Course Syllabus for ENGL 109 Introduction to Academic Writing

Instructor: Ashna Bhagwanani
Email: abhagwan@uwaterloo.ca
Location and Time: HH 336, Thursdays 6:00-8:50 PM
Office Hours: PAS 1059, Thursdays 4:30-5:30 PM and by appointment

Course Description:

The course familiarizes students with various facets and conventions of academic writing including paraphrasing, synthesizing, thesis construction, argumentation, rhetorical strategy, editing, and MLA etiquette. Classes will be comprised of lecture, discussion, in-class assignments, and group work. Students are encouraged to participate in all class exercises in order to develop and improve their academic writing and reading skills. The course will enable students to read texts critically and simultaneously formulate cogent and articulate written opinions about these works.

Required Texts:


Evaluation:

Participation (10%)
Reading Responses (10% x 3) (30%)
Summary Assignments (15% x 2) (30%)
Final Essay (30%)
Participation (10%)

- Informed, active, and respectful participation is expected from all students in the course. Students must come to each class prepared to discuss the assigned readings for the week.
- Recurring lateness will affect your participation mark. Please be on time for class or notify me if you have a valid reason for consistent tardiness.
- Your participation mark will also be a reflection of the quality and detail of your peer reviews of your classmate’s work.
- **Please make sure you bring your copy of The Little, Brown, Compact Handbook and The Broadview Reader to each class.**

Reading Responses (10% x 3)

- 300-400 words
- Using *The Broadview Reader*, respond to one of the “Suggested Topics for Writing and Discussion” (found at the end of each essay).
- **Consult the chart below for appropriate selections for your response. Please note that you are not allowed to use the same essay from The Broadview Reader for more than one assignment.**
- Your response can be informal in style, but **must** be grammatically correct and logically sound.
- Each response will be awarded marks based on comprehension of the essay, quality of the answer, as well as the critical engagement demonstrated in incorporating your own viewpoints on the issues raised by the essay.

Summary Assignment 1 (15%)

- 500 words
- Summary Draft and Peer Review (5%), Summary Final Version (10%)
- Choose one of the assigned texts from *The Broadview Reader* and summarize it, using the techniques learned in class. **Consult the chart below for appropriate selections for your response. Please note that you are not allowed to use the same essay from The Broadview Reader for more than one assignment.**
- Bring a complete draft of your summary assignment to class on September 27, 2012. You will peer review another student’s summary, providing constructive comments and feedback. This grade will be based on the completeness of your own draft as well as the quality of your peer review comments.
- **You must hand in your draft along with your final summary assignment on October 4, 2012. Failure to do so will result in an automatic deduction of marks.**
- Your assignment should be predominantly a paraphrasing of the text with the occasional direct quotation.
- Please make sure you observe proper MLA format for your citations if using direct quotations.
Summary Assignment 2 (15%)

- 500 words
- The Instructor will select an essay from *The Broadview Reader* of her choosing for students to respond to in-class on October 25, 2012.
- Your assignment should be predominantly a paraphrasing of the text with the occasional direct quotation.
- Please make sure you observe proper MLA format for your citations if using direct quotations.

Critical Response Paper (30%)

- 1500-1700 words
- Bibliography (5%), Peer Review of Draft Version (10%), Final Version (15%)
- Select an essay from *The Broadview Reader* of your choice. **You cannot choose from any of the essays previously assigned by the Instructor.**
- Formulate a clear thesis in response to the essay using 5-6 external academic sources to prove your argument.
- You will be evaluated based on your comprehension of the original essay, writing style, clarity of thought, thesis formulation, selection of sources, originality, and your grammar.
- Please make sure that you abide by MLA citation format as discussed in class.

Critical Response Paper Bibliography (5%)

- You must include a formal Bibliography where you employ a variety of academic sources (books, journal articles, websites).
- Please make sure to bring your Bibliography to class for peer reviewing on November 22, 2012.

Critical Response Paper Peer Review (10%)

- Please bring a complete draft to class for peer reviewing on November 22, 2012. Failure to produce a complete draft will result in an automatic deduction of 50% for this peer review component of your mark.
- Your grade will again be based on the completeness of your draft as well as the quality of your comments on your classmate’s work.
- **Please make sure to submit a copy of your draft on November 29, 2012 along with your final version.**

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Possible Selections</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summary 1</td>
<td>• “Blown Away”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• “The Game”</td>
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<td>• “Women’s Clothes – Towards Emancipation”</td>
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<td>Response 1</td>
<td>• “Thoughts on a Shirtless Cyclist,</td>
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<td>Assignment Type</td>
<td>Selection Options</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary 2</td>
<td>Selection by the Instructor for in-class response</td>
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| Response 2      | “The Motive for Metaphor”  
|                 | “Who Killed King Kong?”  
|                 | “Roughing It in The Bush” |
| Response 3      | “How Many Feminists Does It Take to Change A Light Bulb?”  
|                 | “The Historian’s Opportunity”  
|                 | “The Tyranny of the Clock” |
| Critical Response Paper | Selection of your choosing from *The Broadview Reader*. You must choose an essay that has **not** been assigned for class reading. |

