



Nanchang University ENG 25: Nonfiction Writing

Credit: 4

Contact Hours

This course is composed of 24 lecture sessions, 3 tutorial sessions and 9 office contact hours. Each lecture session takes 2 contact hours in length; each tutorial session takes 3 contact hours in length; There will be a Q-A review session (3 contact hours) and Final Exam (3 contact hours) at the end of this term. This course has 72 contact hours in total.

Course Description

This course systematically explains the principles, methods and forms of nonfiction writing, and it is intended to guide students to know the key points of nonfiction writing, improve their writing skills and develop their own writing styles.

During the course, you will need to read the textbook carefully and get familiar with the writing principles and methods, and you will be asked to write an expository essay for the final exam, except the three papers (be submitted in three phases and of a minimum of 20 pages in total) after class. Writing is a course requiring sustained efforts, no matter what your previous record as writer or reader. Hope you are well prepared.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you would have clear concepts of how to simplify your written language, fighting clutter in writing, use the most appropriate words, diversify your writing skills, find your styles and thereby write as well as you can.

Required Material

On Writing Well by William Zinsser (the 25th anniversary edition)

Reference: *Writing On Both Sides of The Brain* by Henriette Anne Klauser

Grading

- | | |
|-----------------|-----|
| ● Participation | 10% |
| ● Paper 1 | 15% |
| ● Paper 2 | 15% |
| ● Paper 3 | 15% |



- Discussion with Topics 20%
- Essay 25%

A+ 96-100	A 90-95	A- 85-89
B+ 82-84	B 78-81	B- 75-77
C+ 71-74	C 66-70	C- 62-65
D 60-61	F < 60	

Assignment

Format: Your writing should be written in a 12 point font and double spaced.

Late assignment would NOT be accepted.

Course Schedule

The course has 24 class sessions in total. All sessions are 2 contact hours in length. At the end of this term, there will be a Q-A review session(3 contact hours) and Final Exam (3 contact hours).

Note: the course outline and required readings are subject to change.

Class 1:

Introduction to Nonfiction Writing

The Transaction

Reading: Ch.1

Class 2:

Simplicity & Clutter

Reading: Ch.2 & Ch.3

Class 3:

Style & The Audience

Reading: Ch.4 & Ch.5

Class 4:

Words & Usage

Reading: Ch.6 & Ch.7

Paper 1

Class 5:

Unity

Reading: Ch.8

Class 6:

The Lead and the Ending

Reading: Ch.9



Class 7:
Bits & Pieces
Reading: Ch.10

Class 8:
Nonfiction as Literature
Reading: Ch.11

Class 9:
Writing About People : The Interview
Reading: Ch.12

Class 10:
Writing About People : The Interview (Cont.)
Reading: Ch.12

Class 11:
Writing About Places: The Travel Article
Reading: Ch.13

Class 12:
Writing About Places: The Travel Article(Cont.)
Reading: Ch.13
Paper 2

Class 13:
Writing About Yourself: The Memoir
Reading: Ch.14

Class 14:
Writing About Yourself: The Memoir (Cont.)
Reading: Ch.14

Class 15:
Themed Discussion

Class 16:
Science and Technology
Reading: Ch.15

Class 17:
Science and Technology (Cont.)
Reading: Ch.15



Class 18:

Business Writing : Writing in Your Job

Reading: Ch.16

Class 19:

Business Writing : Writing in Your Job (Cont.)

Reading: Ch.16

Class 20:

Sports, Writing About the Arts: Critics and Columnists, Humor

Reading: Ch.17 & Ch.18 & Ch.19

Paper 3

Class 21:

The Sound of Your Voice

Enjoyment, Fear and Confidence

Reading: Ch.20 & Ch.21

Class 22:

The Tyranny of the Final Product

A Writer's Decisions

Reading: Ch.22 & Ch.23

Class 23:

Review and Reflections on Your Own Writing

Class 24:

Essay: Topic given

Attending Policy

Regular and prompt attendance is required. Under ordinary circumstances, you may miss two times without penalty. Each absence over this number will lower your course grade by a third of a letter and missing more than five classes may lead to a failing grade in the course. Arriving late and/or leaving before the end of the class period are equivalent to absences.

Policy on "Late Withdrawals"

In accordance with university policy, appeals for late withdrawal will be approved **ONLY** in case of medical emergency and similar crises.

Academic Honesty



Nanchang University expects all students to do their own work. Instructors will fail assignments that show evidence of plagiarism or other forms of cheating, and will also report the student's name to the University administration. A student reported to the University for cheating is placed on disciplinary probation; a student reported twice is suspended or expelled.

General Expectations:

Students are expected to:

- Attend all classes and be responsible for all materials covered in class and otherwise assigned;
- Complete the day's required reading and assignments before class;
- Review the previous day's notes before class and make notes about questions you have about the previous class or the day's reading;
- Participate in class discussions and complete required written work on time;
- Refrain from texting, phoning or engaging in computer activities unrelated to class during the class period;
- While class participation is welcome, even required, you are expected to refrain from private conversations during the class period.

Special Needs or Assistance

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.