

## **ENGLISH SOPHOMORE WRITING**

Fall 2016

Instructor: Rob Whyte B.A. M.Sc.

Office: D570, office hours: TBA

### **INTRODUCTION**

Bring lots of pens, pencils and notebooks to class. You will be doing a lot of writing.

The purpose of this course is to help high beginner and intermediate level students improve their ability to write clear and interesting sentences and paragraphs as well as well reasoned arguments. Much of our time will be spend learning how to describe things clearly and ideas logically. This is not an academic writing course, so you won't be creating essays. The focus is practical writing skills based on the 6+1 Writing Traits.

### **OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this class, students will be able to:

- Write text that describes, analyzes, critiques and explains by learning essential vocabulary, sentence patterns and writing skills.
- Write faster and more accurately by completing exercises.
- Identify different types of sentences through short teacher presentations and practice.
- Fix errors by completing editing exercises.
- Learn and use specific types of writing skills based on 6+1 writing traits.

### **METHODS**

Individual writing, reading assignments, short lectures and individual feedback. You will be writing in class every day. There will be reading and writing homework each week.

### **TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS**

There is no textbook for this class. Students will need to access the teacher's website to get weekly updates and materials to view, print to download. That website is [eslwriting.org](http://eslwriting.org).

### **GRADES AND ASSESSMENT**

attendance 10%

participation 10%

midterm 30%

final 30%

quizzes 20% (2 x 10%)

### **OTHER MATTERS**

At the end of the semester, do not ask me to change your grade because you have a special situation. You need a scholarship? You want to get a job? You want to go to graduate school? These are all good things. If you need a high score, work hard and come to every class on time ready to learn. Unless I made a calculation error, I will not change your final score.

Every class, you will need 4 things: a writing tool (e.g. a pencil), a notebook with lined A4 paper, the textbook and a dictionary. Phone dictionaries are okay. Students who do not bring these learning tools to every class may not be satisfied with their final score.

Attendance is very important for learning. Please come to every class, and come on time. Students who are frequently late will be penalized: 2 lates = one absence. Students who are absent because of school events or work will be marked absent. I do not accept prescriptions as proof of illness.

Supplemental:

I reserve the right to supplement this syllabus at any time during the semester with additional guidelines, rules of conduct, and changes to the course calendar to meet the needs of the class.