

# **ESL 273/437 Introduction to Essay Writing**

**Fall 2024**

**Course ID:** 02556/26745

**Class meeting:** Tues/Thurs 6:30 – 8:20 pm

**Classroom:** online

**Term Duration:** 09/23/24 – 12/13/24

**Instructor:** Lynh Nguyen

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**Office Hour:** T/Th 6:00 pm

**Phone:** 408-838-9906

**Course Description** ESL 273 (credit)/473 (noncredit) is an advanced-level course for students whose native language is not English. In the course, you will be introduced to the principles of the essay so that you can be prepared for college-level writing.

**Course Pre-requisite:** ESL 261 and ESL 265 (or ESL 461 and ESL 465) with a grade of C or better; or a qualifying score on the English as a Second Language Placement Test.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** When you complete this course, you will be able to:

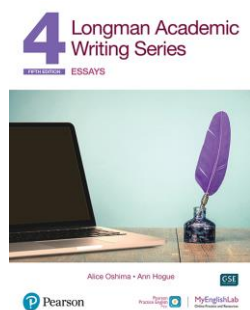
1. Write well-developed essays that analyze and synthesize main ideas and differing viewpoints from a variety of academic reading materials.
2. Demonstrate advanced grammar, sentence structure, and vocabulary in writing.
3. Evaluate own writing for rhetorical structure and clarity by means of revision and editing

**Course Objectives:**

- Read, comprehend and analyze texts from a variety of cultural, societal and personal perspectives.
- Write expository essays, each about 1000-1250 words in length, on a variety of academic topics in response to texts that demonstrate critical thinking and support ideas with evidence
- Develop writing process skills including brainstorming, outlining, revising and editing of own and peers' writing.
- Demonstrate strong competence in using advanced sentence structure, grammar, vocabulary, spelling, punctuation, and other mechanics.
- Employ basic MLA citation and format style.

**Required Text:**

- I'll provide the reading materials for this course
- Longman Academic Writing Series 4, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition
- An English ONLY dictionary



**GRADING CRITERIA:**

Grading Criteria	
Essay 1	15%
Essay 2	15%
Essay 3	20%
Essay 4	20%
Reflective essay	15%
HW/Quiz	10%
WRC tutoring	5%

Grading Scale	
100 – 90	A
89 – 80	B
79 – 70	C
69 – 60	D
59 – 50	F

**Course Content**

- Homework: You will have various homework assignments. Be sure to do all your homework carefully. Because this is a 4-unit class, you will need about 8-12 hours each week to do homework.
  - All assignments must be submitted on Canvas by the due date and time.
- Essays: You will write four expository essays. In addition to the expository essays, you will also write one reflective essay at the end of the quarter, which will be included in your portfolio (see below).
  - Note: Late assignments will not be accepted. Make sure to submit your assignments by the due dates!
- Portfolio: Instead of taking a final exam, you must submit a portfolio of your work. In order to pass the class, you must pass the course with a C or better AND pass the portfolio.
  - Portfolio is due on Tuesday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> before 6:30 PM.

**Writing and Reading Center (WRC):** You are required to work with a tutor in the WRC for five hours over the quarter (10 thirty-minute sessions or 5 one-hour sessions). A tutor can help you with your essays, reading assignments, and grammar. You can sign up for a weekly tutor or you can drop-in during open hours to get help. Of course, you can meet with a tutor for more than five hours, and this is strongly encouraged! You can meet with a tutor online via Zoom or in-person on campus.

<http://deanza.edu/studentsuccess/servicesupdate.html>

If you cannot go to the WRC, you may also work with a tutor on Smarthinking or NetTutor. Both can be accessed on Canvas (left margin of Home page). For Smarthinking, you just submit your work and get written feedback. Each submission/feedback will count for 20 minutes. For NetTutor, you can have live sessions.

