English 109 - Introduction to Essay Writing

Section 2
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-2:30 pm
Spring 1992

Instructor: Sheila Noble
Office: HH 228B
Telephone: 885-1211, Ext. 3886

Office Hours: Tuesday, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm, Thursday, 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm
or by chance, or by appointment

Course Description:

This course will instruct you in effective strategies for writing university essays based on a model which sees writing as a continual process of inventing, drafting, and revising. To promote writing and the sharing of writing, you will write often, and you will revise what you write often. In peer workshops, you will see how other students handle writing assignments, and you will have the chance to revise and edit your own as well as other student's work.

Upon successful completion of this course, you will have accomplished four objectives if you complete all the assignments and actively take part in classes:
1. how to choose a topic and discover what to say about it
2. how to revise according to your purpose and your audience
3. how to evaluate constructively the work of your peers
4. how to take full advantage of the resources at the Dana Porter Library

Because this course will be based in large part on workshops, student participation and commitment are essential. This syllabus is our contract: I agree to tailor the course to suit the group's needs, and you agree to attend every class fully prepared with your books, your readings done, and your assignments completed. If you cannot accept this contract, please withdraw from the course.

Course Requirements:

3 Essays:
Essay 1 10%
Essay 2 20%
Essay 3 30%

Writing Journal 15%
Writing Log 15%
Attendance 5%
Professionalism 5%
**Explanation of Course Requirements:**

**Essay 1 - Expressive Essay**
Required Length: 800 words or 3-4 typed pages

**Essay 2 - Expository Essay**
Required Length: 1000-1200 words or 4-5 typed pages

**Essay 3 - Research Essay**
Required Length: 1200-1400 words or 5-6 typed pages

**Writing Journal**

The purpose of the writing journal is to get you comfortable with writing. You must write five entries in your journal each week for the first twelve weeks of class. Each entry must be at least one page double-spaced, on three-ring paper, dated, and numbered. You may write about anything you wish—with two qualifications: what you write must be thoughtful, and what you write must be something you don’t mind me knowing. I will collect journals three times during the term, and I will base the grade I give you on quantity.

**Writing Log**

The purpose of the writing log is to help you reflect on your writing process. You must make one writing log entry each week for the first twelve weeks of classes. Each entry is the writing log assignment listed for each week and must consist of at least one page double-spaced. Wherever possible, I have tried to relate the writing log assignment to your essays to cut down on the number of things you are doing each week. I will collect writing logs three times during the term, I will base the grade I give you on quality as well as quantity.

**Policy on Attendance and Late Papers:**

Attendance is mandatory and will comprise five percent of your final grade. Marks will be deducted from your attendance quota for every invalid absence. Professionalism is also mandatory and will comprise five percent of your final grade. Draft copies of your essays must be ready on peer workshop days, and final essays must be submitted on the due date. Marks will be deducted from your professionalism quota for every late submission.

**Required Texts:**

Lunsford, Connors, and Segal, *The St. Martin’s Handbook for Canadians*
Dias, Beer, et al., *Writing for Ourselves/Writing for Others*

**Recommended Text:**

Lunsford and Connors, *The St. Martin’s Workbook*
Course Outline:

Week 1

Reading Assignment: "The Skier" by Nancy Dorey, "The End of a Friendship" by Eric Hufnagel, Chapter Two, "Writing for Oneself and Writing for Others," and Chapter Three, "The Writing Self," 25-39 only, in Writing for Ourselves/Writing for Others.

Writing Log Assignment: Complete Exercise 1, Chapter Two in Writing for Ourselves/Writing for Others.

May 5 - Introduction

May 7 - Introduction
Essay 1 Assigned - Expressive Essay

Week 2

Reading Assignment: Consult Chapters 13, 34, 35, 37, 39 in The St. Martin's Handbook.

Writing Log Assignment: Complete Exercise 2, Chapter Two in Writing for Ourselves/Writing for Others - "Create a Writing Inventory," and begin a list of possible and impossible topics for Essay 1.

May 12 - Grammar

May 14 - Grammar
Journals Collected

Week 3

Reading Assignment: Chapter Five, "Strategies for Effective Writing," 89-112, Writing for Ourselves/Writing for Others and Chapters 2 and 3, "Planning and Drafting" and "Revising and Editing" in The St. Martin's Handbook.

