

Intermediate English Composition
Professor: Gord Sellar

Fall 2007

Class Description:

This course the intermediate-level writing course offered to students within the Department of English Language and Culture. It is assumed that all students taking this course have successfully completed a course in English Composition at the Elementary level, or are able to demonstrate equivalent competency in terms of writing ability. Students who cannot demonstrate this or have not completed the Elementary course are strongly advised to take the courses in order, as their performance (and grades) will likely be reflective of cumulatively acquired ability in writing.

Course Content:

The content of the course will be tailored to the needs of the particular group of students. However, this course will proceed as follows:

- a quick review of academic citation requirements and necessary word processing skills for work with English texts
- a few basic essay formats
- a brief review of informal logic and approaches to written argumentation
- collaborative writing projects integrating group planning, research, and editing on assigned or student-designated topics
- rewriting, revision, and proofreading techniques
- regular independent blogging and participation on a group blog

Course Objectives:

The purpose of the course is enable students to write thoughtful, interesting, and organized texts -- essays or otherwise -- in English at an advanced level, and equip them with the tools to continue improving their English writing on their own after the course's end (should they wish to do so).

Special consideration will be given to academic, collaborative, and creative writing, and students will be expected to assimilate a number of specific skills and structures for use in their own projects, as well as learn how to work cooperatively in the composition and editing process.

Class Activities:

Lectures, composition practice, group blog, weekly critiques and discussion of student work, and occasional readings of students' own work to the class.

Assessment:

- 15% - In-class participation
- 20% - Assignments & Homework
- 25% - Participation in Group Blog
- 20% - Midterm Writing Project
- 20% - Final Writing Project

Textbook:

None. Although we will use no textbook in this course, photocopies and online resources will be used, and students must complete any assigned readings in a timely manner.

My contact information:

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Class Website: <http://gordsclass.com>

Course Outline:

Throughout the semester, Tuesdays will be devoted to lectures, exercises, and standard course work. As often as possible, Thursdays will be devoted to Class Critiques of student work. Students are expected to complete the reading and editing of classmates' work prior to the beginning of class on Thursday.

Week 1: Intro & Preparations

SECTION 1: WHAT'S IT LIKE?

Week 2: General Thoughts on Writing, & Writing Descriptions, Part 1

Week 3: Writing Descriptions, Part 2

Week 4: Writing Descriptions, Part 3

SECTION 2: HOW TO DO IT

Week 5: Writing About Processes, Part 1

Week 6: Writing About Processes, Part 2

Week 7: Writing About Processes, Part 3

Week 8 (EXAM WEEK): Midterm Writing Project Due

SECTION 3: WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Week 9: Research, Part 1

Week 10: Research, Part 2

Week 11: Research, Part 3

Week 12: Research, Part 4

SECTION 4: YES IT IS!

Week 13: Argumentative Writing, Part 1

Week 14: Argumentative Writing, Part 2

Week 15: Argumentative Writing, Part 3

Week 16 (FINAL EXAM WEEK): Final Writing Project due