Essex County College  
Bilingual Studies Department  

ESL 095 ESL Writing and Communication (6 credits)

Course Description (ESL095): This is an intermediate ESL writing course designed for students whose first language is not English. Through extensive reading and writing activities, students will learn to read and write English with greater confidence and ease. In this course, students will read authentic and unedited works of popular fiction and non-fiction in English. By reading, discussing, and writing about what they read, students will enhance their vocabulary and comprehension of written English. Students will also learn to produce fluent, coherent, logical, and academic prose, as they write about topics and books read in class. Grammar will be explained in the context of student writings in an effort to clarify meaning. This course is conducted in English. Prerequisite: Placement through the Bilingual Placement Exam. Co-require: ESL 095 T

Required Books:  
Achieving Fluency in English (A Whole Language Approach)  
Fourth Edition: by Adele MacGowan Gilhooly  
Beyond True Stories by Sandra Heyer  
Like Water for Chocolate by Laura Esquivel

Required Materials:

- A three-ring binder with loose leaf paper for note taking and writing assignments
- Five file organizer/dividers for the 3-ring binder with these labels: ESL 095 Syllabus (for the course syllabus and the ESL Writing Rubric), Grammar and other notes (for in-class grammar explanations and a copy of the Editing Symbols page) Vocabulary list (for collecting new vocabulary items found in reading assignments or discussed in class), Writing Journal for free writings and double-entry journal (DEJ), and Portfolio for all writing drafts and printed final drafts
- Pens (erasable ink pens suggested), pencils, erasers, and anything else students need for writing
- One CD-RW disk, or USB flash memory drive for saving word processed documents done on a computer
- Set of earphones to use in the computer lab to hear recoded listening exercises
- English language dictionary (a bilingual dictionary does not meet the English language dictionary requirement.

Course Writing Activities:

1. Each week, students are assigned readings. From these readings and class discussions on the readings, students are given topics for in-class writing assignments.
2. **Writing Journal:** Every reading assignment must be accompanied by an entry in the student’s Double-Entry Journal (DEJ) which should include passages from the reading assignments and the student's opinions, feelings, and ideas. Students are encouraged to do *free-writing exercises* everyday and keep these *free-writing exercises* in the **Writing Journal** section of the three-ring binder.

3. **Computer laboratory:** Students will be taken to the Multimedia Language Resource Center (Room 1105) to use the computers for word processing final drafts of writing assignments. Students will get instructions in how to use the various computer-assisted language learning (CALL) software applications such as *Focus on Grammar* and *Easy Writer*. In addition, students will get a demonstration in the use of *UltraKey Keyboard TypingTutor* and *Microsoft Word*. Students are required to purchase a media storage device such as a CD-RW disk (1x – 4x recommended speed) or a USB flash drive. In order to use the and listening exercises in *Focus on Grammar*, students need to bring a set of earphones (standard 3.5 mm plug used for MP3 players) which can be plugged into a computer station.

4. **Course Writing Portfolio Project:** Each week, students will write in-class compositions on topics based on discussions in class and reading assignments. The composition will be scored by the instructor based on the criteria taken from the **ESL Writing Rubric**. Students will keep copies of first and final drafts in their three-ring binder. The final drafts of composition must be word processed and printed. Near the end of the semester, each student will submit a writing project that includes writing that the student has written, revised, and edited during the semester.

5. **Student Writing Log:** Students will maintain a record of writing assignments and scores on the **Student Writing Log**. The instructor will also keep a record for each student. On the back of the writing log, there is a list of steps for recording writing assignments and scores for each assignment. All final drafts must be prepared using word processing on a computer. This writing log must be included with the **Course Writing Portfolio Project**.

6. **Mid-Term and Final Exam:** There will be two in-class composition exams, at the middle and the end of the semester which are counted to evaluate each student’s writing progress. These are departmental exams and they will be read and graded by two instructors in the Bilingual Studies Department.

7. **Reading Quizzes and Exams:** We will have occasional quizzes and in-class writing exercises to ensure that students are reading and comprehending reading assignments.

8. **Homework:** These assignments will include reading and writing. Students are expected to be prepared for class discussions and group work activities which are based on these assignments. If a student should be absent for any reason, he or she is expected to have completed all homework assignments for the next class meeting. Students are encouraged to share phone numbers with three other students of their choice. This sharing will enable a student who is absent to contact a classmate to discuss class work and homework assignments. The instructor will check homework on a daily basis, and lack of homework could seriously affect a student’s grade.

9. **Class Participation:** All students must attend and participate in all class activities. Extensive absences will result in failing the class.
10. **Attendance Policy:** Class attendance is very important. If a student is absent for more then 10% (six class sessions), he or she may be in jeopardy of not passing this course, or may receive a lower grade.

11. **Grading System:**

   - 25% Final Exam
   - 25% Course Writing Portfolio Project
   - 15% Writing Journal
   - 15% Quizzes, Tests
   - 10% Homework/Class Participation
   - 10% Class attendance

12. **Class Rules:**

   - Coming in late to class is very disruptive. If a student should come late because of an emergency, he or she should enter the room quietly; some seats near the door will be reserved for this situation. Being late three times equals one absence.

   - Once class begins, English is the only language to be spoken.

   - Because our classes are large, a lot of work will be done in groups. All students must cooperate to ensure that we use these group situations wisely, and that all discussions within these groups are in English.

   - All cell phones must be turned off during class time.
Weekly Schedule
(Maybe subject to change during the semester)

**Week 1**: Diagnostic writing sample; course orientation in Fluency First approach, computer laboratory orientation and student email address (MyECC); and getting to know each other

**Weeks 2 and 3**: *Achieving Fluency in English (ACE)* Chapters __: *Beyond True Stories* Unit 1: Longevity. First in-class writing; **in-class composition #1**

Week 4: *ACE* Chapters__: *Beyond True Stories* Unit 2: Finding Work This Is Right for You; **in-class composition #2**

Week 5: *ACE* Chapters__: *Beyond True Stories* Unit 3: Geeks; **in-class composition #3**

Week 6: *ACE* Chapters__: *Beyond True Stories* Unit 4: Finding the Right Person to Marry; **in-class composition #4**

Week 7: *ACE* Chapters__: *Beyond True Stories* Unit 5: Intuition; midterm in-class writing

Week 8: *ACE* Chapters__: *Like Water for Chocolate* introduction and overview of novel; **in-class composition #5**

Week 9: *Like Water for Chocolate*; **in-class composition #6**

Week 10: *Like Water for Chocolate*; **in-class composition #7**

Week 11: *Like Water for Chocolate*; **in-class composition #8**

Week 12: *Like Water for Chocolate*; **in-class composition #9**

Week 13: *Like Water for Chocolate*; **in-class composition #10**

Week 14: *Like Water for Chocolate*; **in-class composition #11**

Week 15: Final in-class writing exam