Writing Log Assignment: Document your invention process for Essay 1.

May 19 - Invention

May 21 - Peer Workshop on Essay 1 - Paramedic Method of Revision
Draft Essay 1 Due

Week 4


Writing Log Assignment: Ask yourself, "What did I learn in writing this essay?" (Consider this question in terms of what you learned about the topic and what you learned about the process of
writing and/or collaborating with your peers.)

May 26 - Paragraphs
Essay 1 Due

May 28 - Paragraphs
Essay 2 Assigned - Expository Essay

Week 5

Reading Assignment: Chapter Eight, "Looking at Language" in Writing for Ourselves/Writing for Others and Chapter 30 in The St. Martin’s Handbook.

Writing Log Assignment: Keep a word hoard, a list of nouns and verbs and their definitions, of words that you think are particularly precise, vivid, or useful to you in your discipline. Look for words whose connotations may not match their denotations. Be on the lookout, as well, for examples of euphemism and jargon. Minimum of 25 words. Be prepared to share your list on Thursday.

June 2 - Diction and Vocabulary

June 4 - Diction and Vocabulary Writing Logs Collected

Week 6

Reading Assignment: None!

Writing Log Assignment: Document your invention process for Essay 2.

June 9 - Peer Workshop on Essay 2 - Key Word Method of Revision Draft Essay 2 Due

June 11 - Conference Day

Week 7


Writing Log Assignment: Reflect on the improvements you feel you have made in your writing at this point in the course and on the improvements you feel you still could make.

June 16 - Sentences Essay 2 Due

June 18 - Sentences Essay 3 Assigned - Research Essay
Week 8

Reading Assignment: Chapter 4, "Understanding and Using Argument," in *The St. Martin's Handbook.*

Writing Log Assignment: Re-read your Essay 2 and my comments on it, and reflect on how you could make the improvements I have suggested.

June 23 - Arguments and Rhetorical Strategies

June 25 - Arguments and Rhetorical Strategies

Journals Collected

Week 9

Reading Assignment: Chapters 8 and 9, "Becoming a Researcher" and "Conducting Research," in *The St. Martin's Handbook.*

Writing Log Assignment: Document your invention process for Essay 3.

June 30 - Tour of Dana Porter Library

July 2 - Writing the Research Essay

Writing Logs Collected

Week 10


Writing Log Assignment: Consider research papers you have written in the past. What types of sources did you use? What problems did you encounter? What would you do again and/or not do again?

July 7 - Research and the Use of Sources

July 9 - Research and the Use of Sources

Week 11

Reading Assignment: Chapter Seven, "Writing to be Read," in *Writing for Ourselves/Writing for Others* and Chapter 28, "Creating Memorable Prose," in *The St. Martin's Handbook.*

Writing Log Assignment: Document the writing process you have followed in writing Essay 3 thus far. Where are you going from there?

July 14 - Peer Workshop I on Essay 3 - Sentence Level Revision

Draft Essay 3 Due

July 16 - Making Prose Memorable
Week 12

Reading Assignment: None!

Writing Log Assignment: Reflect on the writing log process and what you have learned from it.

   July 21 - Making Prose Memorable

   July 23 - Peer Workshop II on Essay 3
      Revised Draft Essay 3 Due
      Journals and Writing Logs Collected

Week 13

No Reading Assignment, No Writing Log Assignment and No Journals!

   July 28 - Writing Essay Examinations
      Essay 3 Due

   July 30 - Writing for Different Disciplines
      Revised Essays 1 and 2 Due - Voluntary
English 109 - Section 2
Policy on Revision

Since revision is fundamental to good writing, this course offers you the opportunity to revise Essays 1 and 2 for a higher grade. Because this revision is voluntary, you have two choices:

1. You may consider my comments, as well as the issues you are learning about in class, and revise your essay. If you choose this route and make carefully considered revisions, you are guaranteed a higher mark. For example, if you receive a “C” on your second draft but revise and resubmit it at the end of the term, you will receive at least a “C+” as your final grade for that assignment. The more effective your revisions, the higher your final mark will be.

   If you choose this option, you must submit the first draft, the second draft, the revised draft, and a Revision Information Form indicating what issues you have concentrated on for your final revisions for each paper.

2. You may not revise, and your mark will remain the same as it is on your second draft.