

Columbia College

Foundations in Critical Thinking, Reading, and Writing - (English 114)

Lecture 1

Course Outline

Semester Dates: June 16th to July 18th, 2014

Please note that when a holiday falls during the week, your class will be rescheduled for the Friday of that week. Students are required to make arrangements to be present at the rescheduled class.

Facilitator: Stephen Sabourin Email: stephenwsabourin@gmail.com

Class Time: Wednesday – 6:00 to 9:00 PM Room: 805-120

Credit: Non-Credit Course Prerequisite: None

Note: It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the information contained in the Course Outline and to clarify any areas of concern with the facilitator.

Course Description:

This is an advanced language skills course for those who need to develop the foundations of effective critical thinking, reading, and writing. A key focus is on writing short essay type papers and reports involving reflective and research skills. Grammar diagnostics and the development of presentation skills are important components of the course. Students will be expected to complete a significant amount of reading, research and writing outside of the classroom in order to meet the requirements of the course. This is a 40 hour course.

Learning Outcomes:

As a result of active participation in these sessions, a student can expect to:

- Develop and demonstrate foundation critical thinking skills
- Develop and demonstrate effective oral communication skills
- Read critically, find information, comment on, and summarize texts
- Write short answers to questions using appropriate style and word choice
- Demonstrate the skills of writing short essay type papers
- Demonstrate the skills of writing a reflective paper
- Understand how to do research and citation of references according to APA
- Demonstrate the skills of writing a short research paper
- Learn how to use the Internet and other data bases (ProQuest, Gale)
- Paraphrase to avoid plagiarism
- Take quick and accurate notes while listening and reading
- Improve reading for meaning using a variety of strategies
- Correctly use Microsoft Word 2010 to type a term paper

Course Format:

This course uses a variety of teaching/learning methods including discussion, personal reflection, experiential exercises, student presentations, role-plays, group activities and especially case studies. Our faculty aims to create a learning environment where the learner is actively engaged in inquiry, critical thinking and problem solving. The classroom provides you with a place where you can learn with and from others in a cooperative and collaborative manner.

You are expected to take a very active part in class discussions and take responsibility for your own learning. Be a positive and co-operative team member. Columbia College uses a facilitation model of instruction where the facilitator's role is to facilitate your learning. The expectation is that you will come to class prepared with pre-class homework completed. Your facilitator will engage you in activities that are based on your completed homework and readings. Your enthusiastic and positive approach in the classroom will create an atmosphere that will help every student develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes that are needed for success.

How you conduct yourself in our classes will, to a large extent, mirror your conduct in society and your future work site. For example, if you have a tendency to ask questions, challenge the ideas of others in a respectful manner, draw out the best from your colleagues, and encourage both group development and task accomplishment in this class, it is likely you will do the same at work. A high level of student involvement and developing professionalism is expected in the classroom as you work towards your goal

Required Textbooks and Equipment:

Kirby, G. & Goodpaster, J. (2007). *Thinking*, 4th Edition. New York: Pearson Education, Inc.

Wyrick, J. & Bose, S. (2010). *Steps to Writing Well with Additional Readings*, First Canadian Edition. Toronto: Nelson Education Ltd.

Recommended Readings and Resources:

Students may access these sources from the College and from home.

ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health, Canadian Business and Current Affairs, and Canadian Newsstand

o http://proquest.umi.com/login
Username: cc-library

Password: welcome

GALE InfoTrac Custom Journals

http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/calg145?db=SP00

Password: cclibrary09

Further Recommended Readings and Resources:

- The Purdue Online Writing Lab http://owl.english.purdue.edu/
- YouTube Writing Good Essays (Massey University) Massey SLC 26 videos

Homework Assignment Due for the First Class:

- Read your syllabus and be prepared to ask questions and discuss. Read the Preface and Chapter 1 in the text *Thinking*. Be prepared for a test.
- Complete first journal response and email to facilitator on Tuesday evening.

