

Foundations of Academic Literacy

Foundations: Literacy X99

Section: E001

Term: 2012 Fall

Instructor: Dr. Jan MacLean

Class Day & Time: Tuesday & Thursday 4:30-6:20 pm Technology & Science Room 7201

***** 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:

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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

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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:

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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

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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

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Independent and dependent clauses

Complex and compound sentences

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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

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Visit SFU library/Student Learning Commons

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

In this unit, students will study the following:

Paragraphs

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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

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Using formal verbs

Using the personal &sqI&sqT

Personal and impersonal writing

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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

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Understanding topic, focus, and task

Drawing up outlines Class 26: Course review 2

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More on outlines

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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.