ESL 0491-Transitional Level Writing

Spring 2010
Instructor - Brian Parmeter
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Class Times/Location:
MWF: 4:05 pm - 4:55 pm Building 7 (Electrical Engineering), room 314
TR: 3:35 pm - 4:50 pm Building 7 (Electrical Engineering), room 227

TEXTS:  * Nancy E. Dollahite, Julie Haun, Sourcework - Academic Writing From Sources, Houghton Mifflin, 2006
  * Cambridge Dictionary of American English

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to develop the skills used in formal academic paper writing. It is for credit with Pass/Fail grading. 72% is required to pass.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will develop critical writing skills such as
- Differentiating between formal and informal writing
- Writing research papers
- APA style and documentation
- Process writing
- Brainstorming
- Peer editing

CLASS POLICIES: I assume that you are all adults and that your primary focus during our class time is learning the course material at hand.

* I expect you to attend all classes. Attendance will be taken during the first 5 minutes of the class period, after which I will generally close the door. If you are late and the door is closed, please do not come in as it is a disruption of the class. If you miss class more than three times, each additional absence will reduce your overall grade for the semester by 5%.

* Turn off your phones, iPods, mp3 players, and computers of all kinds - I do not want you or anybody in the class to be distracted by these devices.

* Assigned texts should be read before class, and all homework is to be prepared before class. Late work is not accepted. Always bring your textbook, paper or notebook for taking notes, and writing instruments.

* I expect you to participate in class discussions. If you have questions, I invite you, please, to ask them, for your benefit and for the benefit of the rest of the class.
* Please note on your syllabus when Tests and quizzes are scheduled. Tests are closed book and no dictionaries (paper or electronic) are allowed.

* Missed class work and quizzes can’t be made up. Missed exams cannot be made up without excuse from the Dean of Students.

* Reasonably neat work is expected on all material submitted for grading. All homework should be produced on a word-processor. No late homework will be accepted. Homework will be collected on its due date.

**Grading**

Grades are calculated on a percentage basis. I will assign three research papers throughout the semester, each of which is worth 20% of your grade. All other graded assignments combined will be worth 35%, and class participation will be worth 5%.

**Note on Plagiarism:** Dictionary.com defines plagiarism as “The unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one’s own original work.” If you plagiarize (in other words, if you copy someone else’s work), you will get zero points for the assignment, and you may be expelled from the university.

**Note:** This Syllabus may change throughout the semester to accommodate the needs of the class.

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**University Policies**

Academic Integrity:
[http://www.studentaffairs.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/academic_integrity.html](http://www.studentaffairs.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/academic_integrity.html)

Affirmative Programs Office:
[http://www.admin.mtu.edu/aao/](http://www.admin.mtu.edu/aao/)

Disability Services:
[http://www.admin.mtu.edu/dos/disability.htm](http://www.admin.mtu.edu/dos/disability.htm)

MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Dean of Students, at 7-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office.