ENGLISH 0930: ENGLISH COMPOSITION

Introduction to ENGL 0930

This course is designed to help students write better essays. The course focuses on effective expression; sentence, paragraph, and essay construction; and the writing process. Students may not enter English courses numbered above the 1000-level directly from this course. This course does NOT contribute toward a Major/Minor Degree in English. This course is not designed to teach English as an additional language.

Policy Requirements

All sections of ENGL 0930 must have:

- A minimum of eight writing assignments during the term, of which two may be re-writes or pre-writing exercises (e.g. outlines) each worth 2.5 – 5%. The remaining six assignments would each be worth 5 - 20%. Under normal circumstances, four of the assignments should be written in class. Assignments must total at least 3,000 words of sustained expository writing. They may vary from a few sentences at the beginning of the term to an assignment at the end of term that must be between 750 and 1,000 words long.

The Written English Policy mandated by the University Senate stipulates that students produce a minimum of three pieces of written work of 3-5 pages, or two pieces of 6-8 pages, with a total count of not less than 3,000 words. Please note, however, that there is a maximum word count of 1000 words for any one assignment in ENGL 0930.

- Most instructors have an attendance/participation grade of up to 10%.

- A two-hour final examination, worth 40% of the final grade, is mandatory. The exam must be closed-book and written during the scheduled examination period. The exam questions must NOT be made available before the exam, but the instructor may inform the students of its format and requirements. The weight of each question to the total examination grade must be clearly stated on the examination script. The final exam must consist of two parts: a sustained piece of writing worth 60% of the exam’s mark and a short stylistic analysis worth 40% of the exam’s mark.

Additional Requirements

The instructor should include relevant grammar and style issues, such as the following:

- phrases (gerund, infinitive, participle)
- agreement (subject/verb, pronoun/antecedent)
• sentence construction (simple, compound, complex)
• parallel construction
• clear, correct modification
• correct spelling
• correct punctuation
• paragraph organization (topic sentences, development, coherence)
• levels of diction (colloquial, semi-formal, formal)
• tone appropriate to audience
• style (precision, variation, emphasis, revision)

The instructor must include some of the rhetorical modes listed below:

• narration
• description
• stylistic analysis
• comparison
• division and classification
• definition
• process
• cause and effect
• argument and persuasion

[Amended and approved by Department Council - December 2014]