Evaluation - Assessment of Student Performance:

The final grade in the course will be based on the following elements. Wherever possible facilitators will use rubrics to assess your performance and offer feedback.

Title of Assignment/Examination	Due Date	Weight
Student Preparation and Engagement		5%
Critical Thinking Tests	Daily	20%
Assignment 1 - Research Retrieval	Class 3	20%
Assignment 2 – A Short Reflective Essay – in class	Class 4	20%
Assignment 3 – A Short Research Essay	Class 5	20%
Journal Responses	Daily	15%

Please note that all homework and assignments are due at the beginning of each class.

Grading:

Grades for each component will be added together at the end of the semester. The final total will be translated to the Columbia College's 4.0 grading scale as follows:

Marking and Grading Conversion:

Description	Letter Grade	Grade Points	Percenta	nge Scale
	A+	4.0	100	95
Excellent	А	4.0	94	90
	A-	3.7	89	85
	B+	3.3	84	80
Good	В	3.0	79	75
	B-	2.7	74	70
	C+	2.3	69	65
Satisfactory	С	2.0	64	60
	C-	1.7	59	55
Poor	D	1.0	54	50
Failure	F	0.0	49	0

Please note that Columbia College students who are provisionally admitted to one of our professional programs are required to achieve a minimum grade of 75% or B.

Submission and Completion of Assignments:

You are expected to submit assignments by the due date. Any late assignments may be assessed a marking penalty of 5%. If you are unable to submit an assignment on the due date, you must request an extension **before** the due date by filling out an *Application for Assignment Extension form (SSPP-F012)* that is to be submitted to the Department Chair for approval. This form is available on Columbia's website, Bldg. 802 – Main Office and from Department Chairs.

Requesting an Examination Deferral:

If you are requesting an exam to be deferred, you must submit an Application for *Deferred Examinations* form (SSPP-F012) to the Department Chair within 48 hours of the missed examination date and time. Applications for deferred examinations will only be considered due to medical or personal emergency. A medical certificate or other appropriate documentation may be required. This form is available on Columbia's website, Bldg. 802-Main Office and from Department Chairs.

Attendance Requirements:

Columbia College believes that student are committed to their program and learning experiences. However, it is understood that there are times when students may be absent. Any absences can be viewed as a potentially serious disruption of the learning process and necessary achievement of the learning objectives. Being late is also considered unacceptable as it interferes with the learning opportunities of others. Unavoidable absences or lateness must be reported to the course facilitator in advance. Please refer to Columbia College's *Attendance Policy and Regulations (ADM-P151)* for detailed information on Attendance Requirements.

Academic Integrity:

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from Columbia College.

There is no tolerance for academic dishonesty and any student caught plagiarizing is subject to serious sanctions as outlined in the *Student Code of Conduct Policy (ADM-P229)*. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with this policy and avoid any behavior that could possibly be seen as cheating, plagiarizing, misrepresenting, or putting into question the integrity of one's academic work.

Student Conduct:

It is the responsibility of each student to uphold the expectations and responsibilities outlined in the *Student Code of Conduct Policy (ADM-P229)* and any additional requirements established by your program.

Generally, each student will:

- be respectful and courteous toward others;
- demonstrate appropriate and supportive communication skills, and coach, assist, advise and otherwise support other students in their studies;
- manage any personal stress and conflict in a positive and resourceful manner, and assist others to do the same:
- be dressed in a manner appropriate for their workplace or learning environment, as established by the program;
- conduct themselves in a professional manner with regard to their communication with others and their behavior in class:

- conduct themselves with academic integrity in all of their learning activities, tests, exams, and assignments
- keep up with day-to-day classroom and course expectations.

