ENGLISH 109
Fall 1989

Introduction to Essay Writing

Professor J. Segal
Office: MM 251
Extension: 3310
Office Hours: MW 9:30-10:30 and 12:30-1:30

Course Description

English 109 is designed to help you become better writers of essays -- especially the essays you’ll have to write at university. It should help you in a number of different ways: it will deal with essay-level issues and word-level issues; it will deal with matters of strategy and matters of structure; it will deal with questions of process and questions of product. Since writing at university never happens in isolation, writing here won’t happen in isolation either; it will be part of a set of related activities including also reading, thinking, talking, procrastinating, fantasizing... Some of the course description in the calendar will not apply.

Course Structure

The class as a whole will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:30 in EL101. In addition, students will meet weekly in tutorial sections for 1 1/2 hours as follows:

Section 01 2:30-4:00R  MM259
02 2:30-4:00R  MM119
03 1:30-3:00R  MM124
04 4:00-5:30R  MM119
05 3:00-4:30R  MM227
06 1:30-3:00R  MM174
07 4:00-5:30W  MM259
08 3:00-4:30R  MM174
09 2:30-4:00W  MM259
10 4:00-5:30R  MM124
11 2:30-4:00W  MM345
12 4:00-5:30W  MM344
13 9:30-11:00R  MM345
14 9:30-11:00R  MM124
15 11:00-12:30R  MM345
16 11:00-12:30R  MM124

Required Texts

Two books are required: Michael Moore, Jim Corder, and Jonn Ruszkiewicz, A Writer’s Handbook of Current English, third Canadian editions and W. Ross Winterowd, Lucy Hawk, and Geoffrey Winterowd, The Literature of Fact.
ASSIGNMENTS AND MARKS BREAKDOWN

Students will write five essays and a final exam. The research essay will be assigned in September and is meant to be a term project. Assignments 1-4 will be returned in the tutorial the week following submission.

There will be no late work and no extensions in this course, except in the case of proper notification of medical or family emergency. Tutorial instructors will have a heavy marking load and will not have the flexibility to mark late assignments.

Five marks will be deducted from submission drafts if working drafts are not available for revision workshops. Regular attendance in tutorials is mandatory for successful completion of the course.

Essay 1. Personal writing history. Due Oct. 2. 10%
Essay 2. Response to social science reading. Due Oct. 10. 10%
Essay 3. Discussion of science. Due Oct. 30. 15%
Essay 4. Analysis of newspaper articles. Due Nov. 13. 15%
Essay 5. Research paper on writers. Due Nov. 17. 20%
Final exam. 30%
COURSE SCHEDULE

Sept. 11  Invention and Discovery: Thesis and Development
         Lib. tour

Sept. 13  Paragraphing and Transitions
           Read: selections from Section 1

Sept. 25  Style, voice, tone

Oct.  2*  Using secondary sources
        Read: selections from Section 6
        Start essay 1

Oct.  9*  Rhetoric/argumentation
         Revise essay 1

Oct. 16*  More rhetoric
         Read: selections from Section 7
         Start essay 2

Oct. 23  Analyzing nonliterary prose
         Revise essay 2

Oct. 30*  Grammar
         Read: selections from Section 3
         Start essay 3

Nov.  6   More grammar
         Revise essay 4

Nov. 13*  More grammar
         Consultations

Nov. 20  Diction and usage
         Revise essay 5

Nov. 27*  Thought and Language

* essay due in Monday’s lecture