

ENG 095 - DEVELOPMENTAL ENGLISH SKILLS I (4 credits)

Course description

The aim of this course is to provide students with opportunities for and guidance in the development of Academic English proficiency. Class activities focus on aiding students in improving their academic English reading and writing skills to the proficiency levels required by the University. Particular emphasis is placed on the importance of planning, organizing and revising essays, as well as learning how to analyze, summarize, and cite an author's ideas and words.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

Reading:

- Read a variety of academic and literature-based essays of varying length.
- Determine the thesis of an article or essay.
- Identify the main points and supporting details.
- Summarize and evaluate an article (critical analysis).

Writing:

- Develop paragraphs (60 - 100 words) that in general have a beginning, middle and end.
- Use common rhetorical patterns, following clear and coherent organization.
- Use topic sentences and logical transitions as appropriate.
- Generate a thesis and a thesis statement.
- Express an opinion of an article or essay supported by details and examples.
- Use reporting verbs and expressions.
- Apply revision strategies to written compositions

Structure:

- Eliminate all but a few grammatical errors in English, making use of revision strategies.
- Write in complete sentences, not fragments or run-ons.
- Use appropriate sentence structure, word choice, and punctuation.

Academic Skills:

- Take notes on readings and lectures that highlight key points, concepts, formulae, and vocabulary.
- Perform library and Internet research.
- Connect the writing process with research skills.
- Avoid plagiarism by paraphrasing and citing sources properly.

Required Text: Brannan, R. (2009). A Writer's Workshop 3rd ed: Crafting Paragraphs, Building Essays . New York: McGraw-Hill ISBN: 978-0073385686

** This text will come with a key-code for the online learning portal.

Participation and Attendance

Participation in class is essential to a positive learning experience. Your participation grade will be based on your attendance and quiz scores, as well as on your contribution to class discussion and group activities. Attendance is mandatory and any unexcused absences in excess of two will result in the lowering of the final grade by one point per absence (i.e. a "B" grade will automatically become a "B-"). Excessive absences (excused or unexcused) will result in automatic failure. Tardiness will also count as absences and a latecomer may not be permitted to enter class as this is often disruptive to the other students. Finally, excused or unexcused absences are not justification for late assignments. Please submit in advance (preferably in my

mailbox) any assignments on the day on which they are due. Note: It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the professor receives the document on time. Essays received after class will be considered late.

Lab Component

Each student is required to attend a bi-weekly lab session which, for the purpose of this course, will be conducted during office hours. Students are required to attend office hours at least once every two weeks.

Grading Criteria

Class preparation, participation	15%
Exams & quizzes	20%
Essays & written assignments	50%
Journal	15%

Essays

Drafted essays are to be revised at least twice, first with a focus on content and organization, and later with an eye to the grammar and lexical features. This class places great emphasis on the writing process, and students will be evaluated not only on the final draft but also on the improvement made between drafts. Final essays must be turned in with ALL previous drafts attached, with incomplete essays receiving lower grades.

Journal

Students at the end of the semester will turn in a journal which includes two main sections: vocabulary and grammar. Students are required to keep a log of new vocabulary as well as grammar mistakes (including both the incorrect and correct forms). Students are encouraged to include grammar and vocabulary from this class as well as from other classes, and journals will be evaluated on their completeness.

Class Behavior

Students are expected to come to class equipped with a copy of the required texts and other pertinent materials. Correct classroom behavior is also expected. Eating and drinking (with the exception of water) are not permitted. Mobile phones should be turned off or put in the "silent" mode.

Email

Students are asked to remember that email, though usually informal, at the university should still be treated with a higher level of formality. Thus, emails may be rejected if they fail to include the following: the recipient's title (first names are unacceptable), an appropriate message, or the name of the student.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

Please see the Suffolk Student Handbook regarding the penalties for plagiarism. Cheating on examinations, plagiarism, and/or improper acknowledgement of sources in essays or research papers, and the use of a single essay or paper in more than one course, without the permission of the instructor, constitute unacceptable academic conduct. It is dishonest to download, buy, borrow, or lend papers. It is unacceptable to make up or falsify data that are supposed to be collected from survey, experimentation or other means. Work that is represented as your should be your own; otherwise, the source should be properly identified. *If you have any questions about using someone else's work in your essay, please see me first.*