Important Dates:

Description	Date
Last to add/drop courses	5 school operating days from the start of the semester OR before the third scheduled class, whichever is greater
Last day to withdraw without academic penalty	50% or less of the semester has been completed
Final Examination	A final exam may take many formats. If a final exam is scheduled, it will be taken in an assigned room under the supervision of a Test Proctor. Students must be on time as they will not be permitted to enter once the exam has started. Exam dates, times, and location are posted by the main office Bldg. 802 and by the library in Bldg. 4. It is the student's responsibility to check this exam posting.

Appeals:

Please refer to the Student Appeal Policy (ADM-P177).

Students with Temporary or Permanent Disabilities:

Students with temporary or permanent disabilities may apply for accommodations. To be considered for an accommodation, a student must register with Columbia College's Disability Services by making an appointment with a Disability Services Advisor – Main Office – Bldg. 802 or emailing disabilityservices@columbia.ab.ca. The Department Chair or facilitator is not able to provide you with any accommodations without you taking this step. Please refer to Columbia College's website to review the Accommodation Policy and Handbook (ADM-P188).

Student Support:

Students should be aware that Life Coaching, Career and Disability Services, and Student Support Services (i.e. tutoring, academic strategists, etc.) are provided by Columbia College. Inquire how to request these services at the Main Office in building 802. It is the student's responsibility to discuss their specific learning needs with the appropriate service provider.

Class Schedule/Overview:

Please note that this schedule is subject to change. Any changes or cancellations will be emailed to you. It is your responsibility to check the email address you have given to the school on a daily basis for any messages from the Department Chair/designate, facilitator or College Administration. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the information contained in the Course Outline and to clarify any areas of concern with the facilitator.

Class Session	Topics	Pre-Class Readings
1	 Chapter 1 Quiz (Thinking) Critical thinking – What is it? Why is it important? Review of Course Outline SQ3R Strategies for Reading Thinking Critically as a Writer Grammar Diagnostic Part 1 Assignment #1 assigned – due class 3 	 Read the Preface and Chapter 1 in <i>Thinking</i> Read Chapter 1 in <i>Steps to Writing Well</i> Read p. xxvii – xxxiii in <i>Steps to Writing Well</i> Email journal response to facilitator
2	 Chapter 2 Quiz (Thinking) Personal Barriers – 3 questions and discussion The Thesis Paraphrasing Articles vs. Summarizing Articles Writing Clear Sentences Review the writing process: The Paragraph: structure, topic, controlling idea and supporting details Introduction to a Reflective Paper Mastering Term Papers and Reports Grammar Diagnostic Part 2 	 Read the chapter "Personal Barriers" p. 14 in <i>Thinking</i> Prepare 3 questions in chapter to submit to facilitator Read Chapter 2 in Steps to Writing Well Read p. 377 in <i>Steps to Writing Well</i> Email journal response to facilitator Grammar as assigned by facilitator
3	 Assignment 1 is due Chapter 3 Quiz (Thinking) Sensing – 3 questions and discussion Doing Research – using ProQuest, Gale Research Paper Outlining your paper Avoiding plagiarism Review Assignment #2 Outlines Assignment #3 – assigned for Class 5 	 Read the chapter Sensing p. 53 Thinking – for Quiz Prepare 3 questions on chapter to submit to facilitator Read Chapter 14 – Writing a Paper Using Research in Steps to Writing Well Prepare an outline of Assignment #2 Complete Assignment #1 Email journal response to facilitator Grammar as assigned by facilitator

Class Session	Topics	Pre-Class Readings
4	 Assignment #2 in-class writing is due Chapter 4 Quiz (Steps to Writing Well) Beginnings & Endings – 3 questions and discussion Errors with Verbs How to create a term paper (lab) Review outline for Assignment 3 	 Read the chapter Beginnings and Endings p.78 Steps to Writing Well and prepare for quiz Prepare 3 questions from the chapter that will submit to your facilitator for class discussion Prepare outline for Assignment 3 Email journal response to facilitator Grammar as assigned by facilitator
5	 Assignment 3 is due Chapter 3 Quiz (Steps to Writing Well) The Body Paragraphs – 3 questions and discussion Errors with Nouns Preparing for Reading and Writing assessments 	 Read the chapter The Body Paragraphs p. 46 Steps to Writing Well and prepare for quiz Prepare 3 questions from the chapter that you will submit to your facilitator for class discussion Complete Assignment #3 Email journal response to facilitator Grammar as assigned by facilitator

Appendix 1 Assignment Outlines

ASSIGNMENTS – All assignments must be completed and handed in order to meet the requirements of English 114. All assignments are to be typed according to APA format. You may be required to send your completed assignments by email to the facilitator. This is a common practice in many professional programs.

