

Intermediate English Composition, Fall 2006
Instructor: Gord Sellar

Course Objectives:

- Development of students' self-awareness of writing-related weaknesses.
- Development of revision and rewriting skills.
- Flexibility and adaptability in working with various written forms, and in collaborative writing.
- Increased familiarity with academic writing standards for citation and format.
- Mastery of one chosen short form of writing by the end of the semester.

Course Overview:

The purpose of this course is to continue to build upon the skills students acquired in Elementary English Composition. It is assumed that all students have completed Elementary English Composition prior to taking this course.

The focus of this course will be developing writing skills in the area of the short essay, although other short forms will be explored in the class. Experimentation is encouraged, and students will be expected to choose a short form other than academic essay form (such as short story, business letter, newspaper article, book or movie review, among other forms), which they will make efforts to master by the end of semester.

Revision will also be a major focus in this course. Academic skills such as citation and formatting will also be covered.

Homework:

Homework for this class falls into the following categories:

- *Basic preparations* for classes should be performed by students regularly, not only for their own benefit but for the benefit of classmates who are depending on you to do your part. When assignments involve collaborative work, your contribution will nonetheless be assessed individually. This may involve learning lines, pre-reading some text, or making script revisions.
- *Written work:* The occasional written work assigned in this class must be typed (double-spaced) and include your name, student number, my name, and the course name and number. Submissions consisting of multiple pages should be numbered and stapled *or* paperclipped, but *not* submitted in plastic folders or binders to submit their work. Any work failing to meet these criteria will be returned to the student immediately for resubmission within 3 days.
- *Regular blog participation* will involve weekly posting on a collaborative blog. Students will regularly post their own writing to the blog and give feedback to other students about their writing.

Please note that any form of plagiarism will bring extremely *harsh* consequences. You are in this class to learn to write, not to learn shortcuts to avoid writing.

Textbook:

Weaving It Together 3: Connecting Reading & Writing (International Student Edition) by Milada Broukal

We may also sometimes look at other handouts and photocopies. Should you wish to explore texts or other media not encompassed in this course, please feel free to ask me for recommendations. I will be more than happy to help you find materials which are suited to your needs and worth exploring.

Assessment:

- Attendance & Participation – 10%
- Regular Class Blog Participation – 25%
- Assignments – 15%
- Mastered Form Project – 10%
- Midterm Essay – 15%
- Final (Revised) Essay – 25%

Receiving a 0% in any of the above marks will result in an incomplete grade. Students must at least attempt all work in this course in order to complete the course.

Contact Information:

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