

# International Students' Centre Academic Writing Program

## SYLLABUS

### Rationale:

This course focuses on specific kinds of essays, including the narrative, comparison, persuasive, and analytical. It will also focus on composing clear and concise thesis statements. In order to demonstrate a variety of writing styles, this course will use the short stories of established writers—including Caroline Bird, Langston Hughes, Garrison Keillor, and Chief Seattle. Learning will be ensured through a variety of teaching and learning techniques, including class discussion, in-class and take-home writing practice, peer review, and instructor feedback. By learning a variety of rhetorical modes and engaging in various learning approaches, the student will be well prepared to tackle the rigours of the academic environment regardless of his or her field of study.

### Course Aims and Objectives:

#### *Aims*

- To help you develop the writing skills needed to meet the rigours of the university environment
- To introduce you to a variety of writing styles and the process of writing in a variety of contexts
- To develop your critical reading, thinking, and writing skills
- To help you recognize and appreciate the relationship between the writer and the audience (reader)
- To introduce you to effective learning approaches, including self-directed learning, collaborative learning, and informal learning

#### *Objectives*

On completing this program, you should:

- Be able to write a variety of academic essays clearly, coherently, and convincingly
- Have a clear understanding of the writing process, from generating ideas to creating an outline to editing
- Be able to read and critically respond to a variety of written work
- Be able to identify your audience and adapt your writing style and content accordingly
- Have acquired strategies for improving your academic writing skills on an on-going basis

### Texts and Materials:

- Photocopies from the Norton Reader (Peterson & Brereton [Eds.]) will be provided.

### Course Requirements:

**Seminar:** Our class will be two hours in length, once a week for 11 weeks (Sept. 17- Nov. 19)

It will consist of short lectures, class discussions, group work, in-class writing, and occasional peer review sessions.

**Essays:** You will write approximately 5 essays of varying length that adhere to the APA style guide. The essay topics will be provided in advance of the due dates. You will also prepare a draft of each essay one week prior to the final due date (see schedule).

**Peer Review:** Some class time will be spent working in peer groups. This exercise involves students providing feedback to each other on their writings. A criteria sheet will be provided.

## Course Content:

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Responding to a Narrative Essay (500 words)	September 29
Comparative and Contrast Essay Draft	October 1
Comparative and Contrast Essay (700-1000 words)	October 8
Descriptive Essay Draft	October 15
Descriptive Essay (1000 words)	October 22
Analytical Essay Draft	October 29
Analytical Essay (1500 words)	November 5

## Course Calendar:

- Syllabus and Introduction to the Program
- Intro to Critical Reading & Writing
- RESPONDING TO A NARRATIVE ESSAY
- COMPARISON AND CONTRAST ESSAYS
- Peer Editing Session
- DESCRIPTIVE ESSAY DRAFT DUE
- Introduction to Argumentation & Persuasion (I): A Discussion
- DESCRIPTIVE ESSAY FINAL DUE
- Argumentation & Persuasion (II)
- Peer Editing Session
- ANALYTICAL ESSAY DRAFT DUE
- Introduction to Research Writing
- ANALYTICAL ESSAY FINAL DRAFT DUE