Please note that should there be any evidence of <u>plagiarism</u>, you will be assigned a mark of "0." As we are here to help you to learn how not to plagiarize, you may be given the opportunity to rewrite the paper until you can see how a paper looks that does not contain plagiarism. Your mark will be an average of the marks attained throughout the efforts to rewrite the paper without calculating in the "0." The facilitator will determine how many times an individual must write the paper in order to score an acceptable grade above "0."

Student Preparation and Engagement Value 5%

An important component of success in a post-secondary environment and in the work world is the ability to demonstrate active participation or engagement in what one is doing. You will be evaluated on how well you participate and are engaged, whether you come to class on time and remain in class for the entire time, have done your reading and homework as assigned etc. Please review the rubric that is attached to this syllabus.

Journal Responses Value 15% Due: Daily

Your facilitator will ask you to respond in writing to a specific topic. You will complete this work at home and email your response to your facilitator 24 hours prior to the beginning of the next class. Please review the Reflective Writing rubic that is attached to this syllabus to learn about this area of evaluation.

Assignment #1 – Research Retrieval Value: 20%

Due: Class 3

You are to do the following:

- 1. Read the chapter "Personal Barriers" pg. 14 in *Thinking*, and annotate the chapter.
- Using Proquest and or Gale, locate a minimum of 2 articles related to your personal awareness topic. Make a copy of each article. Append the articles to your paper. If you are emailing your copies, then attach the articles as pdf copies.
- Select a section in each on your articles and the "Personal Barriers" chapter that is at least 100 words long. Write a paraphrase and summary of each. (You will complete 3 paraphrases and 3 summaries in total).
- 4. Create an APA Resource page correctly citing the chapter from *Thinking* and your articles.

Remember to use your APA handout which is also downloadable on the Columbia College website.

Assignment #2 – A Short Reflective Essay - A Focus on my Personal Awareness Due: In-Class Assignment (Completed in Class 4)

Value: 20 %

- Prepare an outline for your essay and bring it to Class 3.
- Bring your outline and 2 reference articles to Class 4 in preparation for writing your in class paper.

Write a reflective essay of 500 words that analyzes and demonstrates your own personal awareness in light of what has been presented in the text *Thinking, Personal Barriers*. Choose a minimum of two things to discuss. Be sure to refer to the text. What new personal awareness has come to light for you after reading this chapter in the text? Research your topic of personal awareness and **reference 2 articles** that you located through ProQuest and/or Gale that support your reflections. These must be attached to your essay when you hand it in to your facilitator.

Assignment #3 - A Short Research Essay

Due: Class 5 Value: 20%

Prepare an outline for Class 4.

Write a short research essay of 750 words (not including the title or reference page) that demonstrates your understanding of one aspect of the topic: Education Today. You must refer to a minimum of 3 research articles you located on ProQuest or Gale to support your thesis. APA format is expected.

