English 109: Introduction to Essay Writing

Professor R. Graves
HH 250
885-1211, ext. 5366
Office Hours: 1:30-2:30MW

Course Description

This course examines principles of academic writing drawn from current theories that analyze written texts and describe the processes through which written texts are created. Among the topics that will be covered are summarizing texts, identifying topics in texts, readability, and writing in different disciplines. Students will be asked to apply the principles described in the texts and lectures to their own written work. This written work will take place under the guidance and with responses from teaching assistants.

Students will be asked to write three major assignments. The first assignment asks students to write a summary and response to a short article. The second major assignment asks students to work in groups to produce a report detailing the results of their analysis of a series of texts written in a specific academic discipline (for example, psychology, history, physics). The third assignment asks students to gather a portfolio of writings about a current issue (see the Kinko's packet for sample portfolios) and write an essay or report on the issue. Students will also be expected to keep a writing journal which will be marked periodically as well as write a final exam based on the lectures and readings.

Texts


Kinko's packet of readings.

Course Administration Policies

Students are expected to attend all lectures and tutorials. Because much of each student's most important work will take place in the tutorials, students who miss more than two tutorial classes without permission from their tutorial leader will lose the marks assigned for attendance and may jeopardize
their course standing.

Unless students obtain written permission from their tutorial leaders prior to assignment deadlines, no late assignments will be accepted. Written permission must take the form of a note or memo written by the student clearly stating the reasons for needing an extension of the deadline as well as a proposed new deadline. Both student and tutorial leader must sign and keep copies of the memo.

Assignments

Final course grades will be assigned by combining grades for the writing journal, major assignments, mid-term test, and tutorial attendance in the following manner:

Writing journal: 10
Major assignments: (3 X 20) 60
Final exam: 20
Tutorial attendance 10

Deadlines

First major assignment  Thurs. Oct. 8
Second major assignment  Thurs. Nov. 12
Third major assignment  Thurs. Dec 3
Final exam                During exam period
Journals                  Sept. 30; Oct. 21; Nov. 18

Weekly Schedule of Readings

Sept. 14       Introduction
               SMH: 3-9
Sept. 21       The Writing Process; Summaries
               SMH: 10-38
               AW: 9-34
Sept. 28       Revising and Editing; Summaries
               SMH: 39-63
               AW: 35-66
Oct.  5        Critical Stances
               SMH: 197-199; 205-209; 455-470
               AW: 67-109
Oct. 12        Topics and Sentences
               AW: 111-138
               SMH: 403-452
Oct. 19  Writing in Different Disciplines
          SMH: 127-152; 163-173
Oct. 26  Scholarly Styles and Scholarly Arguments
          AW: 269-316
Nov.  2  Group meetings in lecture hall
Nov.  9  Becoming a Researcher
          SMH: 163-209
Nov. 16  Arguments
          SMH: 67-91
Nov. 23  Research Essays
          SMH: 210-240
Nov. 30  Essay Examinations
          SMH: 153-162
          AW: 326-329