

Syllabus

Essay & Paper Writing

August – December 2014

VIII Cycle

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I. Course General Information

Subject : Essay and Paper Writing
Pre-Requisite: Intermediate 3 English course
Credits : 3

Código : 05647
Semestre : 2014-II
Cycle : VIII

II. Summary

This course will examine the nature and structure of essays as well as the process of writing. Students will become acquainted with various types of academic texts, such as summarizing, descriptive, narrative, explanatory, problem-solution, comparison-contrast and argumentative essays. The course will also enable students to produce these text-types for professional and academic purposes.

III. Course Objective

The course has 3 main objectives:

1. Reflect on writing as a process
2. Acquire an organized mental schema of the written text
3. Enable information processing in order to produce a coherent and organized piece of writing

IV. Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Internalize writing schemata for different types of essays
- Generate ideas by using concept maps
- Organize and outline ideas in preparation for essay writing
- Draft, revise and edit as a continuous process
- Become aware of text coherence and cohesion
- Formulate a thesis statement.
- Work collaboratively with peers through drafting and editing techniques

Some grammar and vocabulary review will be provided.

V. Methodology

The process-based approach for the development of the writing skill has been chosen as it treats writing as a creative act. In process writing, there is room for more collaboration to take place between the teacher and students and among students themselves; thus, all parties contribute to the overall process of writing.

VI. Assessment

The evaluation system is permanent and comprehensive, and it is intended to promote student's learning.

Grading will take the following structure:

♦	Continuous Assessment	50%
	20% Class participation based on attendance, punctuality and participation in class	
	50% Writing lab: 2 nd and 3 rd drafts	
	30% Essay portfolio	
	100%	
♦	Mid-term exam: notions and summary	20%
♦	Final Exam: final essay	30%
	Total:	100%

VII. Contents

Week N°	Course Topics	Course Materials
1° 21-30 August	ESSAY WRITING <u>Unit 1: The structure of an essay</u> - Definition of “essay” - Parts of an essay - Choosing a topic and brainstorming for ideas - Thesis statement – definition - Writing a strong thesis statement - Summary Writing - Focus on main and secondary ideas - Distinguishing facts from opinions	Hand-outs from <i>“Academic Writing From Paragraph to Essay”</i> , pp. 56 – 62.
2° & 3 1-13 September	<u>Unit 2: Paragraph writing</u> - Definition of a paragraph - The parts of a paragraph - Identifying and writing topic sentences - Supporting and developing paragraphs - Writing concluding sentences - Writing descriptions <u>Unit 3: From paragraph to essay</u> - Defining “outline” - Drafting an outline for the thesis statement in Unit 1 - Evaluating an outline - Writing a narrative	Hand-outs from <i>“Academic Writing From Paragraph to Essay”</i> , pp. 56 – 62. Hand-outs from <i>“Academic Writing From Paragraph to Essay”</i> , pp. 63 – 70.
4° 15-20 September	<u>Unit 4: The explanatory essay</u> - Reason for writing an explanatory text - Structuring and outlining - Writing the introduction - Writing drafts for body paragraphs	Hand-outs from <i>“Writers at Work: The Essay”</i> , pp. 13 – 39
5° 22 - 27 September	- Editing - Critical revising (Longitudinal feedback) <u>Unit 5: The comparison-contrast essay</u> - Reason for writing a comparison-contrast text - Structuring and outlining	Hand-outs from <i>“Writers at Work: The Essay”</i> , pp. 67 – 87.
6° 29 - 04 October	- Writing the introduction - Writing drafts for body paragraphs - Editing - Critical revising (Longitudinal feedback)	Hand-outs from <i>“Writers at Work: The Essay”</i> , pp. 67 – 87.

7° 6 - 11 October	Review for Mid-Term Examination	
8° 13 - 18 October	Midterm Exam	
9° 20 - 25 October	<u>Unit 6: The problem-solution essay</u> - Reason for writing a problem-solution text - Structuring and outlining - Writing the introduction - Writing drafts for body paragraphs	Hand-outs from <i>"Writers at Work: The Essay"</i> , pp. 41 – 65.
10° 27 - 31 October	- Editing - Critical revising (Longitudinal feedback) <u>Unit 7: The persuasive essay</u> - Reason for writing a persuasive text - Structuring and outlining - Writing the introduction - Writing drafts for body paragraphs	Hand-outs from <i>"Writers at Work: The Essay"</i> , pp. 89 – 110.
11° 3 - 8 November	- Editing - Critical revising (Longitudinal feedback) PAPER WRITING <u>Argumentative paper</u> - Creating a Thesis Statement - Establishing Arguments	
12° 10 - 15 November	- Organizing Your Argument - Logic in Argumentative Writing - Paragraphs and Paragraphing - Transitions and Transitional Devices	
13° 17 - 22 November	In-class paper writing	
14° 24 - 29 November	In-class paper writing Review	
15° 1 - 3 December	Final Exam	
8 al 12 December		

VIII. Bibliography

- Murphy, R. & Smalzer, W., (2004): *English Grammar in Use: Intermediate*, 3rd. ed., Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Oxford University Press (2010): *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, 8th ed., Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Swan, M. & Walter, C., (2006): *The Good Grammar Book*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Zemach, D. & Rumisek, L., (2003): *Academic Writing: From Paragraph to Essay*, 1st ed., Thailand: MacMillan.
- Zemach, D. & Stafford-Yilmaz, L., (2008): *Writers at Work: The Essay*, 3rd ed., Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

IX. Supplementary Information

1. **Attendance:** It is strongly advised to keep a record of the number of times absent to class as the permitted limit is 20% of the course or **11 hours**.
2. **Punctuality:** Due to the nature of the subject, it is suggested to arrive on time so as to take full advantage of the session and avoid disrupting the normal class interaction patterns once the session has started.
3. **Materials:** The use of materials is mandatory as they represent the information source for lesson development. They can be downloaded from the uevirtual platform
4. **Assessment:** 15-minute tolerance will be given as a maximum for sitting the Midterm and Final exam

IX. Lecturers

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