

**MONTGOMERY COLLEGE**  
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES**  
**COLLEGEWIDE SYLLABUS**  
**ELAW 970: English Language Academic Writing I**

**Catalog Description**

The first course in a sequence of two courses designed to teach academic writing of American English to non-native speakers of English. Emphasis on appropriate use of a variety of sentence structures, complex verb forms, modifiers, and punctuation, and ability to produce content-based paragraphs in and out of class. PREREQUISITE: placement by testing required by the College of non-native speakers of English. Additional laboratory required. Five hours each week. FIVE EQUIVALENT CREDIT HOURS. NOT APPLICABLE TO A DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE. MAY NOT BE USED TO SATISFY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS. NOT INCLUDED IN GPA CALCULATION.

**Course Content**

Emphasis is on the development of competence in writing unified and coherent compositions through intensive grammar review and extensive writing practice exercises.

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Use Standard English grammar and mechanics in writings.
2. Use high frequency general and academic vocabulary and collocations to explain ideas in writing.
3. Use different types of clauses and phrases to add specific details and to show relationships between ideas.
4. Paraphrase ideas in basic academic readings.
5. Use the writing process to produce well-organized content-based paragraphs **of at least 200 words**, both in timed in-class assignments and take-home assignments.
6. Proofread and edit words and sentences for grammatical accuracy.
7. Produce short responses to comprehension questions about basic academic content.
8. Use technology (e.g., word processing software) to produce paragraph length documents.
9. Perform basic functions on digital devices, including browser navigation and email, to interact and collaborate with classmates or instructors in writing.

## **Methods of Instruction**

Class instruction, readings, textbook exercises, grammar exercises, group work, and in- and out-of-class writing assignments. Language laboratory work.

## **Course Requirements**

To pass ELAW 970, students must complete ALL of the following requirements:

1. **Attend classes.** College regulations permit no more than five hours of absences. Students who exceed five hours of absences may be dropped from the course or penalized in their grades. Instructors take attendance.
2. **Complete assignments.** All work must be submitted to the instructor on time and according to the instructor's specifications. Missing or late work will be subject to the instructor's grading policy.
3. **Submit a completed English composition folder.** A composition folder containing all graded class assignments, compositions, and tests must be handed in to the instructor at the end of the course. Students in a paperless Blackboard classroom submit materials electronically.
4. **Complete lab requirements.** This course includes a laboratory assignment to be completed outside of class, according to the instructor's specifications.
5. Students must complete a minimum of 4 in-class, timed compositions throughout the semester prior to the final exam.
6. Students **must pass the course with a minimum 70% average and take a final exam which counts as 25% of the grade (grammar 10% and writing 15%).**

## **Assignment values:**

- A minimum of four in-class writing assignments, prior to the final exam: 35-45%
- Homework and lab assignments: 10-15%
- A minimum of three grammar tests, prior to the final exam: 20-25%
- Final exam: 25%

## **Course Materials**

- Texts as assigned by instructor
- A composition folder
- A folder (electronic or paper folder as required by the instructor) for saving and revising written work
- An English language dictionary, especially designed for English Language Learners

**Grades and Recommendations:** At midterm and at the end of the semester, the student will receive a grade of A, B, C, D, or E. A grade of C or better is required to move on to ELAW 980. The course and the grade earned are posted on the student's official transcript. The grade is not included in GPA calculation. The credits do not apply to a degree or certificate at Montgomery College.

## **CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS and OTHER INFORMATION**

### **Important Student Information Link**

In addition to course requirements and objectives that are in this syllabus, Montgomery College has information on its web site (see link below) to assist you in having a successful experience both inside and outside of the classroom. It is important that you read and understand this information. The **link below provides** information and other resources to areas that pertain to the following: student behavior (student code of conduct), student e-mail, the tobacco-free policy, withdraw and refund dates, disability support services, veteran services, how to access information on delayed openings and closings, how to register for the Montgomery College Alert System, and finally, how closings and delays can impact your classes. If you have any questions, please bring them to your professor. As rules and regulations change, they will be updated, and you will be able to access them through the link. If any student would like a written copy of these policies and procedures, the professor would be happy to provide them. By registering for this class and staying in this class, you are indicating that you acknowledge and accept these policies.

<https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/admissions-registration/student-resources/syllabus-resource-list.html>