Appendix 2 Assignment Rubrics

Columbia College Research Retrieval Rubric Last Revised: June 2014

Student's Name		Course Code Date		Facilitator/Evaluator's Name		
		5-4	3-2	1	0	
Summary	obje vers and auth • Is c	ch summary is an ective, condensed sion of the original contains all of the nor's main ideas. learly labeled as to cle it summarizes.	Each summary is objective but does not contain all the main ideas OR contains the main ideas but is not condensed. Is clearly labeled as to article it summarizes.	 One or all of the summaries are not objective. Main ideas are missing. Summary contains mostly directly quoted material from original. May not be clear as to which article it summarizes. 	No evidence of any summaries.	
Paraphrase	stud and of th includeta • Eac	ormation is in dent's own words of follows the order ne original texts, uding important ails.	 Information is in student's own words but either the order or the details are not consistent with original text. Each is clearly labeled as to article it 	 Information is mostly copied from original. Does not follow order of original. Does not include significant details. May not be clear as to which article it paraphrases. 	No evidence of any paraphrases	

paraphrases.

paraphrases.

	5	4-3	2	1	0
APA	 Both articles from ProQuest or Gale are appended to assignment and the section of <i>Thinking</i> is clearly referenced All articles are thoughtfully related to the topic. APA Resource page is correctly formatted. All citations follow the APA guidelines. 	 Both articles are appended, but may not all be from ProQuest or Gale. Articles are generally related to the topic. APA Resource page formatting is mostly correct and citations generally follow the APA guidelines, though there may be a few errors. 	 Only 2 articles are appended and may not be from ProQuest or Gale. Articles may not be related to the topic. APA Resource page contains many formatting and citation errors. 	 Articles are appended but there is no Resource page. Resources are listed but articles not appended. Not all articles are from ProQuest or Gale. 	 No articles are appended. No APA citations are provided

Total out of 15:

Comments:

Columbia College General Essay Rubric Revised Sept. 2011

Student's Na	me	Course Code	Date	Fa	cilitator/Evaluator's Na	me
	Α	В	С	D	F	Score
	5	4	3	2.5	2.4-0	
Focus of Essay & Thesis	 Well written thesis statement that states the main point of the essay. The thesis statement reflects a clear opinion on the subject. 	 Thesis statement states the main point of the essay. The thesis statement reflects an opinion on the subject. 	 Thesis statement requires more development. The thesis statement is not clear in demonstrating the opinion of the writer. 	Thesis statement does not quite meet the requirements to be effective. The thesis statement is confusing and unclear in terms of the opinion of the writer.	 There is no thesis statement. There is no opinion stated or the opinion stated is unrelated to the essay assignment. 	
	10	9-8	7-6	5	4-0	
Content Ideas & Analysis	 Displays extensive indepth knowledge of the topic. Comprehends deeper meaning and relevance of topic. Conveys insightful, original points of view. Critically synthesizes and evaluates information. Clearly supports statements made with evidence and examples. 	 Displays good knowledge of the topic. Conveys some original points of view. Comprehends meaning and relevance of topic. Demonstrates careful analysis, synthesis and evaluation of information. Clearly supports most statements with evidence and examples. 	 Displays adequate knowledge of the topic. Requires further exploration. Demonstrates some analysis, synthesis and evaluation of information. Supports some statements with evidence and examples. 	 Displays limited basic knowledge of the topic. Explores topic inadequately, leaving areas unexplored. Displays limited analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of information. Most statements are unsupported. 	 Unable to display relevant understanding of the topic. No evidence of new knowledge. Critical thinking not evident. No evidence or examples are provided to support statements. 	

