



English (ENGL) 255

Introductory Composition (Revision 8)

Status: Replaced with new revision, see the **course listing** [↗](#) for the current revision **✖**

Delivery mode: **Individualized study online** [↗](#) with **eText** [↗](#)

Credits: 3

Areas of study: Arts or Humanities

Prerequisites: Students who have not done any formal writing for some time or who feel that their basic skills might be weak should consider taking ENGL 155 or, for ESL/EAL needs, ENGL 177 or ENGL 187. Students who feel uncertain which course to choose may consult the course coordinator or do a self assessment test, **English Language Assessment** [↗](#).

Precluded: None

Challenge: ENGL 255 has a challenge for credit option.

Faculty: **Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences** [↗](#)

Overview

ENGL 255 focuses on essay-writing at the university level. In order to improve the necessary skills, students study examples of good writing, do a brief introductory assignment, write two short summaries, participate in online discussion forums, and complete three essays covering a spectrum of styles and purposes. The course is designed to recognize students' personal interests, objectives, and learning styles and to provide flexible scheduling options.

ENGL 255 provides some grammar review but assumes at least a senior high school level of competency in both grammar and composition.

Outline

- Unit 1: Writing Paragraphs
- Unit 2: Writing to an Audience (Discussion Forum)
- Unit 3: Writing a Summary
- Unit 4: Writing an Essay and Incorporating Research
- Unit 5: Writing an Argumentative Essay
- Unit 6: Writing a Rhetorical Analysis

Learning outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to

- summarize essays.
- use effective research methods and proper citation technique.
- adapt to various writing requirements that call for a range of rhetorical approaches.
- think and write critically.

- write effective essays that meet first-year university expectations for content, organization, style, mechanics, and grammar.

Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for ENGL 255, you must receive a grade of D (50 percent) or higher on the examination and an overall average of **D (50 percent)** [↗](#) or higher to pass the course. Assignments not submitted by the course contract completion date (end of active registration) receive a grade of 0. The weighting of the course assignments is as follows:


Activity	Weight
Paragraphs	0%
Discussion Forum	15%
Summaries	10%
Personal or Expository Essay	15%
Argumentative Essay	20%
Rhetorical Analysis Essay	20%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request

deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the **Exams and grades** [↗](#) section of the Calendar.

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's **online Calendar** [↗](#).

Materials

Brundage, David, and Michael Lahey. *Acting on Words: An Integrated Rhetoric, Research Guide, Reader, and Handbook*. 3rd. ed., Pearson, 2012.  (eText)

eText

Registration in this course includes an electronic textbook. For more information on **electronic textbooks** [↗](#), please refer to our **eText Initiative site** [↗](#).


Challenge for credit

Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about **challenge for credit** [↗](#) can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Evaluation





To **receive credit** [↗](#) for the ENGL 255 challenge registration, you must achieve a grade of at least **D (50 percent)**  on both the rhetorical analysis essay and the examination.

Activity	Weight
Rhetorical Analysis Essay	50%
Exam	50%
Total	100%



[Challenge for credit course registration form](#)

Important links

- › [Academic advising](#) 
- › [Program planning](#) 
- › [Request assistance](#) 
- › [Support services](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

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View [previous revision](#) 