



DEPARTMENT OF ACADEMIC UPGRADING

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2010

English 0130 (6-0-0)

INSTRUCTOR: Susan Beaumont **PHONE:** 538-2758
OFFICE: A310 **E-MAIL:** sbeaumont@gprc.ab.ca

OFFICE EN0130A2 Monday to Thursday 9:30 – 10:00
HOURS: EN0130B2 Monday to Thursday 2:00 – 2:30

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:

EN 0120 (or equivalent) or EN 0130 placement test score.

In addition, students are assumed to:

- possess Alberta high school level reading comprehension, composition skills, and even more important a desire to learn and to improve.
- have continuing access to a computer with an Internet connection. If not, there are a number of computer labs available throughout the College.
- possess keyboarding skills and fluency in common word processor applications, web browsers, and electronic mail.
- be able to spend 6 hours per week in class and an additional 4 to 8 hours per week on reading and/or projects associated with the course.
- make a commitment to completing course activities and assignments and to let me know when you need assistance or when there are extenuating circumstances.
- make a commitment to participating and communicating in online and/or group discussions as well as checking online announcements at least twice weekly.

If you are not confident about one or more of the above requirements, there a number of support services available to you. Please ask me how you can obtain assistance.

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

- *English 130 Readings Package.(2008).* 5th Edition. (Available at the GPRC Bookstore.)
- GPRC Moodle Resources for EN0130
- Hosseini, Khaled. (2004). *The Kite Runner*. Anchor, Canada: Random House.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

English 0130 is designed for adults needing English/Language Arts 30-1 (formerly called English 30) for entry into a college/university program. “This course includes a study of the five basic forms of literature: essays, short stories, novels, drama, and poetry. Both oral presentations and written compositions are required – mainly essays and one major paper” (*GPRC 2009/2010 Calendar*).

CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS:

6.0 credits / 90 contact hours

DELIVERY MODE(S):

EN0130 is taught through a blended delivery model that uses both classroom and computer-based learning. EN 0130 meets twice per week in a lecture classroom -- Mondays and Wednesdays. In addition, we meet in a computer lab twice weekly -- Tuesdays and Thursdays.

In the computer lab, students will be able to practice their writing skills by actively participating in online discussions, accessing electronic resources, and working on assignments. On a few days there will be in-class writings/tests.

With computer-based learning, students use a variety of computer skills such as word processing, internet searches, and searches of the library’s databases. Blended delivery **does not involve less class time**, but rather it allows you some flexibility and the opportunity to organize your own learning. You will find that you are working on a number of different activities at the same time. For example during any given week, you may be reading, researching, accessing online resources, and preparing for a presentation.

OBJECTIVES:

The general objective of EN 0130 is to provide students with the opportunity to refine **communication skills** that are needed in subsequent college/university courses and/or professional work. Students will have the opportunity to:

- review and master elements of **grammar, punctuation** and **sentence structure**
- develop strategies for **reading** difficult material
- analyze a variety of readings
- practice critical thinking skills through questioning and online/group discussion

- identify the thesis sentence and supporting ideas in **essays** of varying length, subject and complexity, and to be able to apply these to personal essays
- summarize the main ideas of passages to be incorporated into research essays (summarize, paraphrase and quote from selected resources)
- use APA and/or MLA style documentation for citation and preparation of references in research papers

- plan **original essays**; prepare the topic, thesis, and supporting content
- prepare an outline of a proposed essay
- plan and gather resources to research a specified topic
- identify and use writing techniques relating to: introductions, transitions, organizational patterns (exposition, comparison, contrast), and conclusions

- summarize the plot of a **short story, novel** and **film/play**
- identify aspects of setting, plot, characterization, theme
- identify the writer's point of view and show how it affects the story

TRANSFERABILITY:

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

GRADING CRITERIA:

| | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Assignments and Projects | | 50% |
| Class and Online Activities | 12% | |
| Project 1: Expository Essay | 8% | |
| Project 2: Practice Project for Research Essay | 8% | |
| Project 3: Major Research Essay | 16% | |
| Project 4: Speech/Presentation | 6% | |

