Course Internet Links

Blackboard CE: Login through MyLangara or at https://pacman.langara.bc.ca/webct/logon/66224283001
Adobe Acrobat Connect Class Meeting: Login as a guest (use your first and last name) at https://present.bccampus.ca/rubeli1127vancouver/
Rubeli’s Virtual Office: Login as a guest (use your first and last name) at https://present.bccampus.ca/drubeli/
Langara Library Writing Toolkit: I recommend this useful compilation of links and resources: http://www.langara.bc.ca/library/reshelp/tempguides/writing_tool_kit.html
Langara Writing Centre: Free tutoring and workshops for all students: http://www.langara.bc.ca/writingcentre

Course Description
This course emphasizes the principles of composition through the study and writing of various kinds of essays, including the research essay. As a secondary aim, it encourages an appreciation of modern literature through a study of the short story.

Course Learning Objectives
At the end of the course, the successful student will be able to:

• analyze short fiction
• think critically about fiction and nonfiction texts
• write clear and correct sentences and paragraphs
• write essays that demonstrate an awareness of audience and the importance of both content and format
• draft, revise, format, and document an academic essay

Student Learning Outcomes
In addition to the generic course learning objectives, at the end of the English 1127, students should be able to:

• read, annotate, interpret, integrate, and evaluate challenging non-fiction and fictional texts
• invent, plan, draft, revise and copyedit complex essays and other genres of academic writing
• apply principles of information literacy when planning and conducting research

Textbooks (Available at the Langara College Bookstore and on reserve in the Library)
4. Select ONE of the following handbooks depending on your discipline:


Assignments
1. City of Glass Essay – 15%
2. Vancouver Research Essay – 20%
3. Vancouver Story Literary Insight Essay – 20%
4. Vancouver Fiction presentation and summary – 10%
5. Vancouver Research Article presentation and summary – 10%
6. Final Exam – 25%

Minimum Passing Requirements
To pass English 1127, you must
• complete all the assignments,
• write at least one research paper (by researching, synthesizing, citing, documenting and integrating ideas from 3-5 authoritative academic sources into one of your essays)
• write the final examination
• earn an overall final grade of C- or higher.

Essay Topics
The City of Glass Essay. “What’s the deal with…[something, someone or someplace associated with (Metro) Vancouver]?” On the back cover of *City of Glass*, Douglas Copeland explains what motivates people to ask him questions about Vancouver: “People want to know what Vancouver feels like to someone who lives here – from the inside out.” Copeland goes on to position himself as a tour guide who loves Vancouver and to the essays that comprise the book as his personal take on important things, places, and groups associated with Vancouver. Your task is to write an essay that could be added to *City of Glass*.

The essay must:
• aim to help people “know what Vancouver feels like to someone who lives here – from the inside out”;
• clearly convey your “take” (aka…your viewpoint, your thesis, your comment) on specific entity, place, or group in or around Vancouver **not included** as an entry in *City of Glass*
• **respond to a specific point** that Coupland makes in *City of Glass* (“Coupland Says…/You Say…”)
• comprise **at least three well-developed paragraphs** of text (300-400 words, 1-2 pages of text)
• incorporate **at least one photograph** (preferably taken by you) of the subject you write about
• be carefully revised and edited

**Mandatory First Draft** for peer review: 14 January  
**Mandatory Revision Draft** for peer review: 21 January  
**Submission Deadline**: No later than 11:59 PM, Thursday, 29 January

2. **Vancouver Research Paper.** The purpose of this assignment is to for you join an ongoing academic conversation about an issue, phenomenon or situation in Metro Vancouver or British Columbia more widely. You must identify a specific topic that interests you, synthesize relevant academic research, public policy documents (if applicable), and media coverage (if applicable) about your topic, and write a research paper that evaluates current knowledge on the topic and recommends specific actions for the future.  
**Mandatory First Draft** for peer review: 11 February  
**Mandatory Revision Draft** for peer review: 18 February  
**Deadline**: No later than 11:59 PM, Thursday, 26 February

**Essay 3. Literary Insight Paper.** Your task is to offer a literary analysis that compares two of the stories from *The Vancouver Stories*  
• You must compare one story or except that we discuss together in class and a second story from the anthology that you read and analyze independently. **You cannot compare two stories that we discussed in class.**  
**Mandatory First Draft** for peer review: 11 March  
**Mandatory Revision Draft** for peer review: 18 March  
**Deadline**: No later than 11:59 PM, Thursday, 26 March

