

# Week 1

Comm 1133 Writing Strategies

Winter 2016

David Laing

# Instructor

- Name: David Laing
- Part-time faculty
  - Comm1234 (2 sections) & Comm1133 (3 sections)
- Part-time writing skills drop-in facilitator
- Part-time writer

# Contacting me

- Email is best: [dlaing@niagaracollege.ca](mailto:dlaing@niagaracollege.ca)
- Please allow 24-48 hours for a response, and consider me available during workday hours (9am-5pm)
- IMPORTANT:
  - Email me from your Niagara College email address, **not** your personal email
  - Include your **name** and your **section**

# Finding me

- Feel free to drop by my office, M206L. I can't guarantee that I'll be there, but here are some promising times:
  - Monday 2:30pm-5:20pm
  - Wednesday: 11:30am-2:20pm
- Come to one of my drop-in sessions at the library:
  - Monday 10:30am-11:20am & 12:30-2:20pm
  - Tuesday 5:30pm-6:20pm
  - Friday: 10:30am-11:20am & 12:30pm-1:20pm

# Who's here?

- Writing is:
  - Fun or torture?
- As a writer, I know what my weaknesses are:
  - Agree or disagree?
- Please tell me:
  - Your name
  - Where you're from
  - Something you like to do

# Plan for today

- Course info
  - Course description
  - Readings & resources
  - Evaluation
  - Timeline
  - Class policies
- Response questions

# Course description

“In this course, you will develop college and workplace communication strategies. These strategies include reading, writing, and research as demonstrated through problem-solving and critical thinking applied in a variety of practical contexts.”

# Readings

- No textbook
- Web links will occasionally be posted on Blackboard
- Much will be drawn from the Purdue Online Writing Lab:  
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>



# Evaluation structure

- Principles (two portfolios): 20%
- Expository writing (two essays): 40%
- Research/documentation principles (research file assignment): 20%
- Final exam: 20%

# Themes of course

1. Principles of writing (Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>-Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>)
  2. Expository writing (Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>-Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>)
- READING WEEK (Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup>-Mar. 5<sup>th</sup>)
3. Research & documentation (Mar. 9<sup>th</sup>-Mar. 25<sup>th</sup>)
  4. Expository writing (Mar. 30<sup>th</sup>-Apr. 15<sup>th</sup>)
  5. Final exam (Apr. 20<sup>th</sup>)

# Attendance & Lateness

- If you miss an in-class exercise, a grade of zero will be recorded. Exceptions *may* be made *if*:
  - You contact me within 24 hours of the class
  - You provide acceptable documentation
- Assignments are due at the *beginning* of class, unless otherwise specified.
- Late assignments will be deducted 10% per day.
- No late assignments will be accepted after the other students' assignments have been graded and returned.

# Students with disabilities

- If this applies to you, please identify your needs to the Centre for Student Disabilities.
- They will send me a letter of accommodation (LOA), and I'll be happy to help in any way I can.
- It is your responsibility to approach me regarding your specific needs for this course.
- Make sure your LOA is current for Winter 2016.

# Academic misconduct

- Includes:
  - Submitting any work that is not your own, or **not properly cited**
  - Submitting any work that is inauthentic (e.g. students submitting the same work)
  - Submitting any work that is not original (e.g. previously completed work, or work for other classes)

# Class policies

- Technology
- Food
- Professionalism

# Response questions

- Do you like writing? Why or why not?
  - What sort of feedback on your writing have you received in the past?
  - What do you hope to get out of this course?
  - What do you expect from me as a teacher?
- Please touch on the following:
- Use of class time
  - Use of Blackboard
  - Grading

# Activity: challenges of writing well

- Find a partner
- Choose one person to be the speaker and one person to be the listener.



# Scenario 1

- Speaker: tell the listener your life's story in two minutes.

## Scenario 2

- Listener: close your eyes and stay put.
- Speaker: go sit down beside a different listener.  
DO NOT SAY HELLO.
  - (Also, DO NOT SING 'HELLO' BY ADELE.)
- Speaker: give me the thumbs up when you've found a partner.
- Speaker: keep your mouth shut.
- Listener: keep your eyes closed, and tell your life's story in two minutes.

Describe scenarios 1 & 2

# Challenges of writing

- Reader can't interrupt if they don't understand
- You can't see the reader's face
- You can't see the reader's body language
- You might not know who the reader is

# Extra challenges of writing

- The reader can't see *your* face.
- The reader can't see *your* body language.
- Writing has punctuation, which doesn't exist in spoken language.
- Words are not always spelled the way they sound.
  - E.g. words vs. herds vs. thirds vs. curds vs. byrds