English 109 E, Fall 2002
Introduction to Academic Writing
Instructor: Erin E. MacDonald
Office: PAS 2213
Office Hours: Wednesday, 4:30-6:30 p.m. or by appointment
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Class Time: Monday, 6:00-8:50 p.m. Room: ML 216

Course Description

English 109E, Introduction to Academic Writing, will prepare the student for writing in academic forms in a variety of disciplines. Students will be taught both the rhetorical and mechanical tools of academic writing. Since this course is based on the premise that critical reading, thought, and writing cannot be taught separately, a heavy emphasis will be placed on learning to critically analyse written works including academic articles, journalistic essays, and literature. Considering language and cultural knowledge as socially constructed, we will interrogate the rhetorical strategies and implications of these texts through both whole class and group discussions. Students will gain confidence with a variety of types of writing, from basic critical analyses to academic research essays. Although some grammar review will be taught, students should be advised that this is not a remedial writing course.

Required Texts

Writing in the Disciplines, 4th ed. – Kennedy, Kennedy, Smith
Here's How to Write Well - McMahan, Funk

Assignment Weighting

Critical Writing Paper
  First Draft  10%
  Final Draft  25%
Grammar Test  25%
Research Paper
  Plan  5%
  Final Paper  30%
Participation  5%
Critical Writing Paper

This essay will require the student to critically analyze a piece of writing and write a 2-page, double-spaced paper (in 12-point font) arguing his or her own thesis on that piece of writing. The student must use quotation, summary, and paraphrase techniques learned in class and proper citation methods, including a Works Cited or References page. No secondary research is required for this assignment. A first draft of this paper is worth 10% of the final mark, with final draft being worth 25%. Students will be asked to participate in a peer editing session before the final draft is due, and are therefore required to bring two copies of the paper to class on the day that the first draft is due.

Grammar Test

This test will be written in class and will take approximately one hour to write. Students will be tested on various forms of grammar reviewed in class, such as passive vs. active voice, use of commas and semi-colons, and subject-verb agreement. The test will be worth 25% of the final mark.

Research Paper

This second essay requires the student to perform secondary research on a topic (to be discussed in class) and to formulate an original thesis on that topic, arguing it in a 6-8 page paper (double-spaced, 12-point font, using proper citation methods, including a Works Cited or References page, etc.). The topic must be in some way related to an issue discussed in one of the essays read for class. The secondary sources used must include at least three academic print sources. There will be no first draft of this paper, but a plan or outline of the project must be submitted to the instructor at least one week before the final research paper is due. The plan will count for 5% of the final mark, and the essay itself will be worth 30% of the student’s final mark.

Participation

Because this course relies on student involvement in whole-class discussions and in small-group activities, students are expected to attend classes regularly and to take an active part in their own learning. Participation will be marked out of a potential 5% of the final mark.

Policies: All late assignments unaccompanied by a doctor’s note will be docked 10% per day to a maximum of 3 school days, after which the assignment will receive a zero. Students are responsible for learning the university’s policy governing plagiarism. Any incidents of this nature will be severely punished.
Engl 109E  Fall 2002  Tentative Schedule and Relevant Readings


Mon. Sept. 16 – Critical Analysis (Writing p.36-44, Robinett, “Electronic Expansion of Human Perception,” Here’s Ch.4)

Mon. Sept. 23 – Responding: Freewriting, Thesis, Outline (Frude, “The Intimate Machine,” Here’s Ch.1)

Mon. Sept. 30 – Paraphrase and Summary (Writing p.16-29, Marx, “Privacy and Technology”)


Mon. Oct. 14 – NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)


Mon. Oct. 28 – Paragraphing (Here’s Ch.5), Types of Essays (Here’s Ch.3, Writing Ch.3, Magnet, “Rebels With a Cause,” Gans, “The War Against the Poor...”)


Mon. Nov. 11 – Revision and Editing (Here’s Ch.7, Writing p.58-76)


Mon. Nov. 25 – Research Papers (Here’s Ch.8, Writing Ch.5), Using the Library, Research Paper Plan DUE

Mon. Dec.  2 – Summary, Research Papers DUE