College of San Mateo
Official Course Outline

1. COURSE ID: ESL 907  TITLE: Independent Writing Study-Intermediate ESL
   Units: 0.5-1.0 units  Hours/Semester: 24.0-54.0 Lab hours
   Method of Grading: P/NP Only
   Recommended Preparation:
      Eligibility for ESL 827

2. COURSE DESIGNATION:
   Non-Degree Credit
   Transfer credit: none

3. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:
   Catalog Description:
   For speakers of languages other than English having difficulty with their writing. Includes independent
   work and individual appointments with a faculty member who will help students improve in paragraph
   writing, including correcting intermediate-level grammar errors. Open entry/open exit. Variable units.
   (Units do not apply toward AA/AS degree).

4. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):
   Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:
   1. Demonstrate mastery of intermediate-level grammar or writing skills after completing specific activities,
      exercises, workshops, or tutorials;
   2. Identify, understand, and incorporate the writing skills they need to work on after completing one-on-one
      conferences with faculty;
   3. Demonstrate a greater understanding and control of their writing process.

5. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:
   Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:
   1. Demonstrate mastery of intermediate-level grammar or writing skills after completing specific activities,
      exercises, workshops, or tutorials;
   2. Identify, understand, and incorporate the writing skills they need to work on after completing one-on-one
      conferences with faculty;
   3. Demonstrate a greater understanding and control of their writing process.

6. COURSE CONTENT:
   Lab Content:
   Global issues, sentence-level issues or a combination of both at the intermediate ESL level. These may include
   but are not limited to the following:
   1. Global-level issues: Academic and Summary Paragraph Writing
      A. Format
      B. Topic Sentences
      C. Supporting Details
      D. Concluding Sentences
   2. Sentence-level issues:
      A. Sentence Modification Techniques/Editing
         a. Coordination
         b. Subordination
         c. Transitions
      B. Other Grammar/Editing
         a. Verb Tense
         b. Verb Forms (progressive, present perfect, past perfect, passive voice)
         c. Gerunds and Infinitives
         d. Causatives: make/let/have + (somebody) + base verb
         e. Subject Verb Agreement
         f. Singular Plural Agreement
         g. Articles
      C. Mechanics
7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:
Typical methods of instruction may include:
A. Lab
B. Activity
C. Directed Study
D. Discussion
E. Individualized Instruction

8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS
Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

Writing Assignments:
Sample Paragraph Topics:
A. Write a narrative paragraph describing your first day at college.
B. Write a summary paragraph describing the plot of your favorite movie.
C. Write a cause-effect paragraph describing how a major event has changed your life.

Sample Grammar/Editing Assignments:
A. Attend some of the weekly Grammar & Editing Workshops
B. Do appropriate Grammar & Editing exercises in intermediate-level textbooks
C. Teach active editing strategies:
   a. Circle Subjects and underline Verbs to check for Subject Verb Agreement.
   b. Put dots above all nouns to edit for Article errors.
   c. Place square brackets around all dependent clauses and check for Comma Splice, Run-on, Fragment and Sentence Structure errors.

9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION
Representative methods of evaluation may include:
A. Class Participation
B. Class Work
C. Exams/Tests
D. Papers
E. Pre-Test/Diagnostic Writing Sample Post-Test/Final Writing Sample

10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):
Possible textbooks include:

**Origination Date:** October 2014  
**Curriculum Committee Approval Date:** February 2015  
**Effective Term:** Fall 2015  
**Course Originator:** Kristiane Ridgway