English 109
Introduction to Essay Writing
Section 3
Winter 1992

Classes: 6-9 Wednesdays HH150

Instructor: Karen Pancer  Office: HH22BC  Extension: 3886

Office Hours: 4:30-6 Wednesdays or by appointment

This course will instruct you in effective strategies for writing university essays, based on a model which sees writing as a recursive process of inventing, drafting, and revising. To promote writing and the sharing of writing, you’ll write often, both in class and outside of class. In peer workshops you’ll have a chance to see how other students handle writing assignments and a chance to practice revising and editing skills by helping others revise their work.

Upon successful completion of this course, you will have learned
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 writing of your peers
4. how to take full advantage of the resources in the Dana Porter library.

Required texts: Lunsford, Connors and Segal, The St. Martin’s Handbook for Canadians and Hookey and Pilz, Contest Essays by Canadian Students.

Required materials: A 1” three-ring binder and paper for your journal and writing log, and paper clips.

Contract: Since this is a workshop course, 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. If you feel you cannot approach this course with such professionalism please withdraw.

Policy on attendance and late papers: Attendance is mandatory. Draft copies must be ready on peer workshop days, and final essays must be submitted on the due date. Marks will be deducted for every absence and late submission.

***Please type final drafts***
Course Schedule

January 8  Introduction to Writing

January 15  Invention Techniques
Read:  SM Chapters 1, 2
       CE Part 1 (all), Part 3 (Introduction)
       and "Maskerade" and "Joyful William"

January 22  Peer Workshop on Essay 1
           (bring your draft and 3 copies)
           Revising and Editing
Read:  SM Chapter 3
       CE "How to Write a Test" and "A Career Choice"

January 29  Essay 1 due
Library tour with Erin Murphy (7 - 8:30)
Read:  SM Chapters 6a, 8, 9, 10

February 5  Crafting Paragraphs
Read  SM 5
       CE "My Private Collection of Memories",
       "Shopping Then and Now", "Violence in the Media",
       "Fall from University Grace", and
       "The Fighter in Us All"

February 12 Peer Workshop on Essay 2
           (bring your draft and 4 copies)
           Effective Prose
Read:  SM Chapters 24, 25

February 19  Reading Week

February 26  Essay 2 due
Words, words, words: Diction and vocabulary
Read:  SM Chapters 30, 31

March 4  Arguments
Read:  SM Chapters 4, 11, 12
       CE Part 4 (Introduction) and "A Public Smoking Ban"

March 11  Peer Workshop on Essay 3
           (bring your draft and 4 copies)
           Revising at the sentence level
Read:  SM Chapters 26, 27
       CE "Mandatory Drug Testing in Canadian Sport" and "Illiterate Like Me"

March 18  TBA: Conference Day / Guest Speaker
March 25
Second peer workshop on Essay 3
(bring your draft and 3 copies)
Considering Tone; Making Prose Memorable
Read: SM Chapters 28, 29
CE "Publicizing the Names of the Accused: An
Unfair Invasion of Privacy" and "The Miracle
of Free Trade"

April 1
Essay 3 due
Writing for Different Disciplines
Essay Exams
Read: SM Chapters 6, 7

Note: SM Parts IV, V, VIII, and IX cover matters of grammar,
punctuation and conventions. Expect additional readings from
these sections, which I will assign later, depending on the
needs of the class. Of course, you can refer to these sections
yourself in answer to editing problems that might arise during
your drafting stages.

Marks Breakdown:

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