ENGLISH 109: INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC WRITING

Professor Marcel O’Gorman

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course website: http://artsweb.uwaterloo.ca/~marcel/109

Workshop Instructor: ________________________
Office: _______ Hours: _________
e-mail: ________________________

Required Texts:

Stubbs, Barnet, Cain, *The Little, Brown Reader*
(packaged with Handbook)

Course Description

This course is designed for students who are already writing at a university level, but who want to improve their skills by learning the techniques and conventions of academic research and writing. Weekly lectures introduce students to critical analysis and research strategies, audience-specific methods of response, dealing with common grammatical errors, documenting sources, organizing ideas, and developing an individual style. Workshops provide a working environment for students to put these skills into practice. This course requires an attention to detail and a commitment to developing strong written communication skills that will last a lifetime.

Assessment

Summary (15%)  
Comparison (20%)  
Research Essay (30%)  
Grammar Test (15%)  
Notes (10%)  
Participation and Attendance (10%)
Assignment Descriptions

Summary - 15% :: Sept. 25 :: 750 words (3 typed pages)
- a brief distillation of the content of an article selected from the Little, Brown Reader

Comparison - 20% :: first draft Oct. 9 :: final draft Oct. 16 :: 1000 words (4 typed pages)
- a comparison of your "summary" article with another on a similar topic

Research Essay - proposal Nov. 13 :: bibliography / first draft Nov. 20 :: final :: Nov. 27
:: 1500 words (6 typed pages)
- a research paper that builds on your first two assignments, and
draws on at least three additional sources

Grammar Test - 15% :: October 30
- based on lectures and on exercises completed in the tutorials

Notes - 10% :: Sept. 18, Oct. 23, Nov. 29
- 5 individual responses to 5 readings from the LBR, including bibliographical
  information (MLA) and direct transcriptions of the text with page numbers;
notes may be rewritten and submitted for grade improvement.

Participation and Attendance - 10% :: twice a week for 12 weeks
- Students are expected to arrive on time for each lecture
  and tutorial, and to act as active participants.

Course Policies

Attendance, Punctuality, and Readiness
Students are expected to attend all lectures and workshops, and to arrive on time. You
must complete the readings assigned on the schedule, and bring your textbooks with
you to each class. Be prepared to participate in discussions, peer-editing sessions, and
workshop exercises. One percentage point will be removed for each missed class
without a doctor's note. Three unexcused missed classes will result in a failing grade for
the course.

Submission of Assignments
This course involves the submission of drafts and final assignments. The effort you put into the
drafts is directly related to the quality of feedback you will receive, and ultimately, to the quality
of your final grade. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day they are due,
generally during the tutorial session. In special circumstances, you may be asked to submit an
assignment via e-mail, in which case it should be saved as a .rtf document. You might also be
asked to submit work at the drop off box near the English Department mail room (HH 229).
Academic Integrity
The Faculty of Arts requires all instructors to incorporate the following note on avoidance of academic offenses:

"Note on avoidance of academic offences:
All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (section 1; on the Web at http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infousec/Policies/policy71.htm). If you need help in learning what constitutes an academic offence; how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission; how to follow appropriate rules with respect to "group work" and collaboration; or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your TA and/or your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean."

"Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm."

See:"Avoiding Academic Offences": http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

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READING AND WRITING PATHS*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Comparison</th>
<th>Research Essay</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select one of the following as your primary text:</td>
<td>Compare your first target text with another in the following section of LBR:</td>
<td>Create a research-based argument based on your comparison essay and:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julie Matthaei On the &quot;natural&quot; family</td>
<td>&quot;All in the Family&quot;</td>
<td>Use 3 appropriate outside sources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephen Jay Gould On &quot;manliness&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;Identities&quot;</td>
<td>Use 3 appropriate outside sources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neil Postman The Role of Education</td>
<td>&quot;Teaching and Learning&quot;</td>
<td>Use 3 appropriate outside sources</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Paul Gee Video Games and Learning</td>
<td>&quot;Work and Play&quot;</td>
<td>Use 3 appropriate outside sources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rob Nixon E-mail and (in)convenience</td>
<td>&quot;Messages&quot;</td>
<td>Use 3 appropriate outside sources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Chabon Violence in Student Writing</td>
<td>&quot;Law and Order&quot;</td>
<td>Use 3 appropriate outside sources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Singer Animal Liberation</td>
<td>&quot;Consuming Desires&quot;</td>
<td>Use 3 appropriate outside sources</td>
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*Upon approval of the instructor, you may select alternative articles within the same section or change your path as you move onto a new assignment.
## Course Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Lecture Tuesday</th>
<th>Workshop Thursday</th>
<th>Due in Workshop</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 11</td>
<td>Intro. to course</td>
<td>Intro. to workshop; Taking Notes</td>
<td>Diagnostic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 18</td>
<td>Reading and responding <em>(LBR 1-42); Summaries</em></td>
<td>Summaries Review; Writing Process <em>(LBCCH 1-38)</em></td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 25</td>
<td>Paragraphs <em>(LBCCH 38-55)</em> *Read Matthaei, &quot;Political Economy and Family Policy&quot; <em>(LBR 156)</em></td>
<td>Exercises: Paragraphs</td>
<td>Summary (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 2</td>
<td>Academic Writing <em>(LBR 44-56); Comparisons</em></td>
<td>Review: academic writing; comparisons</td>
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<td>Oct. 9</td>
<td>Grammar: Sentence Parts &amp; Patterns <em>(LBCCH 142-179)</em> *Read Gould, &quot;Women's Brains&quot; <em>(LBR 218)</em></td>
<td>Peer Review Drafts Exercises: Sentence Parts</td>
<td>Draft of Comparison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td>Grammar: Punctuation <em>(LBCCH 231-259)</em> *Read Postman, &quot;Order in the Classroom.&quot; <em>(LBR 320)</em></td>
<td>Exercises: Punctuation</td>
<td>Comparison (20%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>Writing an Argument <em>(LBR 58-104)</em></td>
<td>Review: Arguments</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<td>Oct. 30</td>
<td>Grammar Test (15%)</td>
<td>Grammar Test Review</td>
<td>TEST during lecture time</td>
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<td>Nov. 6</td>
<td>Research Strategies <em>(LBCCH 283-323)</em> *Read Gee, &quot;From Video Games, Learning about Learning&quot; <em>(LBR 433)</em></td>
<td>Exercises: Research and Documentation; Avoiding Plagiarism <em>(LBR 58-72)</em></td>
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<td>Nov. 13</td>
<td>Research &amp; Argumentation *Read Nixon, &quot;Please Don't E-Mail Me about this Article&quot; <em>(LBR 514)</em></td>
<td>MLA Documentation</td>
<td>Research Essay Proposal</td>
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<td>Nov. 20</td>
<td>No lecture: Individual meetings</td>
<td>Individual meetings</td>
<td>Bibliography / first draft due in meeting</td>
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<td>Nov. 27</td>
<td>Research Essay (30%)</td>
<td>Submit Notes</td>
<td>Essay due in lecture slot; notes (10%) due in tutorial</td>
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