



Ontario eSecondary School Course Outline 2022-2023

Ministry of Education Course Title: The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course	
Ministry Course Code: OLC40	
Course Type: Open Level	
Grade: 12	
Credit Value: 1.0	
Prerequisite(s): Students who have been eligible to write the OSSLT at least twice and who have been unsuccessful at least once are eligible to take the course. (Students who have already met the literacy requirement for graduation may be eligible to take the course under special circumstances, at the discretion of the principal.	
Department: English	
Course developed by: Sarrah Beemer	Date: May 2019
Length: One Semester	Hours: 110
This course has been developed based on the following Ministry documents: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC), Grade 12</i> 2. <i>Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting in Ontario Schools (2010)</i> 3. <i>Learning for All (2013)</i> 	

COURSE DESCRIPTION/RATIONALE

OVERALL CURRICULUM EXPECTATIONS

Overall Curriculum Expectations:

Building Reading Skills:

By the end of this course, students will:

- demonstrate the ability to read and respond to a variety of texts;
- demonstrate understanding of the organizational structure and features of a variety of informational, narrative, and graphic texts, including information paragraphs, opinion pieces, textbooks, newspaper reports and magazine stories, and short fiction;
- demonstrate understanding of the content and meaning of informational, narrative, and graphic texts that they have read using a variety of reading strategies;
- use a variety of strategies to understand unfamiliar and specialized words and expressions in informational, narrative, and graphic texts.

Building Writing Skills:

By the end of this course, students will:

- demonstrate the ability to use the writing process by generating and organizing ideas and producing first drafts, revised drafts, and final polished pieces to complete a variety of writing tasks;
- use knowledge of writing forms, and of the connections between form, audience, and purpose, to write summaries, information paragraphs, opinion pieces (i.e., series of paragraphs expressing an opinion), news reports, and personal reflections, incorporating graphic elements where necessary and appropriate.

Understanding and Assessing Growth in Literacy:

By the end of this course, students will:

- demonstrate understanding of the importance of communication skills in their everyday lives – at school, at work, and at home;
- demonstrate understanding of their own roles and responsibilities in the learning process;
- demonstrate understanding of the reading and writing processes and of the role of reading and writing in learning;
- demonstrate understanding of their own growth in literacy during the course.

COURSE CONTENT

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Length</i>
Diagnostic Unit	3 hours
Unit 1: Literary Basics	10 hours
Unit 2: Main Idea	9 hours
Unit 3: Short Answer Response	9 hours
Unit 4: Information Paragraphs	7 hours
Unit 5: Narrative Texts	8 hours
Unit 6: News Reports	23 hours
Unit 7: Series of Paragraphs Expressing an Opinion	24 hours
Unit 8: Culminating Activity	13 hours
Final Portfolio Submission and Checklist	4 hours
TOTAL:	110 hours

UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

Diagnostic Unit

-Students will complete diagnostic activities to demonstrate their literacy skills at the beginning of the class.

Unit 1: Literacy Basics

-This unit will introduce students to various reading and writing strategies to help prepare them for the future units.

Unit 2: Main Idea

-Students will focus on the Main Idea task and complete activities for the final portfolio. Students will also select a book of their choice and start completing a reading log which they will continue to update throughout the course.

Unit 3: Short Answer Response

-Students will focus on how to write short answer responses and complete activities for the final portfolio.

Unit 4: Information Paragraphs

-Students will read information paragraphs and respond to questions about the readings. These activities will be for the final portfolio.

Unit 5: Narrative Texts

-Students will read narrative texts and respond to questions about the readings. These activities will be for the final portfolio.

Unit 6: News Reports

-One the long writing assessment tasks, the news report, is a key element of this course. Students will learn the skills to write two polished news reports. These will form part of the final portfolio.

Unit 7: Series of Paragraphs Expressing an Opinion

-The other long writing assessment task, the series of paragraphs expressing an opinion, is a key element of this course. Students will learn the skills to write two polished essays. These will form part of the final portfolio.

Unit 8: Culminating Activity

-Students will complete four tasks for the culminating activity.

Final Portfolio Submission and Checklist

-Students will be required to complete the final checklist, along with their Instructor, to ensure all elements are successfully completed.

TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES

The students will experience a variety of activities:

Video presentations and technological aids (research) with videos embedded to enrich the course content and clarify concepts and skills being studied. Also the use of online pre-approved quizzes and games to help a student become more familiar with the concepts and skills being studied.

Diagnostic and review activities (audio and video taping) can be student-lead or teacher lead to work as a review for students through audio and video made to share among each other to help reinforce the concepts and skills being studied.

