English 109
Introduction to Academic English
University of Waterloo
Fall 1998

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Course Description:

This course aims to engage participants in some issues emerging in various academic disciplines. In the process of this engagement, the course aims to provide students with an overview of the conventions and techniques that academic disciplines use to discuss and debate these issues. This course involves a good deal of practice in the art and craft of academic discourse. Classroom time will be divided between lecture and hands-on, practical work. The success of the class will largely depend on student involvement--come prepared to participate in class discussion and to collaborate in group work exercises.

Texts:

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

Evaluation:

Analysis Essay 15%
Synthesis Essay 15%
Research Paper 30%
Reading Journal 15%
Tests (3 x 5%) 15%
Participation and Editing 10%
Assignments:

Analysis Essay (15%)

In this 800-word essay develop a reasonable thesis that expresses your analysis of an advertisement (advertisements will be provided in class). In this essay, you must use references (quotation or paraphrase) to support your point of view.
Essay draft due Week 4.
Final copy due Week 7.

Synthesis Essay (15%)

In this 1000-word essay develop a position on an issue raised in Ackley in Chapters 12, 15, or 17. This essay must have a thesis and make effective use of quotation, paraphrase, and summary and must incorporate positions from at least two (2) readings in Ackley.
Essay draft due Week 8.
Final copy due Week 10.

Research Paper (30%)

In this 1500-word research paper 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 (6) sources. Two (2) of these sources can come from Ackley. At least two (2) other sources must be derived from academic journals.

This project is due in the following stages:

1. A six (minimum) item bibliography in correct format and proof that you have located two refereed articles are due in class on Week 9.

2. In Week 10 prepare a short oral report (3-5 minutes) on your research findings.

3. In Week 11 bring 2 copies of your thesis or purpose statement as well as your sentence outline to a consultation meeting with me.

4. Bring a complete draft of your essay to class in Week 12.

5. Hand in your final copy on Friday, December 11 by 4 pm.
Reading Journal (15%)

The Reading Journal is where students can record their summaries of and reactions to the readings included in the course and as a place where they can prepare their ideas for their papers. Students will be required to write one or two short entries a week for a total of 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 weekly and will be graded for completion as well as quality of responses.

Tests (15%)

Three tests will occur during the term. Each is worth 5%.

Participation and Editing (10%)

This grade will be derived from your presence in class and the quality of your involvement in assisting other students in improving their papers during editing sessions.

Course Policies

Late Drafts and 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 assignments. Attached to this course outline is a coupon that students can use once to justify a late final paper. Please note that all late drafts will be penalized.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism or copying others' style or ideas and claiming them as your own is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with according to the University of Waterloo Disciplinary Code (See Policy 71 in Undergraduate Calendar). All quotation, ideas, and paraphrased material MUST be properly cited and referenced.

Attendance

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

Drafts

Current research in writing suggests that preparing and revising drafts promotes effective writing. Consequently, drafts are integral to this course. I urge you to prepare good first drafts so that I can really help you with your academic writing skills. All students should
know, however, that they alone are responsible for their writing. If the instructor misses commenting on some problem in a draft (and I can never see everything), the writer is still responsible for that problem.

Grading

I will provide detailed commentary on the drafts of the first two assignments and consultation on the research paper to help you improve your writing. Final copies will receive less commentary.

Consultation

I urge you to come and see me during my office hours if you wish assistance with your writing.

Problems

If you are experiencing problems with the course or with the marking, please discuss your difficulties with me.

Handing in Your Papers

All tests, drafts, and papers should be handed in to me in class. Sometimes, though, I may ask you to hand in papers at my mailbox in the English Department mail room. The mail room is located in Hagey Hall Rm 229.
English 109 Course Schedule

Week 1  Sept. 14  Introduction to Academic Writing

Week 2  Sept. 21  Ackley Ch. 2 and 3 "Summary, Quotation, Paraphrasing";
                 "Documentation"
                 Harris 242-283

Writing and Reading in the Arts

Week 3  Sept. 28  Ackley Ch. 8 "Advertising"
             Harris 320-330 "Argument"
             Harris Ch. 1-2 "Purpose and Audience; Writing Strategies"
             Test #1 Due

Week 4  Oct. 5  Ackley Chapter 12 "Gender"
             Due: Draft of Analysis Essay

Week 5  Oct. 12  Thanksgiving Day -- Class Canceled

Writing and Reading in the Social Sciences

Week 6  Oct. 19  Ackley Ch. 15 "Computer Science"
                 Harris 13-20 "Paragraphs"; 61-65 "Transitions"
                 Harris 30-43 "Agreement; Sentence Fragments; Dangling
                 Modifiers"

Week 7  Oct. 26  Ackley Ch. 17 "Bioethics"
                 Harris 26-30 "Comma Splices; Fused Sentences..."
                 Due: Analysis Essay

Writing and Reading in the Sciences

Week 8  Nov. 2  Test Two
             Ackley Ch.4 "Writing a Research Paper"
             Due: Draft of Synthesis Essay

Week 9  Nov. 9  Harris 46-61
             Due: Research Bibliography and Copies of Title pages
             from 2 refereed articles.

Week 10  Nov. 16  Harris 133-183 "Commas, apostrophes, semi-colons,"
                 Oral Reports on research
                 Due: Synthesis essay
Week 11  Nov. 23  Consultation Week
This week classes are canceled. Instead you will meet
with me for a 10-15 minute consultation on your research
paper. Bring 2 copies of your proposed thesis and
sentence outline to this meeting.
Due: Thesis and Outline of your research essay or
report.

Week 12  Nov. 30  Test Three
Draft of Research Essay

Week 13  Dec. 7  Class Canceled
Research Paper  Due on December 11 by 4 pm

This coupon entitles you to hand in ONE
Late final paper.

Name:
New due date: