

## **ENGLISH WRITING FRESHMAN CLASS**

Fall 2017

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 main goal of this class is to make writing fun. If it's fun, you will enjoy writing. If you enjoy it, you will get better at writing.

To make writing a fun experience that helps improve your composition skills, we will try many kinds of activities. We will do creative writing, storytelling, summaries, descriptions, book reports and maybe poetry. This is not an academic writing class, so you won't be doing any essays.

In between activities, you will learn some specific skills that will make your writing more interesting and more accurate. These skills include different kinds of sentence patterns and basic mechanics, like punctuation.

### **OBJECTIVES**

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

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

### **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](http://www.eslwriting.org).

## **GRADES AND ASSESSMENT**

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

attendance 10%  
participation 10%  
midterm 25%  
final 25%  
quizzes 20% (2 x 10%)  
book report 10%

## **OTHER MATTERS**

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 will need 4 things: a writing tool (e.g. a pencil), a notebook, 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. Students who regularly fail to bring all four learning tools to class, or the homework, may be marked absent.

Attendance is very important for every student's 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 or work related events will see their participation score negatively impacted.

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.