Individual Activities

The teacher should provide a variety of individual assignments to expand and consolidate the learning that takes place in the whole-class and small group activities. Individual activities allow the teacher to accommodate interests and needs and to assess the progress of individual students. The teacher plays an

important role in supporting these activities through the provision of ongoing feedback to the students, both orally and in writing. Teachers are encouraged to include individual activities such as the following in the course:

Research is completed in an online environment by teaching the students first about plagiarism rules and giving examples of good sources to use. The students are not only limited to the online search for information, but have resources available by links on the Moodle page of information that has been scanned and uploaded.

Individual assignments are worked on at a student's own pace. The teacher can support the student in these activities with ongoing feedback.

Oral presentations are facilitated through the use of video conferencing and video recording.

Practical extension and application of knowledge helps students develop their own voice, and gives them the ability to make personal connections, and connections to the world throughout their course. Students are given a variety of reading and viewing texts to give them many chances to apply their new concepts, skills, and knowledge.

Ongoing project work is something that is valued in the earning of an English credit. The ongoing project can be submitted to the teacher for ongoing feedback in both written and oral work.

Reading students are able to read a variety of texts online. The students may print out the reading material to use it to highlight, take notes, and have with them when a computer is not available.

Written assignments are used to allow students to develop their skills in writing, comprehension, and communication. With the online format students submit their work, and have a chance to get feedback from the teacher, and submit their best work. This can be demonstrated with reading responses, personal writing, report writing, essay writing, script writing, business and technical writing, and individual research assignments.

Journals are used in which the student can self-reflect on their subject matter, and see their progress over time. It allows students a different medium of presenting their thoughts and skills learned.

Reflective/Comparative analysis for students working in their portfolios, giving them an opportunity for self-reflection on their accomplishments, skills, and concepts learned over the year. This can be accomplished with student and teacher conferences as well.

We grow up thinking of reading and writing as two of the classic 'three Rs', and once we learn how to do them well, many assume that there's no need to think more of them. However, there are nuances to both. This course explores what writers have known for centuries: there are many, many ways to write and read.

ASSESSMENT, EVALUATION, AND REPORTING

Assessment: The process of gathering information that accurately reflects how well a student is achieving the identified curriculum expectations. Teachers provide students with descriptive feedback that guides their efforts towards improved performance.

Evaluation: Assessment of Learning focuses on Evaluation which is the process of making a judgement about the quality of student work on the basis of established criteria over a limited, reasonable period of time.

Reporting: Involves communicating student achievement of the curriculum expectations and Learning Skills and Work Habits in the form of marks and comments as determined by the teacher's use of professional judgement.

STRATEGIES FOR ASSESSMENT

Assessment practices can nurture students' sense of progress and competency and information instruction. Many diagnostic tools, e.g. checklists and inventories, are used at regular intervals throughout the units to encourage students' understanding of their current status as learners and to provide frequent and timely reviews of their progress. Assessment of student acquisition of listening and talking, reading and viewing and writing skills also occurs regularly through unobtrusive teacher observation and conferencing.

Units conclude with performance tasks, e.g., interviews and from essays that build towards and prepare students for the end-of-course culminating task in Unit Five. Teachers are encouraged to share goals with students early in the course and to connect unit learning experiences frequently and explicitly with big ideas, overall expectations, and performance tasks, i.e. check bricks; teacher-adapted generic rubrics available in many sources, including the *Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC) Profile*, so that they are more task-specific. The teacher might ask: "What does the criteria look like for this particular task?" Or "What does limited effectiveness look like?" The teacher could involve students in the discussion, modification, or creation of rubrics, and teach students to use rubrics as a learning tool that can support the writing process and practice.

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

- ☐ Homework assignments
- ☐ Individual conference meetings
- ☐ Diagnostic tests and writing tasks
- ☐ Outlining and planning sheets
- ☐ Completed Templates & Graphic Organizers
- ☐ Editing Checklists
- ☐ Reflections
- ☐ Oral presentations & Active Listening
- ☐ Essay Writing
- ☐ Evaluations

EVALUATION

The final grade will be determined as follows:

- ☐ Seventy percent of the grade will be based on evaluation conducted throughout the course. This portion of the grade should reflect the student's most consistent level of achievement throughout the course, although special consideration will be given to more recent evidence of achievement.
- ☐ Thirty percent of the grade will be based on a final evaluation administered at or towards the end of the course. This evaluation will be based on evidence from one or a combination of the following: a portfolio selection

(*Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting in Ontario Schools*. Ontario Ministry of Education Publication, 2010 p.41)

TERM WORK EVALUATIONS (70%):

Evaluation Item	Description	Category	Weight
Unit 1	Literacy Basics	K, I, C, A	10
Unit 2	Main Idea	K, I, C, A	10
Unit 3	Short Answer Response	K, I, C, A	10
Unit 4	Information Paragraphs	K, I, C, A	10
Unit 5	Narrative Texts	K, I, C, A	10
Unit 6	News Reports	K, I, C, A	10
Unit 7	Series of Paragraphs Expressing an Opinion	K, I, C, A	10