**Course Policies:**

- **Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 5% for the first day and 2% for each additional day – including weekends.** I do not accept assignments that are more than a week late.
- Extensions on assignments will be granted **only** in cases of illness or emergency. Please contact me during office hours or via e-mail to make your request. You must provide hard copies of official documentation.
- Late assignments should be submitted to the English Department Office. The work must be put in the Department Drop-Box (HH 2016E, beside HH 228). Assignments will be stamped by department staff. If your assignment is lost because you did not ensure that the Instructor, the drop-box, or a department staff member received it, you will be held responsible for that loss.
- You should always keep a copy of your work. In the case of a lost assignment, I will require another copy.
- **I do not accept e-mail submissions of work, unless you have made prior arrangements with me.**
### Reading Schedule:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic(s) To Be Covered</th>
<th>Readings/Assignment Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1: September 13</td>
<td>Introduction to Course, Syllabus Overview</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2: September 20</td>
<td>MLA Format, Summarizing, Paraphrasing, Plagiarism,</td>
<td>• <em>LBCH</em> 317-321 (s. 52c), 325-333 (s. 53a-e), 391-403 (s. 58c)</td>
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<td>• <em>BR</em> 109-115 (“Blown Away”)</td>
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<td>Week 3: September 27</td>
<td>Analyzing, Evaluating, Interpreting, Synthesizing,</td>
<td>• <em>LBCH</em> 76-83 (s. 10a-b), 309-317 (s. 52a-c), 321-324 (s. 52d)</td>
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<td>• <em>BR</em> 371-376 (“The Game”), 482-489 (“Women’s Clothes - Towards Emancipation”)</td>
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<td>• <strong>SUMMARY 1 DRAFT DUE (Please bring to class for peer editing)</strong></td>
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<td>Week 4: October 4</td>
<td>Punctuation, Sentence Construction, Wordiness</td>
<td>• <em>LBCH</em> 145-150 (s. 20a-20f), 237-268 (s.38a-44d)</td>
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<td>• <em>BR</em> 392-399 (“Thoughts on a Shirtless Cyclist, Robin Hood and One or Two Other Things”)</td>
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<td>• <strong>SUMMARY 1 FINAL DUE</strong></td>
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<td>Week 5: October 11</td>
<td>Sentence Parts and Patterns</td>
<td>• <em>LBCH</em> 152-236 (s. 21a-37c)</td>
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<td>• <em>BR</em> 11-15 (“The Case Against Advertising”)</td>
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| Week 6: Oct 18 | Introductions, Conclusions, Thesis Statements | *LBCH* 13-20 (3a-3b), 48-51 (6d), 63-68 (8a-8e)*  
  *BR* 191-197 ("The Obligation to Endure"), 253-264 ("A Hearing") |
| Week 7: Oct 25 | Argumentation, Rhetorical Strategy         | *LBCH* 83-98 (11a-11e)*  
  *BR* 47-56 ("The Motive for Metaphor"), 156-159 ("Who Killed King Kong?") |
| Week 8: Nov 1  | Essay Structure, Paragraphing              | *LBCH* 35-48 (s.6a-6c), 51-62 (s.7a-7b)*  
  *BR* 209-212 ("Roughing It in The Bush") |
| Week 9: Nov 8  | Style, Compare and Contrast Essay          | *LBCH* 117-145 (15a-18b)*  
  *BR* 445-461 ("How Many Feminists Does It Take to Change A Light Bulb?") |
| Week 10: Nov 15| Research Methodology                       | *LBCH* 287-308 (s.50a-51h)*  
  *BR* 72-84 ("The Historian’s Opportunity"), 301-305 ("The Tyranny of the Clock") |
| Week 11: Nov 22| Editing, Revising                         | *LBCH* 23-35 (s.5a-5f)*  
  [CRITICAL RESPONSE PAPER DRAFT DUE (Please bring to class for evaluation)]
Academic Offences:

The Faculty of Arts requires that I draw your attention to the following:

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 – Student Discipline: http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4: http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 Student Appeals: http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm

**Academic Integrity website (Arts):**
http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

**Academic Integrity Office (University):** http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/

**Relevant Sections of Policy #71:** Academic offences shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

**Cheating** on examinations, assignments, work term reports, or any other work used to judge student performance. Cheating includes copying from another student's work or allowing another student to copy from one's own work, submitting another person's work as one's own, fabrication of data, consultation with any unauthorized person during an examination or test, and use of unauthorized aids.
**Plagiarism**, which is the act of presenting the ideas, words or other intellectual property of another as one's own. The use of other people's work must be properly acknowledged and referenced in all written material such as take-home examinations, essays, laboratory reports, work-term reports, design projects, statistical data, computer programs and research results. The properly acknowledged use of sources is an accepted and important part of scholarship. Use of such material without complete and unambiguous acknowledgement, however, is an offence under this policy.

Plagiarism also includes obtaining by improper means examination papers, tests, or similar materials, or using or distributing such materials to others. Also included is submitting an essay, report, or assignment when a major portion has been previously submitted or is being submitted for another course without the express permission of all instructors involved.

**Note for students with disabilities:** The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodation to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.