

# EXPLORING LANGUAGE II

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Donna K. Reid

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TEXT: Weidenborner and Caruso, *Writing Research Papers: A Guide to the Process*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Fundamentals of research writing. Bibliographic instruction and practice in writing a substantial research paper.

A course in writing research papers is a “how-to” course, one which teaches you the steps and strategies in finding a researchable topic, locating information, and integrating the information into a thoughtful scholarly work which answers a question which needs to be answered. It requires the use of the writing skills that you have developed in other courses and the employment of the methodologies that you have learned in your academic discipline.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will have demonstrated:

- The ability to write an informative, well-written research paper on an appropriate academic subject based on an understanding of:
  - Choosing a subject
  - Posing a research question
  - Conceiving thoughtful hypotheses and a final thesis
  - Locating and evaluating sources
  - Utilizing and integrating source material
  - Citing source material
  - Organizing a substantial amount of information
  - Writing effectively
- The ability to critically respond to other students’ thinking and writing

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Attend the class sessions as listed on the schedule
2. Submit the required written assignments related to the readings in the textbook. (5 pts possible for each one)
3. Respond to 3 students’ potential topics (5 points)

4. Submit a research proposal (possible 10 points)
5. Respond to two other students' proposals (5 points)
6. Respond to three students' theses (5 points)
7. Submit two sample pages of your draft to me so that I can check your use of sources (5 points)
8. Respond to two other students' drafts (10 points)
9. Take a Final Examination (50 points possible)
10. Submit a research paper of 15-20 double spaced pages (12 point type) of text (exclusive of cover sheet, list of sources, illustrations etc.) The list of sources must include at least 15 sources. Points will be subtracted for fewer pages and/or sources. (150 possible points)

No handwritten homework will be accepted (except for examples of notes and bibliography cards).

Note that no outline for the paper is required (although you may want to write one for yourself).

**GRADING:** Will be done on a point system

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F below 60%

For a paper to receive a grade of C or higher, it is required to:

- 1) have very few errors in punctuation, grammar, spelling, or mechanics
- 2) have correct MLA, APA, or Chicago style citation of sources (as is appropriate to the academic discipline)
- 3) integrate material from numerous sources successfully
- 4) have sources appropriate for a college-level research paper

## COURSE POLICIES:

1. Plagiarism (handing in work which is not your own) will result in an F in the course.
2. Work is to be done on time. Failure to hand in work on time will result in your grade for the assignment being lowered. **No late research papers or exams will be accepted.**
3. The paper must be correctly documented in the style appropriate to the discipline you are working in (MLA, APA, Chicago Style).
4. The paper must follow the formatting guidelines in Chapter 20.
5. Incompletes are given only in the case of emergencies, not for being behind in the work.
6. Keep copies of all of your work until you have received your final grade.

SCHEDULE: The course is taught partially in the classroom and partially as a guided study. Please note the dates that the class does not meet!

**Be sure to contact me by e-mail whenever you need help with the class.**

Written work is due on the date it is listed by in the schedule.

Sept 24: Introduction

- Oct 1:
1. Read Part One (Chapters 1, 2, and 3)
  2. Look at the Sample Papers in Chapter 21
  3. Written Work to be handed in:
    - A. Write out the answers to “Reviewing Part I: Questions” (page 27)
    - B. Do Exercise #3 page 33: use the paper topic you are currently considering. In Step 4, include the question your paper will answer as well as the hypothesis.

In class: respond to other students’ “question and hypothesis”.

- Oct 8:
1. Read Part Two
  2. Written work to be handed in:
    - Reviewing Part Two: Questions 1, 3, 5, 6 (page 92)
    - Reviewing Part Two: Exercises 1, 3, 5, 6 (pp. 93-94) (note that this requires the use of a library)
    - Copies of 8 of your bibliography cards

- Oct 15:
1. Read Part Three: Working with Sources
  2. Written work to be handed in:
    - Reviewing Part Three: Questions (all) (p. 150)
    - Reviewing Part Three: Exercises #1, #2 (do this for 4 of your sources), #3 (use your own topic. If you cannot find a popular magazine article related to your topic, use two articles from scholarly journals)
    - Copies of 8 of your note cards or notes
  3. Submit a Research Proposal:

Write at least 1 page, double-spaced, presenting the following:

    - The question your paper will answer
    - The purpose of the paper
    - Your intended audience and how that audience will affect the paper
    - Your voice as a writer
    - The hypothesis
    - The types of sources you expect to use (be as specific as possible)
  4. In class, read other students’ proposals and respond to them.

- Oct 22: No class.  
Read Part Five: Documenting Sources. (Note that we are skipping Part Four for now.)  
E-mail the following written work to me. Please be sure to title the e-mail ENG377 ASSIGNMENT #4.
- Reviewing Part Five: Questions (all) (p. 246)
  - Reviewing Part Five: Exercise (pages 246-247). NOTE: DO THIS ONE IN WHICHEVER DOCUMENTATION STYLE YOU WILL BE USING IN YOUR PAPER. BE SURE TO INDICATE WHICH ONE YOU ARE EMPLOYING. ALSO: ORGANIZE AND FORMAT IT EXACTLY AS A LIST OF SOURCES WOULD APPEAR IN A RESEARCH PAPER.
- Oct 29: No class.  
Read Part Four: Writing the Paper  
Written work:
- Send me and three other students the question your paper will answer and your thesis (we'll arrange this at a previous class). Respond to the three that you receive.
- Nov 5: No class
- Nov 12: No class
- Nov 19: No class
- Nov 26: No class (holiday week)  
Read Chapter 20
- Dec 3: Class meeting: Looking at drafts session.  
Bring the following:
1. Two sample pages of the draft (pages that include source citations) and the list of sources. Please bring a self-addressed, stamped envelope so I can return these to you.
  2. Your completed draft including the list of sources.
  3. Each of you will read two other students' drafts in class and respond.
- Dec 10: Final Exam due to me by e-mail
- Dec 17: Research Paper due. Bring me a self-addressed, stamped envelope (include your copy of my evaluation when you figure postage).

