

Foundations of Academic Literacy

Foundations: Literacy X99

Section: D004

Term: 2012 Fall

Instructor: Dr. Jan MacLean

Class Day & Time: Tuesday & Thursday 2:30-4:20 pm

AQ 2120

***** FINAL EXAM TIME/DATE TBD *****

Discussion Topics: The following syllabus is an explanation of the six units of study that you will follow. Please note, however, that your instructor may change the activities or the order of activities.

UNIT 1: WRITING ABOUT YOURSELF

In this unit, students will study the following:

\x09
Write about their learning style and about their own lives
Develop personal & narrative voice
Write a diagnostic task
Class 1: Narrative writing 1 My story
Course introductionA major event in my life
Class 2: Narrative writing 2 - Writing a biography
\x09Peer review of major event in my life
Interview each other
Writing a biography Class 3: Diagnostic Writing Task
\x09
Writing task to diagnose each students strengths and weaknesses in writing

UNIT 2: ACTIVE AND CRITICAL READING

In this unit, students will study the following:

\x09
Audience, genre, and context
Active and critical reading: Why they are important
Assessing reliable sources
Reading around the text
Skimming and scanning
Annotating text
Locating different voices and opinions as you read
Reading between the lines: Inference
Focusing on what is not said
Analyzing style and formality
Writing summaries
Sentence structure
Class 4: Active and critical reading 1
\x09
Audience, genre, and context
Active and critical reading: Why they are important
Assessing reliable sources
Reading around the text
Skimming and scanning
Class 5: Active and critical reading 2
\x09Annotating text
Locating different voices and opinions as you read
Reading between the lines: Inference
Focusing on what is not said
Guidelines for writing summary
Receive diagnostic writing task and self-study guidelines
Class 6: Sentence structure 1
\x09
Independent and dependent clauses

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Complex and compound sentences

UNIT 3: THINKING AND WRITING CRITICALLY

In this unit, students will study the following:

\x09Understanding critical thinking

Stating your arguments

Avoiding logical fallacies

Exploring critical thinking through writing

Writing a critique

Punctuation

Class 7: Thinking and writing critically 1

\x09

Understanding critical thinking

Stating your arguments

Class 8: Peer review of assessed summary

Class 9: Thinking and writing critically 2

\x09

Avoiding logical fallacies

Exploring critical thinking through writing

Writing a critiqueClass 10: Punctuation

\x09Commas

Semi-colons

Colons

Class 11: Library visit

\x09

Visit SFU library/Student Learning Commons

Finding materials: online, databasesUNIT 4: PARAGRAPHS, INTRODUCTIONS, AND CONCLUSIONS

In this unit, students will study the following:

Paragraphs

\x09

Topic sentences

Paragraph coherence

Keeping to one topic

Supporting your ideas

Concluding sentences

Introductions

\x09

Common features of introductions

Thesis-guided writing

Different introductions in academic writing

Conclusions

\x09

Common features of conclusions

Different conclusions in academic writing

Improving style in academic writing

Class 12: Paragraphs 1

\x09

Topic sentences

Paragraph coherence

Keeping to one topic

Class 13: Paragraphs 2

\x09

Supporting your ideas

Concluding sentences

Class 14: Peer review of assessed critique

Class 15: Improving style in academic writing

\x09

Using formal verbs

Using the personal &sqI&sqt

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Personal and impersonal writing
12 common examples of weak style
Class 16: Introductions

\x09Common features of introductions Thesis-guided writing
Different introductions in academic writing
Class 17: Conclusions

Common features of conclusions
Different conclusions in academic writing
UNIT 5: WRITING RESEARCH ESSAYS

In this unit, students will study the following:

\x09
What is a research essay?
What is plagiarism?
Avoiding plagiarism
Using reporting verbs and citation phrases
Class 18: Research Essays 1

\x09
What is a research essay?
What is plagiarism?
Avoiding plagiarism
Class 19: Research Essays 2

\x09
Paraphrasing
Using reporting verbs and citation phrases
UNIT 6: WRITING ABOUT ARGUMENTS

In this unit, students will study the following:

1)\x09Writing about arguments

- i. \x09Gathering your ideas
- ii. \x09Organizing your ideas into an effective outline
- iii. \x09Adding supporting reasons, examples, and evidence
- iv. \x09Analyzing an argument essay

Class 20: Writing about arguments 1
\x09
Gathering your ideas
Organizing your ideas into an effective outline
Class 21: Writing about arguments 2
\x09
Adding supporting reasons, examples, and evidence
Analyzing an argument essay
Class 22: Research essays
\x09Reflection on progress and ongoing needs
Class 23: Peer review of assessed research essay

Class 24: Research essay review

Class 25: Course review
\x09
Understanding topic, focus, and task
Drawing up outlines Class 26: Course review 2
\x09

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More on outlines

Making a checklist for self-review

Grading: 1. SUMMARY (10%)

2. CRITIQUE (20%)

3. RESEARCH ESSAY (30%)

4. ACTIVE LEARNING (10%) Consisting of the following:

Narrative writing

Improvement o Attendance/Homework/PunctualityEngagement/Peer Review5. FINAL EXAM (30%)
(minimum C grade for the final exam needed to pass the course with FAL credit)

Required Texts: Academic Writing: Making the Transition, Steve Marshall ISBN: 9780132604536
Pearson Education 1st edition 2012

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite: None

Notes: PLEASE NOTE: Students in all Faculty of Education courses are encouraged to review policies pertaining to academic integrity available on the undergraduate website:

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.