ENGLISH 109E, section 01, Spring 2001
Introduction to Academic Writing

Instructor: Stephen Bennett  
Class Meets: Thursday 7pm-10pm  
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Course Description:
ENGL 109E will introduce students to some noteworthy issues/concerns associated with reading and writing in academic settings and disciplines. To a great extent, the course aims to provide students with an overview of the conventions, strategies and techniques used in academic disciplines to discuss and debate pivotal issues/concerns. The course involves ongoing application of the conventions, strategies and techniques discussed during the term.

Required Texts:
Harris, Muriel, and Joan Pilz. Prentice Hall Canada Reference Guide to Grammar and Usage.
Schryer, Catherine F. Reading and Writing Academically. (Coursepack)

Assignments:
1. Literacy Essay (10%)  
2. Synthesis Essay (15%)  
3. Analysis Essay (15%)  
4. Research Paper (25%)  
5. Reading/Activity Journal (15%)  
6. Tests (10%)  
7. Participation & Editing (10%)

Course Policies:
1. Late Drafts & Late Papers: If you do not submit a draft copy of an essay on the day it is due, your final grade for the assignment will be reduced by 10%. If you do not submit a revised/final version of an essay on the day it is due, your final grade will be reduced by 5% per day it is late. Attached to this course outline is a “Request For Unexplained Extension” which you can use once during the term. Please do not submit essays by means of email or email attachments.

2. Plagiarism: Intentional and unintentional plagiarism, or copying others’ style or ideas and claiming them as your own is a serious academic offense. Any incident of plagiarism will result in a failing grade (“F”) for the assignment in question, and a potential failing grade in the course. All instances of confirmed plagiarism will be reported to the Dean’s office.*

* “All students registered in the courses in the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the Summary of Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline) which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (p1:11). If you need help in learning how to avoid offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification on the discipline policy, ask your

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1 This version of ENGL 109E is derived from that which was developed by Professor Catherine F Schryer and offered at the University of Waterloo, Winter 2001. The course texts, outline, and requirements adopted for this version of ENGL 109E are taken, with only minor changes, from Professor Schryer’s model.
course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean."

3. Attendance: You are expected to attend all classes and arrive prepared to participate in the various activities done during the term.

4. Drafts: Composing thoughtful and well-developed drafts of essays is an integral part of successful academic writing. You are expected to prepare worthwhile drafts so as to benefit from class time spent on editing and revising exercises.

Assignment Descriptions:

1. Literacy Essay (10%): Write an essay (600 words) defining what literacy means to you. You may use your own experience as evidence. At the same time, you must refer to some of the sources in Chapter 4 of Reading and Writing Academically by using long and short quotations as well as summaries.

2. Synthesis Essay (15%): Write an essay (800-1000 words) on some issue related to the topic of gender. Your essay should adopt a position on your issue and reflect research conducted in the field. Your essay must include 4 sources, and one of those sources must be an academic article you have researched and located yourself. The other sources should derive from Chapter 5 of Reading and Writing Academically. Use MLA standards to format your references.

3. Analysis Essay (15%): Write an essay (800 words) that develops a manageable thesis and expresses your analysis of an advertisement that has appeared in a magazine during the last 3 months. Your analysis must include some of the techniques discussed in this course.

4. Research Essay (25%): Revise and expand (to 1200 words) one of your previous essays for the course by locating and using at least 3 other academic sources.

5. Reading/Activity Journal (15%): The first three assignments in ENGL 109E include preparatory activities. Many will be completed during class sessions. Some are due on the day of the class session. By completing these activities on time, you will achieve 75% of this grade. The remaining 25% will be based on the quality of the journal.

6. Tests (10%): You will write two tests (5% each) during the term (one focuses on style, and the other focuses on punctuation).

7. Participation and Editing (10%): The grade derives from your presence in class and the quality of your involvement in helping your peers improve their writing skills and essays.