



# ENGLISH COMPOSITION

SPRING 2012

University of Lausanne, Faculty of Arts, English  
Department

**Location:** Anthropole 3139 | **Time:** Monday, 13:00 – 15:00

**Instructor:** Joey Williams | **Email:** JoeyLee.Williams@unil.ch

**Office:** Anthropole 5065 | **Office Hours:** Monday 15:00 – 17:00

## Aims and Content

English Composition (EC) is a compulsory course designed to teach you how to write a critical essay in English. Besides examining the theoretical aspect of academic writing, it is designed as a workshop where you will practice essay-writing using the techniques of literary analysis that you have learnt in ILA. In the fall semester the focus is on the structure (argument, paragraphs, introduction, and conclusion) and style (language and conventions) of the critical essay. In the spring semester the focus is on research skills, the use of secondary sources, and bibliographical conventions.

## Language Level

The English Department's first-year classes are aimed for students with competence in English at level B2 or above (60 points or more on the Oxford placement test). This is usually your level if you did well in English at the *maturité fédérale* (or equivalent).

There are no language classes within the compulsory cursus in the English Department. The language "lab" is open to all first-year students wishing to work on their language skills (oral and written). Students with 72 points or fewer on the Oxford placement test should attend the lab regularly during the first semester.

## Online Forums

The EC class is supplemented by online forums on the Moodle space, where students may post questions and comments related to the class. There is a general forum, as well as a specific forum for each group.

## Class Material

The EC class (fall and spring semesters) is built around the EDGE brochure (8th ed., 2011). You will need to purchase a copy of the brochure (for CHF 2) and have it with you for every class. EDGE is also available as a PDF on the department website.

There is required reading in EDGE almost every week. Make sure to write down any question you may have. Questions will be answered at the beginning of every class. You may annotate your copy of EDGE freely.

Our primary text, Harold Pinter's "Precisely," will be distributed in the classroom and made available on the Moodle space. Keep your copy and bring it to the following classes. You may annotate it as well.

## Academic Freedom and Academic Integrity

Academic freedom and academic integrity are the two general and interdependent principles that govern the academic world (i.e., universities in general).

For students, academic freedom entails

- a) freedom of opinion (you are entitled to disagree with your teachers and fellow students and to express that disagreement) and
- b) the freedom to attend every course within your cursus (no-one is allowed to prevent you from attending a certain course),

while academic integrity entails

- a) that every idea you express is yours (whenever you quote someone else's words or cite their ideas you must make explicit reference to them and their work) and
- b) that you respect your teachers and fellow students (this also means that you should attend classes regularly and fulfill all other requirements).

During your first semester in the English Department, the written work you submit (EC and ILA essays) will contain your own words and ideas only. You are not expected to use any material beside the poems you will be studying.

If you use someone else's words or ideas without an explicit reference (even with their authorization), you commit plagiarism. This includes information found on the web, ideas that you heard from other students, and all material distributed in the classroom. The University has clear rules about plagiarism and these will be applied without discrimination.

## Essays

You will be required to submit *two* assignments in the spring semester of EC. One is a bibliographical exercise and the other is an essay.

You will work on the bibliographical exercise in pairs, and it should be submitted on 7/9.3. The bibliographical exercise consists of an introduction (four or five sentences, including a thesis statement), four bibliographical references (the primary text, an article in an academic journal, an article or chapter from a scholarly book, and a website or other literary text), a short quote from each of these texts (one or two sentences), and a brief discussion of how each quote relates to your thesis statement (two or three sentences per quote).

The EC essay this semester will be 1200 words long and should be submitted on 21/23.3. The essay will normally incorporate the material used in your bibliographical exercise, and will assess your skills at using and engaging with secondary material. By the time you hand in this essay, the whole of EDGE will have been covered in the class. Your work will thus be assessed on your ability to incorporate every aspect of essay-writing as described in the brochure and exercised in EC (fall *and* spring terms).

If your essay does not achieve a satisfactory mark, you will be asked to rewrite it to meet the standards required (argument, structure, style, language, use of secondary sources). The deadline for essay rewrites is 20.4.

**All essays must be submitted electronically via Moodle before or on the given deadline.**

## Class Validation

Students who submit both assignments, achieve a satisfactory mark on the essay, and contribute to the class regularly will automatically validate the second semester of EC.

Students who do not contribute to the class, who fail the essay (even after rewriting), and/or who do not submit the bibliographical exercise will not validate the second semester of EC (they will fail the first year of English as a result); they will thus need to repeat the class the following year.

## Schedule of Classes (Monday/Wednesday)

### Week 1, 20/22.2 – Secondary Literature I

Practicalities

Finding and exploiting sources I

Harold Pinter's "Precisely"

In-class exercise: compose a thesis statement (pairs)

### Week 2, 27/29.2 – Secondary Literature II

EDGE: read 27-30

Finding and exploiting sources II

Austin Quigley's "Pinter, politics and postmodernism"

In-class exercise: discuss research ideas (pairs)

### Week 3, 5/7.3 – Secondary Literature III

EDGE: read 31-37

The bibliography

In-class exercise: discuss difficulties with bibliographic exercise (group)

➡ **Bibliographic exercise on Pinter's "Precisely" due on 7/9.3 (work in pairs!)**

### Week 4, 12/14.3 – Secondary Literature IV

EDGE: read 38-41

Quoting and referencing sources I

In-class exercise: prepare quotes for essay (individuals)

### Week 5, 19/21.3 – Secondary Literature V

EDGE: read 41-46

Quoting and referencing sources II

In-class exercise: discuss difficulties with essay (group)

➡ **ESSAY DUE ON 21/25.3** – 1200 words on Pinter's "Precisely"

**Individual meetings will take place on 26.3 and 28.3 (week 6) and 2.4 (week 7) in office Anthropole 5065.**

**You must register for a meeting on 12/14.3 or 19/21.3.**

## Important Dates

Bibliographic exercise: 7/9.3

Register for individual meetings:  
12/14.3 or 19/21.3.

Essay Due: 19/21.3

Individual Meetings: 26.3, 28.3 & 2.4

Essay Rewrite Due: 20.4

**Deadline for the essay rewrite (if needed) is 20.4**