THE COLLEGE OF THE BAHAMAS
Course Outline

Title: Advanced Composition
Abbreviation and Number: ENGW300
School: English Studies
Department: English
Credits: 3
Course Sequence: ( ) Fall ( ) Spring ( X) Fall and Spring
Hours Per Week: ( 2 ) Lecture ( 1 ) Seminar ( ) Laboratory ( ) Studio ( ) Kitchen ( ) Other (Specify)
Pre-requisite(s): ENG 120/ENGW120 and third-year standing or permission of Chair/Instructor
Co-requisite(s): None

COURSE DESCRIPTION
In this advanced writing course students analyse and produce writing that addresses issues of national importance in The Bahamas. They conduct research into the cultural, political, social, economic and environmental factors that shape the Bahamian way of life.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to
1) analyse discourse across the disciplines addressing a variety of issues of national importance in The Bahamas;
2) conduct research into the socio-cultural, political and economic aspects of Bahamian life; and
3) produce original, informed and analytical responses to readings, including research-based responses.

COURSE CONTENT
1. Critical Reading, Writing and Research
   I. Reading and Writing Skills
      A. Critical thinking
      B. Inference
      C. Judgment
      D. Critique/summary/precise/abstract
      E. Evaluation
   
   II. Elements of Exposition
      A. Description
      B. Comparison/contrast
      C. Cause and effect
      D. Problem/solution
   
   III. Elements of Argument
      A. Assumptions
      B. Premises and conclusions
      C. Claims and warrants
      D. Logical relationships
      E. Reasoning: induction, deduction
      F. Fallacies
      G. Counterargument
      H. Rebuttal/refutation
      I. Support
IV. Developing the Essay
   A. Audience expectations
   B. Thesis
   C. Definition
   D. Summary
   E. Rhetorical strategies
   F. Revision

V. Research and Documentation
   A. Primary and secondary sources
   B. Printed sources/ Internet
   C. Empirical research
   D. Questionnaires
   E. Documentation/citation styles

VI. Language
   A. Editing
   B. Emphasis, variety, clarity
   C. Grammar, punctuation, mechanics

VII. Presentation
   A. Manuscript design
   B. Graphic aids
   C. Oral strategies

2. Themes
   The class will cover at least two themes. Below are sample themes but this is not an exhaustive list.

I History of The Bahamas
   A. “Discovery” and destruction
   B. Slavery and abolition
   C. From bondage to servitude
   D. The colonial dialectic: The Coloniser and the Colonised
   E. Majority Rule and Independence
   F. The post-colonial/neocolonial moment

II. Nation and Identity
   A. Citizenship
   B. Imagined communities
   C. State sanctioned and popular interpretation of identity
   D. Roots and routes
      i. Internal migration
      ii. External migration
      iii. Immigration
      iv. Foreignness
   E. Cultural hegemonies
III. International Relations
   A. The Commonwealth
   B. American impact and presence
   C. Globalisation
   D. CARICOM, CSME and West Indianness
   E. Haiti
   F. Cuba
   G. China

III. Tourism
   A. History of tourism in The Bahamas
   B. Economic benefits and dangers
   C. Social, environmental and cultural impacts

IV. Governance
   A. Westminster Democracy
   B. Representation and leadership
   C. Bahamian party politics
   D. Election season and political persuasion
   E. The Constitution
   F. The Church and the State
   G. The Civil Service

V. Gender
   A. Gender and Bahamian law
   B. Construction of Bahamian masculinity
   C. Construction of Bahamian femininity
   D. Gender and sexual orientation
   E. Gender and dysfunction

VI. Race and Class
   A. Constructions of race in The Bahamas
   B. Otherness
   C. Politics and “The Race Card”
   D. Constructions of class identity
   E. Creolization in the Bahamian context
   F. Ethnicity, race and class

VII. Culture and Performance
   A. The making of Bahamian culture
   B. External influences on popular culture
   C. ‘Town’ versus ‘da Island’
   D. Folk music and storytelling
   E. Culture and economic behaviour
   F. Junkanoo: origins and dynamics
   G. Bahamian popular music
H. Bahamian dialect
I. The role of the writer
J. Bahamian visual art

VIII. The Environment
A. Overview of Bahamian natural environment
   i. Land
   ii. Sea
   iii. Wildlife
B. Conservation of marine resources
C. Pollution and erosion
D. Renewable energy and energy conservation
E. Water supply
F. Waste management
G. Traffic congestion/overpopulation
H. Cleanliness and national identity

IX. Social Issues
A. Drug trafficking
B. Bribery and graft
C. The family
D. Masculinity, femininity and criminality
E. Materialism and consumption
F. Law and the administration of Justice
G. Immigration and crime
H. A culture that respects order
I. Sweethearting
J. Numbers
K. Exceptionalities

X. Economy
A. Tourism dynamics
   i. Cruise ships
   ii. Hotels/Enclave resorts
   iii. Ecotourism
   iv. Threats to the industry
B. Issues in offshore banking
C. Diversification
D. Regional integration and Free Trade
E. Privatisation versus monopoly
F. International Monetary Fund (IMF) and International Development Bank (IDB)
G. Entrepreneurship
H. Taxation
I. Commercial banking and Bahamian consumerism
J. Unions
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ASSESSMENT
Critical reading assignments ........................................ 30%
Seminar presentation on significant issue .................. 15%
Research-based expository essay ............................. 15%
Research-based argumentative essay ......................... 15%
Research project .......................................................... 30%
Total ........................................................................... 100%

REQUIRED TEXTS
Course packet.

SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS/MATERIALS


**WEBSITES**

http://bdmparty.com/home.html
http://www.bahamapundit.com/
http://www.bahamashistoricalsociety.com/
http://www.bahamasissues.com/
http://www.bahamianstudies.org/home.aspx
http://www.best.bs/
http://www.breef.org/breef/
http://www.centralbankbahamas.com/
http://www.cob.edu.bs/library
http://www.freenationalmovement.org/
http://www.jonesbahamas.com/
http://www.myplp.com/
http://www.nassauinstitute.org/
http://www.nature.org/wherewework/caribbean/bahamas/
http://www.reearth.org/
http://www.thebahamasnationaltrust.org/
http://www.thenassauguardian.com/