

ENGLISH WRITING FRESHMAN CLASS

Fall 2018

Instructor: Rob Whyte BA, M.Sc Office: D570

Office hours: TBA

INTRODUCTION

Bring lots of paper and pencils to class because you are going to do a lot of writing.

The aim of this class is to make writing fun. If it's fun, you will enjoy writing. If you enjoy it, you will get better. To make writing a fun experience, we will try many kinds of activities. We will do creative writing, storytelling, summaries, descriptions, book reports and maybe email writing. You will also learn specific skills that will make your writing interesting and more accurate. These skills include sentence patterns and basic mechanics, like punctuation.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

1. Write with style by knowing and using different types of sentences (e.g. complex and compound).
2. Demonstrate a working knowledge of words, especially verbs, by completing in class exercises and maintaining a vocabulary notebook.
3. Write well organized text by learning and using basic paragraph rules.
4. Write text that people want to read by starting passages with a great first sentence.
5. Write with few errors by completing text editing exercises and rewrites.
6. Express you own ideas in words by analyzing short stories.

METHODS

In most classes, you will be writing. When you finish a first draft, you will hand in your work. I will read it and give you feedback. Then you will rewrite each piece one or two more times. Most weeks, there will be a short lecture that teaches you a new writing skill.

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, print to download. That website is www.eslwriting.org.

You must have a smartphone with power and a charger to complete some assignments and quizzes.

GRADES AND ASSESSMENT

There will be a final exam, midterm exam and two quizzes.

attendance 10%

participation 10%

midterm 25% (speaking test)

final 25% (speaking test)

quizzes 20% (2 x 10%)

1 book report 10%

OTHER THINGS

At the end of the semester, please 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 in this class, work hard, study 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 need 5 things: the textbook, a notebook, pencil-pens, a dictionary and a smartphone with power to complete some of the quizzes and listening homework. Your smartphone must be able to read English language websites. Students who regularly fail to bring all four learning tools to class may be marked absent.

Please come to class on time. Frequent lates can hurt your final grade.

This syllabus may change by the teacher depending on the nature of the class. 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.