality of your involvement in assisting other students to improve their papers.

Course Policies:
(a) Drafts: Because good writers revise, revision is built into this course, which depends upon you having drafts of your essays ready for revision. With this in mind, you will be docked 10% off the final essay mark if you are not in class with a workable draft on the due dates. You will obviously not have the opportunity to have your draft evaluated by your peers if you are not in class with your draft on the due date. There will also be point at which I will not be able to look at your late draft. You must bring 2 copies of your workable draft, which will be typed and double spaced, with one inch margins. You will hand in your drafts with your final essays.

(b) Essays: These assignments will be docked 5% a day (including weekends) for each day they are late. All essays must be signed and dated and placed in my mailbox in HH by 3:30 on the date due. All essays will be typed, double spaced with one inch margins.

**Sometimes, however, students do have a legitimate reason for a late essay. Attached to this course outline is a coupon that you can use once to justify a late essay. This coupon does not apply to drafts. You must come and see me before the day the essay is due and arrange a new due date with me. If you do not hand in the essay to my mailbox on the new due date, you will lose 10% a day.

(c) Plagiarism: Plagiarism, or copying another writer's words or ideas and claiming them as your own, is a serious academic offense and will be dealt with according to the University of Waterloo Disciplinary Code (see Policy 71 in Undergraduate Calendar, 1:10).

Reading and Assignment Schedule

May 6: Welcome to ENGL 109 and the writing process
Read: Lunsford Chapters 1 and 2

May 13: "What does reading have to do with writing?"
Have Read: Ackley Chapter 2 "Summarizing, Paraphrasing and Quoting" and Ackley Chapter 7 "Film and Popular Culture"

May 20: "What's your point?" or Brainstorming, organizing, and creating a thesis
Have Read: Lunsford Chapter 3 "Exploring, Planning, Drafting,"
Ackley Chapter 3 "Documenting Sources and Synthesis," and Ackley Chapter 6 "Music"

May 27: Revising Your Writing
Essay One Draft Due
Have Read: Lunsford Chapter 4 "Revising and Editing" and Ackley Chapter 12 "Gender"
June 3: "An argument is more than contradiction!"
"No it's not!"....Yes, it is.
Have Read: Ackley Chapter 8 "Advertising" and
Lunsford Chapter 5 "Understanding and Using Argument"

Monday June 8: Essay One Due (in my mailbox)

June 10: Examining the Paragraph
Have Read: Lunsford Chapter 6 "Constructing Paragraphs" and
Ackley Chapter 16 "Natural Sciences"

June 17: Revising at the Sentence Level
Essay Two Draft Due
Have Read: Lunsford Chapters 25, 28, 29 on Style and Chapter 30 on Diction
Lunsford's preface on surface errors

June 24: Writing in different disciplines
Have Read: Lunsford Chapter 7 "Writing in the Disciplines"
Lunsford's sections on your surface error pattern ie. punctuation or grammar issue
Consult: Lunsford Chapter 13 on Documenting Sources

Monday June 30: Essay Two Due (in my mailbox)

July 1: Canada Day: No Class

July 8: The Research Paper: Focussing your topic, evaluating and documenting your sources
Works Cited Due
Have Read: Lunsford Chapters 9, 10, 11 on Research Essays

July 15: Revising Research Papers
WID Draft Due
Have Read: Lunsford Chapters 12 on Revising Research Essays

Have Read: Ackley Chapter 4 on Research Essays

July 29: Last Class
WID Essay Due
Hand in Writer's Notebook

This coupon entitles you to hand in ONE late essay. You must see me to arrange a new
due date. Coupon does not apply to drafts.

Name:
New Due Date: