



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2018

EN1201 (B3): Composition and Rhetoric – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Craig Smith **PHONE:** 780-539-2894
OFFICE: C308 **E-MAIL:** CrSmith@gprc.ab.ca

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday 1:00-2:00, Friday 10:00-11:00, or by appointment

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course will help students become more sophisticated users and producers of written texts. Instruction will include basic academic essay writing skills and the various rhetorical approaches used when addressing specific audiences. The main goals of the course are to help students integrate reading and writing and to become familiar with the conventions of college- (and university-) level writing. This includes producing coherent, logical texts that are relatively free of surface errors. To achieve these goals, the course encourages students to think critically, to read closely and analytically, and to compose responses to a variety of texts, both written and visual.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: none

REQUIRED TEXTS/RESOURCE MATERIALS: There are no required textbooks to be purchased for this class. All required class readings will be available on Moodle; it is *your* responsibility to ensure that you are able to access and read these documents well in advance of the class in which they will be discussed.

Though you are not required to purchase any books for this class, there is a writing handbook available at the bookstore that I recommend you purchase:

Babington, *et al.* – *The Broadview Pocket Guide to Writing*, 4th ed.

DELIVERY MODE(S): The course work includes lecture, class discussion, in-class quizzes, writing instruction and assignments.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The aims of this course are to enable students to become more technically and rhetorically proficient writers. Students taking this course will not only gain a greater understanding of the fundamentals of grammar and punctuation but will also have the chance to read and analyze a range of texts that will provide students with the tools to recognize and utilize persuasive rhetoric in a variety of forms. The goal of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the ways in which critical reading and effective writing go hand-in-hand.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: After taking this course, the successfully participating students will demonstrate the following:

- The ability to identify and to employ a range of sentence structures
- The ability to compose grammatically correct sentences
- The ability to punctuate writing proficiently and to recognize improperly punctuated material
- The ability to recognize varied rhetorical strategies in a range of texts as well as the ability to employ a variety of rhetorically persuasive techniques in students' own writing
- The ability to produce coherent, unified, and well-structured essays
- The ability to consider factors such as the occasion, purpose, and audience for a piece of writing
- An understanding of a range of paragraph structures and patterns and an ability to recreate them in students' own writing
- An understanding of what makes for an effective thesis statement and topic sentence and an ability to apply that understanding in practice
- An understanding of the close interrelation between strong critical reading practices and effective writing

TRANSFERABILITY: UA, UC, UL, AU, GMU

***Warning:** Although we strive to make the transferability information in this document up-to-date and accurate, **the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.** Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to

ensure the transferability of this course at Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca> or, if you do not want to navigate through few links, at <http://alis.alberta.ca/ps/tsp/ta/tbi/onlineSearch.html?SearchMode=S&step=2>

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

- Attendance and participation – 10%
- Unit tests (three in total) – 20%
- In-class exercises – 10%
- Short writing assignments (two in total) – 10%
- Essay – 20%
- Final exam – 30%

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Weeks 1-5: Considering Occasion, Purpose, and Audience
 Writing Patterns I
 Grammar, Syntax, and Sentence Structure

Weeks 6-10: Writing patterns II
 Paragraph structure
 Fundamentals of research and documentation

Weeks 11-15: Writing patterns III
 Effective editing
 Rhetoric

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Written assignments are to be submitted directly to me in hard copy form. I will not accept electronic copies. It is the student's responsibility to retain a copy of ALL assignments submitted for grading; in the unlikely event of theft or loss, a duplicate copy must be available upon request.
2. Written assignments are to be submitted *on time*. This means that they are due *before the beginning of class*. Late assignments will incur a penalty of 5% per day, with weekends counting as one day.
3. Extensions will not be granted for written assignments except in extenuating circumstances. Documentation will be required.
4. Students are expected to attend *all* classes. Unexcused absences will negatively affect the participation component of a student's grade and could result in a failing grade for that component of a student's final mark.
5. Students are required to check the Moodle site for this course before each class to stay informed concerning the schedule of readings as well as course updates and

announcements.

6. Cellphones are to be turned off and kept out of sight during class time. Students who text while the instructor and/or other students are speaking will lose marks for participation. Similarly, students must display good classroom etiquette at all times. This includes coming to class on time, not packing up to leave before the instructor has indicated that class is over, and not engaging in discussions with others while the instructor or other students are speaking. The unwillingness to abide by these expectations will result in a student receiving a failing grade for participation.

7. The final exam for this class will be scheduled by the registrar and will take place in April. The exam **will not** be rescheduled except in extenuating circumstances. Documentation will be required for any student wishing to write the final exam on an alternate date.

Refer to the College Policy on Student Rights and Responsibilities at www.gprc.ab.ca/d/STUDENTRIGHTSRESPONSIBILITIES

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments. **Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.**

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.