



## Writing Brilliant English (7.5p/3.75cr)

Level: Basic

Subject area: Educational Studies

Course code: PE 160

### Course Prerequisites

General eligibility for university studies.

### Course Goals

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student should be able to:

#### Knowledge and Understanding

- understand and demonstrate how to improve the clarity and coherence of English texts by constructing strong subjects and verbs and using pronouns effectively in sentences
- understand and demonstrate effective applications of the 2-3-1 principle to produce and revise English sentences, paragraphs, and texts.

#### Skills and Abilities

- draft and revise English sentences using the Ladder of Abstraction to increase clarity of meaning
- apply strategies for varying sentence and paragraph length to communicate more effectively in English and hold audience attention
- employ punctuation to control the pace and use of space in English texts.

#### Assessment and Approach

- assess the audience and combine narrative modes in writing English texts to increase audience engagement
- apply strategies for eliminating non-essential words, sentences, and paragraphs in revising and polishing English texts.

### Course Contents

This course is an intensive study of 7 tools for writing and editing English texts professionally. Students will apply the tools in producing and editing 4 short papers or stories: two original works by the student and 2 Swedish stories or texts translated by the student into written English. In addition, students will choose a paper or story they have produced in English for a previous course or purpose and apply the 7 tools to revise and improve it.

### Course Procedures

Instruction will be delivered in recorded weekly online lessons, 4-5 scheduled zoom face-to-

face seminars, four short papers, one longer paper, and weekly quizzes. A final examination and a portfolio of all revised texts is required.

## **Examination**

### **Evaluation Procedures:**

A = 90-100	Excellent knowledge and a high degree of independent thinking
B = 80-89	Good level of knowledge and some independent thinking
C = 70-79	Basic knowledge and abilities
D = 60-69	Fulfilment of minimum requirements
F = below 60	Fail

### **Assignments:**

The assignments, as listed below, are each assessed on a scale ranging from 59–100 %

Quizzes (five out of seven)	5%
Two personal essays	20% (2 x 10%)
Two English translations	20% (2 x 10%)
Revised Paper	10%
Portfolio	25%
Final Exam	20%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Description of assignments:**

1. After viewing the recorded online lesson and reading the assigned chapter for each week, students will complete a short quiz assessing their knowledge and application of the selected writing tool. Quizzes may be multiple choice, short answer, true/false, and/or error correction. (7 quizzes in total but 2 quizzes with the lowest score will be dropped).
2. Personal essays: Students will apply the tools studied in composing two original short texts, no more than two typed, double-spaced pages in length. Texts may be fiction or nonfiction: stories, personal essays, memoirs, historical or topical sketches, etc. Both essays will be revised in the last week of class and all drafts included in the final portfolio.
3. English translations from Swedish texts: Students will first translate two short Swedish texts of their choice into English. These texts may be fiction or nonfiction: children's stories, Swedish folk tales, accounts of famous persons or events in Swedish history or contemporary, descriptions of Swedish holidays or other cultural artifacts, blogs, etc. Next, students will apply the writing tools to revise and polish their English translations of the Swedish texts. Then students will complete final revisions of their translations in the last week of class and include these with all previous drafts in the portfolio.
4. Revised paper: Students will select something they have written in English in the past and revise it in the last week of class using the writing tools studied. This paper may be fiction or nonfiction: an academic, literary, professional, or personal paper. The original paper will be submitted during Week One. The revised paper will be submitted during Week Seven and revised a second time for inclusion in the portfolio in Week Eight.
5. Final exam: Students will take a comprehensive final exam in the last week of class. The exam may include multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. Students will be required to edit a selected text applying the writing tools.
6. Portfolio: Students will make final revisions on the two personal essays, the two papers translated into English from Swedish, and the paper submitted in Week One using the

writing tools and incorporating professor and peer feedback. All drafts and final revisions, including the original draft of the paper submitted in Week One, will be collected into a single Microsoft Word file and submitted as a final portfolio. Writing will be assessed based on (1) effective and comprehensive application of writing tools and (2) coherency and clarity of communication. The portfolio will include all drafts of personal essays, translated works, and paper.

## Study and Assignment Schedule

Module 1	Lesson 1	Strong Subjects, Stronger Verbs Subtopics include: Choosing verb forms and tenses Verb voice and sentence energy Constructing and editing noun phrases Using pronouns Converting verb nominalizations Assigned reading: Roy Peter Clark, Chapters 1, 3-5
	Lesson 2	Zoom Seminar Assignments Due: Quiz 1 Submit a previous original work in written English Submit draft of Personal Essay 1
Module 2	Lesson 3	2-3-1-GO! Structuring Phrases, Sentences, Paragraphs, and Texts Subtopics include: 2-3-1 Phrases 2-3-1 Sentences 2-3-1 Paragraphs 2-3-1 Texts  Alternative structures for sentence beginnings and ends Assigned reading: Roy Peter Clark, Chapters 2, 39
	Lesson 4	Zoom Seminar Assignments Due: Quiz 2 Submit draft of Personal Essay 2 Peer workshop of Personal Essay 1
Module 3	Lesson 5	The Ladder of Abstraction Subtopics include: Going down: The Big Picture on the ground Going up: From the ground to the Big Picture Assigned reading: Roy Peter Clark, Chapter 22
	Lesson 6	Zoom Seminar Assignments Due: Quiz 3 Peer Workshop of Personal Essay 2
Module 4	Lesson 7	The Long and the Short of It Subtopics include: Average sentence and paragraph length in English Professional strategies for varying sentence length Professional strategies for varying paragraph length Assigned reading: Roy Peter Clark, Chapters 18-19
	Lesson 8	Zoom Seminar Assignments Due: Quiz 4 Submit first translation of Swedish work into English
Module 5	Lesson 9	Punctuate to Pace and Space Subtopics include: Adding energy and emphasis with periods, commas, and semicolons Varying voice with commas, dashes, and parentheses

		Assigned reading: Roy Peter Clark, Chapter 9
		NO ZOOM SEMINAR
		Assignments Due: Quiz 5
		Submit second translation of Swedish work into English
		Peer Workshop of English Translation 1
Module 6	Lesson 10	Breaking the Line of Writing
		Subtopics include: Identifying narrative modes
		Combining narrative modes
		Incorporating quotations
		Assigned reading: Roy Peter Clark, Chapters 34, 36
	Lesson 11	Zoom Seminar
		Assignments Due: Quiz 6
		Peer Workshop of English Translation 2
Module 7	Lesson 12	Weeding your Word Garden
		Subtopics include: Re-visioning the text
		Editing paragraphs
		Polishing sentences
		Assigned reading: Roy Peter Clark, Chapter 10
	Lesson 13	Zoom Seminar
		Assignments Due: Quiz 7
		Paper from Week One, revised
Module 8		PORTFOLIO DUE
		FINAL EXAM

## Course Literature

### Required Literature

Clark, Roy Peter, *Writing Tools: 55 Essential Strategies for Every Writer*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2013. [Available on Amazon Kindle]

Other articles and texts may be available at the course start.

For more information see also "General Syllabus Policies."

Syllabus completed 2023-05-10.

Syllabus is valid from 2024-01-15.