English 109E  Winter 1996  
Essay Writing  
Course Outline 

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Office Hours: Monday, 6-7 p.m. or after class. 

Course Description:  
This course is designed to provide students with (1) the nature and stages of the process of writing 
university level essays; (2) a guide to and/or review of the technical features of essays (grammar, 
punctuation, documentation, etc.); and (3) experience in writing essays in relation to disciplinary genres. 

Course Objectives:  
1. To work through Lisa Ede's *Work in Progress: A Guide to Writing and Revising* using journal writing 
   and class/group discussion and activities.  
2. To work through Diana Hacker's *A Canadian Writer's Reference* using student directed presentations 
   and tests.  
3. To write two 8-10 page academic essays in stages using class and student discussion/evaluation at each 
   stage of the writing process. The first essay will be an analysis of two different academic journal 
   articles. The second essay will be on an academic subject chosen by the student and appropriate to the 
   student's main academic interest. 

Required Texts:  

Course Requirements:  
1. Essay #1 (8-9 pages)------20%------due Week 6 and Week 8 (rewrite)  
2. Essay #2 (8-10 pages)------25%------due Week 11 and one week after Week 12 (rewrite)  
3. Technics Project--------10%------sign up dates  
4. Technics Tests---------25%--------5 inclass quizzes  
5. Two Peer Evaluations of Student essays (1-2 pages each)---10%------due Weeks 6 and 12  
6. Response Journal------5%  
7. Attendance-------------5%  

As capable students, I expect you to take a professional attitude toward your reading and writing 
responsibilities as well as toward the rest of the class by reading all assigned works, completing written 
assignments, and being prepared for class/group discussion for the prescribed date. Assignments are due 
on the classes indicated above. I deduct one percentage point per day for unexcused lateness. 

I include the usual warning against plagiarism which is a serious academic offense punishable under the 
disciplinary code of the University of Waterloo.
Week 1 (Jan. 8):
1. Overview / Introductions / On Student Writing Experience
2. On Texts: (a) Ede (Ch. 1) "Writers Writing" and (b) Hacker "Review of Basic Grammar"
3. On Student Essays, Academic Journal Articles, and Genre
4. Library: Journal Search

Week 2 (Jan. 15):
1. Reading (and response journals): Ede (Ch. 2) "Understanding the Writing Process" and (b) Hacker "Composing and Revising" and "Grammatical Sentences"
2. Read brief biographies of class members.
3. Technics quiz on "Review of Basic Grammar"
4. Technics Presentation (Group 1): "Grammatical Sentences"
5. Choose, Read, and Bring to class a xerox copy of 1 journal article (8-10 pages)
6. In class report on journals (a) profs' choice and (b) identify 3 main genre features

Week 3 (Jan. 22):
1. Reading: (a) Ede (Ch. 3 and 5) "Understanding the Rhetorical Situation," and "Strategies for Successful Invention" and (b) Hacker "Effective Sentences"
2. Technics test on "Grammatical Sentences"
3. Technics presentation on "Effective Sentences"
4. Write point form comparison of features in 2 academic essays.

Week 4 (Jan. 29):
1. Reading: (a) Ede (Ch. 4 and 6) "Writers Reading" and "Strategies for Successful Planning and Drafting" and (b) Hacker "Word Choice"
2. Technics test on "Effective Sentences"
3. Technics presentation on "Word Choice"
4. Essay #1 Outline due.

Week 5 (Feb. 5):
1. Reading: (a) Ede (Ch. 7 and 8) "Strategies for Successful Revision: Managing the Revision Process" and "Strategies for Successful Revision: Revising for Structure and Style" and (b) Hacker "Punctuation"
2. Technics test on "Word Choice"
3. Technics presentation on "Punctuation"
4. Essay #1 Draft due.

Week 6 (Feb. 12):
1. Reading: (a) Ede (Ch. 9) "Understanding the Reading Process" and (b) Hacker "Mechanics"
2. Technics test on "Punctuation"
3. Technics presentation on "Mechanics"

Week 7 (Feb. 29) [Reading Week begins Feb. 19]:
1. Reading: (a) Ede (Ch. 10) and (b) Hacker "Documentation"
2. Technics test on "Mechanics"
3. Technics presentation on "Documentation"
4. Essay #1 and Peer Evaluation returned, workshop on changes.

Week 8 (March 4):
1. Reading: Ede (Ch. 11)
2. Technics test on "Documentation"
3. Essay #1 Rewrite due.
4. Workshop on topic focus, research, summarizing what you have read

Week 9 (March 11):
1. Topic and Research notes due.
2. Workshop on Definition and Comparison

Week 10 (March 18):
1. Essay #2 outline due
2. Workshop on Academic Styles

Week 11 (March 25):
1. Essay #2 due
2. Workshop on "The State of Knowledge: positions, conditions, limits.

Week 12 (April 1):
1. Essay #2 Returned for editing.
3. Conclusions

One Week after last class (April 8):