FINAL EVALUATIONS (30%):

Evaluation Item	Description	Category	Weight
Culminating Activities	Reading Log Final assessment tasks	SUM	30

Weightings	
Course Work	70
Knowledge/Understanding	17.5
Thinking/Inquiry	17.5
Communication	17.5
Application	17.5
Final	30
Culminating Activity	

AFL/AAL/AOL Tracking sheet:

Unit 1: Literacy Basics

AAL	AFL	AOL
Videos	Learning Journal #1	Personal Essay
Notes on Reading Strategies	Learning Journal #2	

Unit 2: Main Idea

AAL	AFL	AOL
Presentations, Readings, Exemplars, Videos	Learning Journal #3	Main Idea AOL
Reading Log		

Unit 3: Graphic Texts

AAL	AFL	AOL
Presentations, Readings, Exemplars, Videos	Graphic Text Practice	Graphic Texts #1-4
	Reading Log	Summary Paragraph

Unit 4: Information Paragraphs

AAL	AFL	AOL
Presentations, Readings, Exemplars, Videos	Learning Journal #4	Informational Texts #1-5
Reading Log	Information Paragraph/1:1 Feedback	Information Paragraph

Unit 5: Narrative Texts

AAL	AFL	AOL
Presentations, Readings, Exemplars, Videos	Learning Journal #5	Narrative Texts #1-2
	Learning Journal #6	
	Reading Log	

Unit 6: News Reports

AAL	AFL	AOL
Presentations, Readings, Exemplars, Videos	Learning Journal #7	News Reports #1-2
Reading Log		

Unit 7: Series of Paragraphs Expressing an Opinion

AAL	AFL	AOL
Presentations, Readings, Exemplars, Videos	Learning Journal #8	Series of Paragraphs #1-2
	Learning Journal #9	Completed Reading Log

Unit 8: Culminating Activity

AOL
Culminating Activity Tasks #1-4
Learning Journal #10

CONSIDERATION FOR PROGRAM PLANNING

PLANNING PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS

Classroom teachers are the key educators of students who have special education needs. They have a responsibility to help all students learn, and they work collaboratively with special education teachers, where appropriate, to achieve this goal. Special Education Transformation: The Report of the Co-Chairs with the Recommendations of the Working Table on Special Education, 2006 endorses a set of beliefs that should guide program planning for students with special education needs in all disciplines. Those beliefs are as follows: All students can succeed. Universal design and differentiated instruction are effective and interconnected means of meeting the learning or productivity needs of any group of students. Successful instructional practices are founded on evidence-based research, tempered by experience.

PROGRAM CONSIDERATIONS FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Ontario schools have some of the most multilingual student populations in the world. The first language of approximately 20 percent of the students in Ontario's English language schools is a language other than

English. Ontario's linguistic heritage includes several Aboriginal languages; many African, Asian, and European languages; and some varieties of English, such as Jamaican Creole. Many English language learners were born in Canada and raised in families and communities in which languages other than English were spoken, or in which the variety of English spoken differed significantly from the English of Ontario classrooms. Other English language learners arrive in Ontario as newcomers from other countries; they may have experience of highly sophisticated educational systems, or they may have come from regions where access to formal schooling was limited. When they start school in Ontario, many of these students are entering a new linguistic and cultural environment.

THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE PROGRAM

Information and communications technologies (ICT) provide a range of tools that can significantly extend and enrich teachers' instructional strategies and support students' language learning. ICT tools include multimedia resources, databases, Internet websites, digital cameras, and word-processing programs. Tools such as these can help students to collect, organize, and sort the data they gather and to write, edit, and present reports on their findings. Information and communications technologies can also be used to connect students to other schools, at home and abroad, and to bring the global community into the local classroom. Whenever appropriate, therefore, students should be encouraged to use ICT to support and communicate their learning.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations will be based on meeting with parent, teachers, administration and external educational assessment report. The following three types of accommodations may be provided:

- ☐ **Instructional accommodations:** such as changes in teaching strategies, including styles of presentation, methods of organization, or use of technology and multimedia.
- ☐ **Environmental accommodations:** such as preferential seating or special lighting.
- ☐ **Assessment accommodations:** such as allowing additional time to complete tests or assignments or permitting oral responses to test questions.

Other examples of modifications and aids, which may be used in this course, are:

- ☐ Provide step-by-step instructions.
- ☐ Help students create organizers for planning writing tasks.
- ☐ Record key words on the board or overhead when students are expected to make their own notes.
- ☐ Allow students to report verbally to a scribe (teacher/ student) who can help in note taking.
- ☐ Permit students a range of options for reading and writing tasks.
- ☐ Where an activity requires reading, provide it in advance.
- ☐ Provide opportunities for enrichment.