

Vesalius College

Course description

Course title: Critical Thinking and Academic Writing I

Course code: COR 111E

Teacher responsible: Dr. C. Adamson

Course description:

Teaches the essential structures of written and spoken exposition, introduces students to the modes of critical thinking and writing practiced in the different academic disciplines and analyses a variety of models that provide criteria for evaluating the students' own written and oral work. Must be taken in sequence. COR 111E is a pre-requisite for COR 112E.

Course objectives:

After successfully completing the course the student should be able to:

- Determine a purpose and an audience for expository prose
- Generate valid, logical and legitimate ideas and propositions, express and elaborate them in writing, and support the validity of their ideas and positions
- Organize essays that are unified and coherent so that they engage a reader's attention, develop the subject matter of the text, and possess a sense of finality or closure to the text
- Write sentences that are complete, direct, clear, varied, economical, effective, mature in structure and free of major errors
- Edit their writing, taking account of audience expectations and biases
- Annotate, summarize, outline, and articulate the thesis of university level readings
- Compile a basic bibliography in MLA style
- Chart progress in their writing by keeping a portfolio
- Organize and give oral presentations taking into account audience and purpose.

Grade weighting scheme:

Out-of-class essays (4)	40%
In-class essays (2)	10%
Preparations, participation	10%
Summaries (2)	10%
Bibliography	10%
Oral presentations (2)	10%
Final examination	10%

Used course material (handbooks, readers, readings, newspapers, magazines) and references:

- Peterson, Linda and John C. Brereton, eds. *The Norton Reader: And Anthology of Nonfiction Prose*. Shorter 11th ed. New York & London: W.W. Norton & Co., 2004. Selections include 20 texts by Douglass, Thoreau, Ghosh, Guterson, Dillard, Plath, Becker, Mernissi, Eighner, Petrunkevitch, Catton, Chief Seattle, Alexie, McMurtry, Zinsser, White, Golding, Anzaldúa, Helwig, Heaney, Tuchman, Sontag, Keillor
- Glenn, Cheryl, *et al.* *Hodges' Harbrace Handbook*. 15th ed. United States and United Kingdom, 2004.
- Hosseini, Khaled. *The Kite Runner*. New York: Riverhead Trade, 2004.
- A class reader which includes several other articles, guides to rhetorical modes, bibliography aids, guides to online material