**Tentative Syllabus (subject to revision)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week #/of</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/5 Jan</td>
<td><em>TS/IS</em>: Introduction – Entering the Conversation; One – “They Say”: Starting with What Others Are Saying &amp; Entering Classroom Discussions: A Brief Appendix (1-27; 133-135)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2/12 Jan | *TS/IS*: Two – “Her Point Is”: The Art of Summarizing and Three – “As He Himself Puts It”: The Art of Quoting (28-47)  
*Coupland, City of Glass* |
| 3/19 Jan | *TS/IS*: Four – “Yes/No/Okay, But”: Three Ways to Respond and Five – “And Yet”: Distinguishing What You Say from What They Say (51-73)  
| 5/2 Feb  | *TS/IS*: Eight – “As a Result”: Connecting the Parts, Nine – “Ain’t so/ Is Not”: Academic Writing Doesn’t Mean Setting Aside Your Own Voice, & Ten – “In Other Words”: The Art of Metacommentary (101-132) |
## Grading and Assessment Philosophy

When grading and assessing your work, I prefer to think qualitatively. This preference means you will receive feedback on how well you have achieved learning outcomes and how you might improve in the future.
improve your performance in the future. I aim to give you feedback that will help you improve your communication and thinking skills. Because I understand the importance of knowing how well you are doing in the course, I intend to use WebCT grading forms, gradebook, written comments, and verbal commentary (in the form of .mp3 files) to comment on your work so you can know how you are doing as the course progresses.

On each of the assignments, you can expect to receive qualitative feedback keyed to specific learning objectives and the five major categories of performance mandated by the Registrar’s Office. (See the table below.) Typically, I will evaluate your work against criteria and rate it on a five-point scale:

0. Unsatisfactory
1. Marginal (Avg = 1.17)
2. Satisfactory (Avg = 2.17)
3. Above Average (Avg = 3)
4. Distinguished (Avg = 4)

When necessary, I will use the above numeral values to calculate scores on assignments but I will translate these scores into letter grades using the conversion values below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of Performance</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Distinguished Achievement</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.33</td>
<td>Consistently distinguished accomplishment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Consistently distinguished accomplishment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>Consistent mastery of the subject matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Consistent mastery of the subject matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>Consistent mastery of the subject matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory Achievement</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>Sufficient comprehension of the subject matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sufficient comprehension of the subject matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marginal Performance</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td>Completion with below average achievement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Completion with below average achievement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsatisfactory Performance</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Completion without demonstration of sufficient knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cheating or Plagiarism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No credit</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Ceased to attend or participate in the course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Failed to write the final exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General Assignment Submission Guidelines**

1. **Blackboard CE Assignment Dropbox.** You must submit your assignments online (unless I announce otherwise) using the Assignment Dropbox on the course Blackboard CE website. Submitting online assignments on time is essential because there is a specific window when the assignment will be accepted without penalty. Once that window has closed, you will not be able to submit the assignment without penalty, and it will be considered late.

2. **File type.** Submit your assignments as MS Word .doc file. I will not accept assignments in WordPad or WordPerfect format.

   **Note:** Documents produced in Word 2007 from the Office 2007 Suite with the .docx extension are problematic and don't format easily with Word 2004 (the version I use).
order that your assignments look the way you want them to when they are marked, please save your documents as a .doc file).

3. **Naming Convention.** Use the course and section numbers, your last name, and first initial to begin the name of every file you submit. For example, I would title my first assignment as follows:

   1118 M03 RubeliD City of Glass Essay.doc

4. **Publication.** Please be aware that I reject the premise that writing is mean to be private and not read by anyone. I intend to publish all students’ assignments to the Blackboard site for other students to read and learn from. Your grades and ratings will be kept private, of course, but you will be accountable to the class for writing as clearly and as well as you can. If you want to avoid embarrassment, I encourage you to take the hard work of revision and editing seriously.

### Course Policies

**Attendance and Absences.** When you register for this course, you commit to attending four hours of class each week for 13 weeks. **Regular attendance is highly recommended and compulsory.** Poor attendance more often that not correlates with failing grades at university and college. I will take attendance at the beginning of every class, and I will intervene when I notice truant behavior.

- **Legitimate Absences.** If you are absent because of a serious medical or family emergency (e.g. illness, accident, hospitalization, bereavement), send me a detailed message (by phone or email) about your situation. Make an appointment to see me during office hours (not in class) and bring official documentation (e.g. a doctor’s note, police report, news report) if you wish to negotiate specific accommodations (e.g. extend a deadline, find out what you missed, reschedule a test, etc.)

- **Illegitimate Absences.** Holidays (except for religious and statutory holidays), other classes and work commitments do not count as valid reasons for missing scheduled class meetings.

