

## **2101G: Introduction to Expository Writing**

**Winter 2021 / Section 650**

**Instructor: Professor Tim Freeborn**

**Contact: Please use OWL Message**

### **Course Objectives**

“An introduction to the basic principles and techniques of good writing. The course will emphasize practical work and the development of writing skills for a variety of subjects and disciplines.” By “practical work,” this course description from the calendar means to indicate that you will spend much of your time in this course writing, responding to the writing of others, and revising your work in light of the responses you receive to it. Consequently, in this course you will not only produce written texts, but also develop a critical eye for examining the written texts of others, both professionally-written and written by others in your class.

The calendar

## Assignment Format

You must submit an electronic and a paper copy of the final draft of each essay. Essays must be typed and double-spaced in a standard serif font (e.g., Times New Roman), and they must follow MLA format (see Appendix B of *The Canadian Writer's Handbook* for an example of this style of formatting). When using sources in a paper, you will be expected to follow MLA standards for documentation, detailed in chapter 37a of *The Canadian Writer's Handbook*.

## Submitting Assignments

Assignments are due on the date specified on the schedule. Weekly class sessions will run from Monday to Sunday, so writing assignments for a particular week are due by Sunday night at 11:55 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Late essays will be penalized 2.5% per day and will not receive comments unless your instructor has emailed you to grant an extension. You must apply for extensions ahead of the due date; they are not automatic.

***In this course, you will be required to submit the final version of each of your essays electronically, through OWL, to turnitin.com. I will not grade any essay until I see the report.***

Emailed assignments are not acceptable. You must also keep copies of all assignments submitted.

In addition to submitting final drafts on the due date for each assignment, you are required to submit a rough draft of each assignment for the scheduled peer-review sessions. Failure to submit a sufficiently complete (in your instructor's opinion) assignment or to participate in a scheduled peer-review session **will** result in a 10% penalty being applied to the earned grade for that assignment. In other words, an assignment that would have earned a 78, for example, will receive instead a recorded grade of 70. This penalty will be applied in addition to any other penalties incurred (e.g., for late submission). If you review the draft of another student but do not submit your own draft, the deduction is 5%.

## Attendance/Participation Policy

Obviously, we do not meet formally as a class in a Distance Studies course. Therefore, attendance and participation on the Discussion Board are intertwined. While Distance Studies classes are generally asynchronous, they are not correspondence or self-paced. You must attend class (defined as logging into our OWL section) and participate by introducing yourself and posting questions and thoughts during the first week, and by posting (by participating in a given week's set discussion topic) in subsequent weeks where a Discussion topic is indicated on this syllabus. During such weeks (a week is defined *for this purpose* as running from Monday to Sunday), you must contribute at least three separate posts, **at least one of which must be a response to another student, and at least one of which must be a new post.** Extended absences, defined as a failure to post into the OWL classroom for more than five consecutive days, must be coordinated with the instructor.

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**Religious Accommodation**

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an

Week 2 January 18-24	<b>Draft for Essay 1 due January 24</b>	The Writing Process: Planning, Writing, and Revising the Whole Essay Chapter 1a-1g Rhetorical Analysis (Lecture Material) Chapter 26: Formatting an Essay Chapter 29: Titles
Week 3 January 25-31	Peer-review workshop for Essay 1	Chapter 1h-1i: Revising, Editing, and Final Draft Preparation Chapter 2: Paragraphs
Week 4 February 1-7	<b>Essay 1 Final Draft due: February 7</b>  <b>Quiz 1: Parts of Speech (2.5%)</b>	Writing Effectively: Verb Choice, Agents Chapter 8: Verbs Chapter 15: The Comma
Week 5 February 8-12	Essay 2: Informative Essay assigned	Chapter 4: Working with Sentence Elements to Create Variety and Emphasis Chapter 5a-5c Sentence Fragments, Comma Splices, and Run-ons Chapters 16-17: Semicolons and Colons
Week 6 February 22-28	<b>Draft for Essay 2 due February 28</b>	Writing to Inform (Lecture Notes) Chapter 14: Diction
Week 7 March 1-7	Peer-review workshop for Essay 2	Writing to be Inclusive (Chapter 7e) Chapters 5d-5e: Modifier Problems Chapter 5f-5g: Mixed Constructions; Shifts

Week 8 March 8-14	<b>Final Draft of Essay 2 due March 14</b> <b>Punctuation Quiz (2.5%)</b> Essay 3: Research Essay assigned	Other punctuation: Chapters 18-24 Chapter 25: Avoiding Common Errors in Punctuation
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Week 9 March 15-21	<b>Quiz 3: Editing Exercise (5%)</b>	Chapter 33: The Research Plan Chapter 9: Agreement
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	Peer-review workshop for Assignment 4	
Week 12 April 5-12	<b>Final Draft of Essay 3 due on last day of class, April 12</b>	