ENGLISH 109

Introduction to Essay Writing

Class Sessions: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Teacher: Alice den Otter, Univ. of Waterloo: (519)-885-1211 x 3886
Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:00-1:00, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Teaching Assistant: Rick Monture, McMaster University
Office Hours: As needed

Required Texts:


Course Description:

This course hopes to encourage both your enjoyment of and meaning within writing. You will develop your abilities to write effectively in an academic setting using your own voice, culture, and experience. In our weekly sessions you will learn various wayfinding techniques, methods of argument, organizational patterns, stylistic tools, research procedures, and revision strategies. As well, you will learn grammatical and other mechanical rules and usages, as needed. Class time will involve mini-lectures, discussions, writing practice, peer evaluations, and group workshops.
Course Policies:

1. Since much of the work in this course will center in our weekly sessions, your participation is warmly welcomed and strongly encouraged. Attendance will be taken at each class and absence will affect your participation mark. Please let me know if any problems or conflicts arise so that we can negotiate other possibilities.

2. Because assignments are interrelated, developing from one to the other, please make every effort to do the assignments immediately as assigned. If you are not able to complete an assignment on time, please ask me for prior approval so that a more workable deadline can be assigned. Regretfully, late assignments without approval or justified reasons will be penalized 10% a week.

3. You may rewrite any assignment if you are not satisfied with your mark. The rewritten assignment will be treated with the same respect as other assignments and the rewrite mark will be averaged with the old mark to obtain your new mark for the assignment.

Evaluation (tentative, may be adjusted to suit needs of class):

- Participation (Oral and Written) 10%
- Seven In-class Assignments (inc. 1 test) (7 x 5%) 35%
- Two Short Essays (3-5 typed pages, double-spaced) (2 x 15%) (due Feb. 1 and Mar. 1 respectively) 30%
- Research Essay (8-10 typed pages, double-spaced) (due Apr. 5) 25%
January 11  Introduction: Talking, Reading, and Writing  
(Writer’s Way Ch.1 & 2; Native Way pp.1-16.)

January 18  Pre-writing and Wayfinding  
(Writer’s Way Ch.3 & 4; Native Way pp.17-31.)

January 25  Personal Essays and Stylistic Vitality  
(Writer’s Way Ch.13 & 11 pp.213-21; Native Way pp.32-37.)

February 1  Peer Feedback and Revision--Thesis, Audience, Purpose  
(Writer’s Way Ch.5 & 6; Native Way pp.38-47.)

February 8  Argumentative Essays and Rethinking  
(Writer’s Way Ch.15 & 7; Native Way pp.48-55.  * Personal Essay due.

February 15  Rewriting for Style  
(Writer’s Way Ch.11; Native Way pp.56-62.

February 22  Editing for Grammar, Punctuation, and Spelling  
(Writer’s Way Ch.12; Native Way pp.63-68.

March 1  READING WEEK: ENJOY YOUR BOOKS!

March 8  Informative Essays and Collaboration  

March 15  Research Data Collection and Composition  
(Writer’s Way Ch.16; Native Way pp.74-86.

March 22  Length, Organization, and Test Writing  
(Writer’s Way Ch.8 & 9 & App.A; Native Way pp.87-93.

March 29  Framing, Formatting, and Mechanics  
(Writer’s Way Ch.10 & 17; Native Way pp.94-103.  * In-Class Test

April 5  Review of Style, Grammar, Punctuation, and Spelling  
(Writer’s Way Ch.11 & 12)  * Research drafts due.

April 12  Conclusion: Response and Celebration of Student Writings  
* Research paper due.