- Because you are adult learners, if you miss a class, you should consult classmates to find out about what you miss. (I won’t tell you unless you have a legitimate excuse.) You are responsible for any material you miss due to an absence—and for finding out what you need to prepare for the next class you attend.

- **If you miss more than two of the classes scheduled on Wednesday over the semester, the highest final grade you will be eligible to earn is a C, regardless of your performance in the course.**

**Extensions.** Once during the semester, you may request and receive a one-week extension on any assignment in the course.

- **You must request the extension in writing at least one week before the deadline.**

- Send me an email or memo requesting the extension and informing me about the new deadline.

**Late Arrivals.** If you are unavoidably late, please show respect for the class by coming in as quietly and as non-disruptively as you can. If the classroom door is closed, please wait outside until I let you in or we take a break. I will intervene when I notice a student arriving perpetually late. Sign the late arrivals sheet.

**Late Assignments.** Assignment deadlines will be strictly enforced. I will keep track of late submissions.

- Assignments received within 24 hours after the deadline will earn credit and receive normal feedback. Those received more than 24 hours late will still earn credit but receive minimal feedback. Those
received after I return the corpus of assignments to the class will be marked as completed but will receive no credit and no feedback.

- **If you submit more than one assignment late during the semester, the highest final grade you will be eligible to earn is a C, regardless of your performance in the course.**
- All late assignments must be delivered to me in person in class or at my office.

**Missed Assignments.** Missed in-class assignments and tests cannot be made up for credit unless (1) arrangements have been made in advance, and (2) a legitimate reason and documentation (medical note etc.) are provided.

**Cheating and Plagiarism**
Cheating and plagiarism will not be accepted. If you are found plagiarizing, you will, at minimum, receive a grade of zero on the plagiarized assignment. A failing grade for the course is a serious possibility. If you are unsure about what plagiarism is or how to avoid it, see me.

Every piece of writing you submit must be your own work. You cannot submit work someone else has written, unless you properly cite the source. Your assignments for ENGL 1127 cannot have been used in another course. For example, your employment package assignment must be an original assignment developed specifically for ENGL 1127.

If I suspect that your work is plagiarized, I am obliged to report the matter to the Head of English and the Dean of Students, and your work will receive a "0". If there is a huge discrepancy between the level of writing on your assignments, I may request that you come in to write a make-up assignment or exam under my direct supervision.

Please carefully read the following Langara College Cheating and Plagiarism Policy which follows. You are expected to know and understand this policy.

**LANGARA COLLEGE: CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM POLICIES**

Title: CODE OF ACADEMIC CONDUCT
Category: Administration: Conduct
Policy No.: B3001
Applicability: All Students

1. PURPOSE
This policy delineates the authorities and the process by which students who commit academic transgressions will be dealt with by the College.

Preamble
Langara College is dedicated to the pursuit of academic excellence. We are committed to creating an environment that promotes scholarly activity which is based on hard work and integrity. Students of Langara College have the responsibility to pursue all educational activities in an honest and forthright manner. Those who fail to do so will be disciplined accordingly under this policy. Such discipline may include suspension, expulsion and/or denial of admission to the College.
2. DEFINITIONS

Cheating is an act of deceit, fraud, distortion of the truth, or improper use of another person's effort to obtain an academic advantage.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (a) submitting material that is not yours as part of your course performance, such as copying another student's exam, allowing a student to copy your exam, presenting another's paper (in whole or in part) implying it was written by you; (b) using information or devices that are not allowed by the faculty, such as using formulas or data from a computer program, or using unauthorized materials for a take-home exam; (c) obtaining and using unauthorized material, such as a copy of an examination before it is given; (d) fabricating information, such as data for a lab report; (e) violating procedures prescribed to protect the integrity of an assignment, test or other evaluation; (f) collaborating with others on assignments without the faculty's consent; (g) cooperating with, or helping, another student cheat; (h) other forms of dishonest behaviour, such as having another person take an examination in your place; or altering exam answers and requesting the exam be regraded; or communicating with any person during an exam, other than the exam invigilator or faculty.

Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's or source's words and/or images and/or ideas as if they were one's own. It ranges from an entire assignment which is not the student's own work to specific passages within an assignment taken from a source without acknowledgment. For plagiarism to occur, intent is not necessary; plagiarism can be either intentional or unintentional. In either case, it is unacceptable.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to: (a) directly quoting the words of others without using quotation marks or indented format to identify them; or (b) using sources of information (published or unpublished) without identifying them; or (c) paraphrasing materials or ideas of others without identifying the sources.