	Α	В	С	D	F	Score
	10	9-8	7-6	5	4-0	
Style Expression of Ideas	 Conveys all ideas with originality and clarity. Shows sophisticated development of paragraph and sentence structure, with effective transitions within and between paragraphs. Uses rich, accurate and effective word choice. 	 Conveys most ideas with originality and clarity. In most cases shows well developed paragraph and sentence structure with effective transitions within and between paragraphs. Uses accurate and effective word choice. 	 Conveys some ideas clearly. Shows some paragraph development and at times, awkward sentence structure. At times uses vague, ineffective word choice. 	 Conveys few ideas clearly. Paragraph and sentence structure is often faulty. Uses vague, ineffective word choice throughout the essay. 	 Most ideas are not conveyed clearly. Paragraphs lack focus and appropriate structure; sentence structures are simplistic, lacking development. Inadequate word choice. 	
Organization and Structure	 Presents information in a consistently logical structure. Skillfully shapes introduction and conclusion. 	 Presents information in a logical structure. Carefully constructed introduction and conclusion. 	 Presents some of the information in a logical structure. Introduction and conclusion require further development. 	 Presents information in a random manner, lacking in logical structure. Introduction and conclusion require redrafting. 	 Presents poor overall organization, lacking logical structure. Essay does not have an introduction and conclusion. 	
	5	4	3	2.5	2.4-0	
Mechanics, Grammar, Professional Format	 Mainly error free. Uses APA citation correctly. Meets and exceeds all requirements for an excellent academic response. Meets and exceeds all requirements of the assignment. 	 A few minor errors in usage, grammar, or mechanics. Generally uses APA citation correctly. Meets requirements for a well written academic response. Meets requirements of the assignment. 	Some errors in usage, grammar, and mechanics, beginning to interfere with the readability and meaning of the paper. Uses APA citation inconsistently and with some errors. Meets some requirements for an academic response. Meets some of the requirements of the assignment.	 Frequent errors in usage, grammar, and mechanics, interfering with the readability and meaning of the paper. Use of APA citation contains many errors. Meets a few requirements for an academic response. Meets few requirements of the question. 	 Numerous errors in usage, grammar, and mechanics, affecting the readability and meaning of the paper. Many errors in APA citation, demonstrating lack of citation knowledge. Does not meet any requirements for an academic response. Does not meet any requirements of the question. 	

Plagiarism: A "0" grade will be given to a paper where significant sections of the paper were copied from other, unattributed sources.

Total Score out of 50:

Facilitator/Evaluator's Comments:

Columbia College Reflective Writing Rubric Last Revised: March 2014

Student's Nam	е	Course Code	Date	Facilitato	or/Evaluator's Name
Skills	5	4	3	2	1
Depth of Reflection	 Reflection reveals a thorough insight of the subject matter with the student digging deeply to present well though- out reflections. 	Reflection reveals insight into the subject matter. Often there are thoughtful statements.	Reflection reveals a basic understanding of the subject matter with an effort at reflection. At times, reflective statements are evident.	Reflection is limited. The writer produces some basic understanding of the subject matter.	Little to no reflection is present.
Use of Examples / Evidence	Uses specific and convincing examples to support reflective statements.	Uses well-chosen examples to support reflective statements. A more convincing presentation would strengthen the response.	Uses some examples to support understanding of the subject matter and reflections.	Uses limited number of examples to support understanding of the subject matter. This seriously affects the integrity of the reflection process.	Uses little to no examples.
Cohesiveness of Response	This reflection provides a clear picture of the student's thinking on this subject matter. Thoughts are presented in a good logical, convincing order.	This reflection gives a good understanding of the student's thinking on this subject matter. Thoughts are usually presented in a clear and logical way.	Most of the time this reflection provides an acceptable indication of the student's thinking on this subject matter. Most of the time thoughts are presented in a sequential manner.	This attempted reflection does not provide a clear picture of the student's thinking on this subject matter. Thoughts are often presented in an inconsistent and illogical order.	This response is confusing and ideas do not tie together.

Skills	5	4	3	2	1
Conventions	Demonstrates control of the writing conventions with essentially no errors.	Demonstrates control of the writing conventions with occasional errors.	Demonstrates some control of the writing conventions with errors that do not yet interfere with understanding.	Demonstrates limited control of the writing conventions with frequent errors that make understanding difficult.	Demonstrates little or no control of the writing conventions with errors that make understanding almost impossible.

Total out of 20:

Comments:

Approval:

Lucy Dooling	June 19, 2014
Program Chair's Signature	Date
Lucy Droly	June 19, 2014
Vice-President's, Academic Signature	Date
	June 19, 2014
Registrar's Signature	Date