To record your hours, make sure to take a screenshot of your sessions or provide other written proof of your sessions. Your screenshots/proof must include the date, time, and duration of the session as well as your name/picture and the tutor's name/picture. Submissions are due in Week 11.

**Attendance:** Since this is an online class, class participation is given when you participate in discussion questions/topics throughout the quarter. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to contact a classmate to find out what you missed and to get homework assignments or check with the week's module for recording of the lesson.

**If you decide to withdraw from the course, please let me know AND drop the course, so you do not get a failing grade.**

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** You must do your own work! The goal of this class is to build your writing skills so you can become a better writer. Do NOT:

- Use any AI technology, e.g. ChatGPT, Google Translate, Grammarly, etc.
- Copy from another student's homework, quiz, exam or any other material.
- Have someone else do your assignment and submit it as your own.
- Submit homework or essays that you've done for another class.
- Get too much "help" from someone on an assignment where the work no longer looks like your own.
- Copy any amount of material from a published source (e.g. the Internet, books, magazines) without citing the source.

Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing may receive an automatic 0 for the assignment and may be dropped from the course and/or reported to the Office of Student Development. Students who help someone else cheat in any way may also receive an automatic 0 and be reported. If reported, the incident may remain as part of your permanent college record. Go to De Anza College's Academic Integrity for more information.

**Online Classroom Environment:** Please be kind and respectful to everyone! Let's help each other learn in a fun and positive way!

**Office Hours:** Most successful students see their teachers outside their class to ask questions or get extra help on their assignments. I strongly encourage you to visit me during my Zoom office hours. If you're having any difficulty, come see me early in the quarter.

#### **USEFUL CLASSES AND ON-CAMPUS SUPPORT SERVICES**

1. Take ESL 274/474 Grammar and Proofreading for Academic Writing to improve your grammar or ESL 260 Accent Reduction to improve your pronunciation.
2. Sign up for free English Conversation Workshops, tutoring, and Cross-Cultural Partners (CCP) Program, and use computers in the Listening and Speaking Center (LSC)
3. Get help with reading and writing homework at the Writing and Reading Center (WRC)
4. Free online tutoring service Smarthinking and NetTutor (Writing and Paper Center) in Canvas.
5. Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a physical or learning disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs and apply for the Disability Support Services (DSS) for support.
6. Guide to De Anza College's Student Services

#### **Recommended ESL Resources - Online Resources**

1. [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/purdue\\_owl.htm](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.htm) A very popular and useful academic writing resource from Purdue University.
2. <https://writingcenter.gmu.edu/writing-resources/writing-center-quick-guides> Another excellent resource for academic writing and grammar, from George Mason University.
3. <http://a4esl.org> - Activities for ESL Students English grammar, vocabulary, and crossword puzzles.
4. [www.eslcafe.com](http://www.eslcafe.com) - Dave's ESL Café Grammar lessons, idioms, phrasal verbs, and slang.
5. <http://Englishpage.com> English grammar and vocabulary exercises.
6. [www.manythings.org/e/](http://www.manythings.org/e/) - Interesting Things for ESL Students Many activities to improve all English skills, including spelling and crossword puzzles.
7. [www.vocabulary.com](http://www.vocabulary.com) 185 lists of words categorized according to topics
8. [npr.org](http://npr.org) (or any news organizations) Learn about current world events and improve your reading and listening skills.

**Dictionaries** (Do not use a translation dictionary in class or for homework.)

1. Longman Advanced American Dictionary An excellent dictionary for English language learners. Use this dictionary for homework and other assignments. The app costs money, so use the website. It has a thesaurus (a dictionary of synonyms) toward the bottom of each entry.
2. Newbury House Dictionary of American Dictionary This dictionary is also for English language learners and also has a thesaurus.
3. Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary and Thesaurus A very popular advanced dictionary for native speakers. I recommend that you download the app (free) to your phone or tablet.
4. Merriam Webster Learners Dictionary This is an easier version of Merriam Webster for English language learners