



Grande Prairie Regional College

School of Business

Academic Upgrading Department

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2006

English 0130 (6-0-0)

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Office Hours	Generally for an half hour following each class and as posted on my office door.		

Prerequisites:

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

Texts and Resource Material:

English 130 Readings Package. (Available at the GPRC Bookstore.)

GPRC Blackboard Resources for EN 0130. (Computer and Internet access are necessary for this course. You may use your home computer or there are several computer labs available throughout the College. In most of the labs, however, you will need to supply your own paper for printing.)

Martel, Yann. Life of Pi. Toronto: Vintage Canada, 2001.

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 2005/2006 Calendar)

Delivery Mode:

EN 0130 consists of six hours of instructional time per week. Course work includes lectures, class discussions, in-class activities, group work and individual projects (written and oral). Students use a variety of computer skills such as word processing, internet searches, and library searches of data bases. There is extensive use of on-line resources available through GPRC Blackboard, and there are several computer-based assignments. In addition, you may submit assignments through Blackboard's digital drop box. You will have the option to use the word processing tool for in-class written composition tests.

Objectives:

The general objective of EN 0130 is to provide students with the opportunity to refine those 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 and enhance critical thinking skills through class/group discussion
- identify the thesis sentence and support in **essays** of varying length, subject and complexity
- summarize the thesis and support by writing a summary (for research essays); summarize, paraphrase and quote from selected resources
- use MLA (Modern Language Association) style documentation for citation and preparation of Works Cited in a research paper
- plan original essays; preparing the topic, thesis, and support
- prepare an outline of a proposed essay
- plan and conduct research related to an essay proposal
- identify and utilize 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
- analyze how setting, plot, mood and climate influence the development of the plot
- select details in order to make inferences
- develop the theme(s) of a selection
- read, write, discuss a **critique** of a short story, movie and/or book
- explain how **poetry** differs from prose in style, purpose and form
- identify devices of figurative language such as metaphor, irony, allusion
- identify musical elements such as rhyme, rhythm and alliteration
- read poetry aloud and discuss its meaning and impact
- **present** a beginning-level Toastmaster's speech

Course Schedule and Content: (see the attached calendar)

1. What's Fair?

4 wks

- in order to improve basic English skills, some elements of **MECHANICS** (spelling, plurals and possessives, commonly misspelled words, punctuation marks, commas, capitalization) and **SENTENCE STRUCTURE** (fragments, independent and dependent clauses, misplaced modifiers, parallel structure, awkward sentences) will be reviewed
- consider career choices and interpersonal dynamics (True Colors)
- 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 One: Persuasive Essay (100 pts)**
- **Project Two: Expository Essay (100 pts)**

2. Incredible Adversity – Life of Pi 3 - 4 wks

- study the novel, Life of Pi, and the writing style of Yann Martel and other 21st century writers
- practice critical analysis through questioning, discussion, presentation, writing
- analysis of personal and professional writing styles and techniques
- comparison of genre (essay, short story, novel, drama, poetry)
- **Project Three: Mini-Research Essay (100 pts)**

3. The Human Mind—a fascinating place to visit 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
- focus on characterization and theme
- **Project Four: Major Research Essay (200 pts)**

4. Ladies and Gentlemen 3 wks

- study modern poets, especially Canadian poets
- explain how poetry differs from prose in form, style, and purpose
- 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, theme
- compose and present an original poem
- **Project Five: Toastmaster Ice-Breaker Speech/Presentation (75 pts)**

Grading Criteria:

Five Projects and Class Assignments	40%
Tests (mostly in-class essays) and Quizzes	20
Grammar Exercises and Tests	5
In-Class Writing	
(an attendance and promptness check	
8 to 10 writings over the semester)	15
Final Exam (written composition)	20

In accordance with the Academic Upgrading Department guidelines, your percentage standing will be converted to the alpha system— **A+** (90-100); **A** (85-89); **A-** (80-84); **B+** (76-79); **B** (73-75); **B-** (70-72); **C+** (67-69); **C** (64-66); **C-** (60-63); **D+** (55-59); **D** (50-54); **F** (0-49)

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) five individual projects.

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

The due dates for assignments have been provided as are the evaluation schemes. Late assignments will be accepted (with 10% per day penalty) for up to three days, and no assignment will be accepted after the work has been returned to the class. If you require an extension on an assignment, bring what you have done to show how much of the assignment you have completed.

Course Requirements:

English 0130 is a course where students are invited to read, think about, and discuss the works of successful writers. Students will also be able to experiment with composing their own pieces. 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.**

The Academic Upgrading Department wants you to succeed in your courses; therefore, **guidelines** (these are attached) have been established to ensure this. We will be reviewing these in the opening days of the course.

Statement on Plagiarism:

Students have both rights and responsibilities. These are outlined in GPRC Calendar under "Student Conduct". It is especially important that students understand what constitutes plagiarism and the instructor of EN 0130 reserves the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on any assignment submitted for grades.