Tests (mostly class compositions) and Quizzes 25%

Final Exam 25%

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|---------------------------|
| There is no mid-term exam |
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In accordance with the Academic Upgrading Department guidelines, your percentage standing will be converted to the alpha system:

The following chart will be used to convert your % score to an Alpha grade.

| GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE | | | |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| GRADING CONVERSION CHART | | | |
| Alpha Grade | 4-point Equivalent | Percentage Guidelines | Designation |
| A⁺ | 4.0 | 90 – 100 | EXCELLENT |
| A | 4.0 | 85 – 89 | |
| A⁻ | 3.7 | 80 – 84 | FIRST CLASS STANDING |
| B⁺ | 3.3 | 77 – 79 | |
| B | 3.0 | 73 – 76 | GOOD |
| B⁻ | 2.7 | 70 – 72 | |
| C⁺ | 2.3 | 67 – 69 | SATISFACTORY |
| C | 2.0 | 63 – 66 | |
| C⁻ | 1.7 | 60 – 62 | |
| D⁺ | 1.3 | 55 – 59 | MINIMAL PASS |
| D | 1.0 | 50 – 54 | |
| F | 0.0 | 0 – 49 | FAIL |
| WF | 0.0 | 0 | FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline |

Although 50% is considered a pass in most courses, research and experience indicate that future academic success requires higher standards. Therefore, in Academic Upgrading we strongly recommend that you achieve 60% or better so that you will be successful at the next level.

Assessment

There are three kinds of assignments: (1) homework assignments that are used as in-class learning activities, (2) in-class individual/group assignments that are submitted and/or presented, and (3) four individual projects

Each unit will involve a class composition test. You will have the opportunity to use the computer as a writing tool if you wish.

Specific rubrics will be used to provide both feedback and grades. Students will also use rubrics to evaluate one another's presentations/work.

Your written projects (and some assignments) will be assessed twice. First, Upfront Assessment is meant to provide you with information about the quality of your work. Only a portion of the composition will be marked for mechanical correctness so that you can make similar corrections in the remainder of the assignment. This is information for improvement. Using this feedback, you will have the opportunity to improve the entire assignment before re-submitting it for a grade. This allows you to practice and improve your English skills. Assignments that have not been submitted for Upfront Assessment will receive a deduction on the Final Assessment. You will only have a few days to revise your assignment before you re-submit it for the Final Assessment. Here the assignment will be graded according to the rubric, often with few additional revisions or comments.

Submission of Assignments

All assignments and projects will be **submitted online through Moodle.**

The due dates for assignments and evaluation schemes are provided. Late assignments will be accepted (with 5% per day penalty) for up to four days unless prior arrangements have been made. If you require a slight extension on an assignment, all you have to do is make prior arrangements with me. It will be useful to bring what you have done to show how much of the assignment you have completed. However, once tests or assignments have been returned to the class, there is **no** opportunity to write the test or to submit the missed assignment.

No electronic devices will be allowed while writing tests or exams without express permission.

EXAMINATIONS:

Examinations are a key component in the grades assigned to students as a measure of academic success. A final exam will be written during the exam period scheduled from December 9 – 18. As per the *GPRC Calendar*, you are responsible to "write tests and final examinations at the times scheduled by the instructor or the Office of the Registrar".

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Academic Upgrading Department is an adult education environment. As such, you are expected to show respect for one another, faculty, and staff.

In addition to the “Student Rights and Responsibilities” as set out in the GPRC Calendar, the following guidelines will allow us to have an effective learning environment for everyone. Since some activities are disruptive to learning, I ask that you comply with the following:

- You are expected to be punctual. Arrive on time for class and remain for the duration of the class or activity.
- During class, turn off your phone ringer or text notification.
- Refrain from unrelated and/or disruptive talking during class time.
- Be respectful of others regarding food or beverages in the classroom. Clean up your area and dispose of garbage. Recycle paper, bottles, and cans in the appropriate containers.
- Children are not permitted in the classrooms.

Attendance

English 0130 is a course where students are invited to read, think about, and discuss the works of successful writers. As a member of the EN0130 community, you will be expected to take an active role in the class. The greater your participation in class, the greater your learning, and perhaps even the greater your enjoyment. **Therefore, attendance and promptness are critical and required.**

Attendance is a requirement for academic success. If you miss more than 15 percent of classes per semester, you may be debarred from the final exam. It is your responsibility to **notify me of any extenuating circumstances as they happen.**

*If you are absent due to medical or unforeseen circumstances and wish to be given the opportunity to write a test (or submit an assignment), there are specific requirements. **Make prior arrangements with me by phone or email.** Only then will you be permitted to write or submit at a later date. It is expected that you will write tests/quizzes the following day outside class time.*

Group Learning

Collaboration is an essential part of this course. Each of you plays a critical role in the learning situation. It is essential that you keep up-to-date with readings and discussions. In addition to managing your own learning, you will be asked to act as a team member in various learning activities, offering feedback and advice, pointing out valuable resources, giving your interpretation of the literature, and offering support. Make a special effort to be involved; social presence is one of the key attributes of successful learners. Social presence encourages

interpersonal connection and creates positive peer relationships in both online and face-to-face learning environments.

Netiquette (Online Etiquette)

Protocol for your emails and forum postings is important:

- Use salutations and greetings in your messages to identify the intended audience so that your messages do not seem vague or abstract.
- Use subject headings and/or refer to previous messages so your meaning is clear and to maintain ongoing dialogue.
- Keep your messages succinct (to the point). Proofread your message prior to posting to communicate effectively.
- Do not post flaming or disrespectful messages; this includes messages which are abrupt, rude or dismissive of others' points of view.
- Sign all your postings with a meaningful closing and your name.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Students have both rights and responsibilities. These are outlined in the GPRC Calendar under "Student Conduct". Grande Prairie Regional College "expects intellectual honesty from its students. Intellectual honesty demands that the contribution of others be acknowledged. (from the *GPRC Academic Policy – Student Misconduct*, 2006). It is especially important that students understand what constitutes plagiarism. The instructor of EN 0130 reserves the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on any assignment submitted for grades. Please refer to pages 49-50 of the College calendar regarding plagiarism, cheating and the resultant penalties. These are serious issues and will be dealt with severely.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Theme 1: Friends and Enemies

4 wks

- study the novel, *The Kite Runner*; the vocabulary and the writing style of Khaled Hosseini and other 21st century writers

- practice critical analysis through questioning, discussion, presentation and writing

- analysis of personal and professional writing styles and techniques

- in order to improve basic English skills, three elements of **MECHANICS** will be reviewed – commas, semi-colons, apostrophes

- **Project One: Expository Essay** (based on the novel) – worth 8%

Theme 2. Risk Taking

3 wks

- examine non-fiction writing (essays) and fiction writing (short stories)
- consider both writer's opinion and experts' opinions
- practice critical analysis through discussion, presentation, writing

Project Two: Practice Project for Major Research Essay – worth 8%

Theme 3: The Human Mind—a fascinating place to visit

2.5 - 3 wks –

- study several short stories, a film, the authors/directors and their styles
- examine setting, structure, figurative and stylistic devices, mood, tone,
- point of view, irony, characterization and theme
- analyze character development (characterization) and theme with focus on Shakespeare's *Othello* (film version)
- read, interpret, and assess a few Shakespearean sonnets

- Project Three: Major Research Essay –worth 16%

Theme 4: Stories and Experiences through Poetry

- study modern poets, including Alberta poets
- identify figurative language such as metaphor, irony, symbols, allusion
- identify musical elements such as rhyme, rhythm and alliteration
- read poetry aloud and discuss its message, meaning, impact, and themes, including unique Prairie themes
- compose and present an original poem

-Project Four: Speech/ Presentation –worth 6%