English 109
Introduction to Academic English
Department of English
University of Waterloo
Fall 1997

Instructor: Catherine F. Schryer
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Workshop Leader:
Office hours:
Office:
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email:

Course Description:
This course aims to engage participants in some of the issues-emerging in various academic disciplines. In the process of this engagement the course aims to provide students with an overview of some of the conventions and techniques that various academic disciplines use to discuss and debate those issues. This course involves a good deal of practice in the art and craft of academic discourse. Most of the hands-on, practical work in the course will take place in the workshops.

Texts:
Katherine A. Ackley. Perspectives on Contemporary Issues: Readings Across the Disciplines

Assessment:
Synthesis essay (15%)
Comparison and contrast essay (15%)
Research paper (30%)
Reading journal (15%)
Tests (15%)
Participation and Editing (10%)

Assignment Descriptions:
1. Synthesis Essay (15%)
In this brief essay (800 words) develop a reasonable thesis that expresses your point of view on an issue raised in Ackley chapters 5 or 8. In this essay you must also use
quote, summary, and paraphrase to support your point of view. The draft for this essay is due in your workshop in Week 5. The final copy of this essay is due in your workshop in Week 7.

2. Comparison and Contrast Essay (15%)
In this essay of 1000 words compare/contrast two or more perspectives on an issue raised in Ackley chapters 10 or 12. This essay must have a thesis and an effective use of quotation, paraphrase, and summary. The draft for this essay is due in your workshop in Week 8. The final copy of this essay is due in your workshop in Week 10.

3. Research Paper (30%)
In this research paper of 1500 words develop a thesis (for an essay) or a statement of purpose (for a report) that relates to one of the issues raised in Ackley. This paper must include research from at least six sources. Two of those sources can come from Ackley. At least two other sources must be derived from refereed, academic journals. This project is due in the following stages:

i. A six (minimum) item bibliography in correct format and proof that you have located two refereed articles are due in your workshop in Week 10.

ii. In Week 11 bring 2 copies of your thesis or purpose statement as well as your outline to a consultation meeting with your workshop leader.

iii. Bring a complete draft of your essay or report to your workshop in Week 12.

iv. Hand in your final copy to your workshop leader on Friday, Dec 5 by 4 pm.

4. Reading Journal (15%)
The RJ is intended as a place where students can record their summaries of and reactions to the readings included in the course. Students will be required to respond to three topics per week for a total of approximately 600 words per week. Journal entries will sometimes be circulated in class, and some entries will be written in class. Students should bring their journals to all classes. The journals will be collected twice during the term and will be graded for completion.

5. Tests (15%)
Three tests will occur during the term.

6. Participation and Editing (10%)
This grade will be derived from your presence in the workshop and the quality of your involvement in assisting other students in improving their papers.
Course Policies:

1. Late Drafts or Papers
   Late drafts will be penalized up to 10% of the final grade of the paper. Late papers will be penalized 5% per day late. Sometimes, however, students do have legitimate reasons for late drafts or assignments. Attached to this course outline is a coupon that students can use once to justify a late draft or assignment.

2. Plagiarism
   Plagiarism or copying others' style or ideas and claiming them as your own is a serious academic offense. Any incident of plagiarism will automatically cause a paper to fail, could cause you to fail the course, and will be reported to the Dean's office.

3. Attendance
   Attendance at the workshops is particularly important. Much of the actual work of the course, including the Reading Journal, will be conducted in the workshops. Part of your participation mark will derive from attendance in the workshops.

4. Grading
   Workshop instructors will provide detailed commentary on the drafts of the first two assignments and consultation on the research paper in order to help you improve your writing. Final copies will receive less commentary.

5. Problems
   If you are experiencing problems with the course or with the marking, you should first discuss your difficulties with your workshop instructor. If your problem persists, then you should contact the course director, Dr. C. Schryer.

6. Handing in Your Papers
   All tests, drafts and papers should be handed in to your workshop instructor. Sometimes we will ask you to hand papers in at your instructor's mail box in the English Department mail room. The mail room is located at HH 229.
109 Course Schedule

Week 1 Introduction to Academic Writing  Sept 8
  Class
  Workshop
  Preparation: Ackley, Ch 1

Week 2  Sept 15
  Class
  Workshop
  Preparation: Ackley, Ch 2 and 3, Harris, pp 242-283

Week 3 Writing and Reading in the Arts  Sept 22
  Class
  Workshop
  Preparation: Ackley, Ch 3 and 5. Harris, 1-2
  Due: Test one

Week 4  Sept 29
  Class
  Workshop
  Preparation: Ackley, Ch 8, Harris, 320-330

Week 5 Writing and Reading in the Social Sciences  Oct 6
  Class
  Workshop
  Preparation: Ackley, Ch 10. Harris, pp.26-30
  Due: Draft of Synthesis Essay

Week 6  Oct 13
  Class  Thanksgiving — Monday classes canceled
  Workshop
  Preparation: Ackley, Ch 12. Harris, pp 13-20, 61-65

Week 7 Writing and Reading in the Sciences  Oct 20
  Class
  Workshop
  Preparation: Ackley, Ch 15. Harris, pp 30-43
  Due: Synthesis Essay

Week 8  Test two  Oct 27
  Class
  Workshop
Preparation: Ackley Ch 4. Harris 229-242

Due: Draft of Comparison/Contrast essay

Week 9  Nov 3
Class
Workshop
Preparation: Ackley, Ch 17, Harris pp. 46-61
Due: Research Bibliography and copies of title pages from Two referred articles

Week 10  Nov 10
Class
Workshop
Preparation: Harris pp. 133-183
Due: Comparison and Contrast paper

Week 11 Consultation Week  Nov 17
This week classes are canceled. Instead meet with your workshop instructor for a 10-15 minutes on your research paper. Bring 2 copies of your proposed thesis and outline to this meeting.
Due: Thesis and outline of your research essay or report

Week 12  Nov 24
Test 3
Class
Workshop
Due: Draft of Research Paper

Week 13  Dec 1
Class Canceled
Workshop
Research Paper due on December 5 by 4 pm

This coupon entitles you to hand in ONE late draft or assignment.

Name:
New due date: