ENGL 377: Fundamentals of Research Writing

Fall 2016
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This course takes students through all of the steps of research writing from topic development to the editing/revision process. By the end of the course, students will have the specialized skills and knowledge necessary to produce viable research papers which meet the standards and follow the conventions recognized by all academic institutions.

Required Textbook


This text can be purchased new, or it can be purchased used on Amazon.com or Abebooks.com. Keep in mind that Amazon.com offers the option of renting this textbook. Amazon also offers a textbook buyback program.

Completion of Assignments

Be very aware of due dates and plan ahead. Late work will be accepted, but there will be point loss.

Academic Integrity

We will adhere to the college policy on academic honesty, as published in the Linfield College course catalog. Plagiarism or any other form of cheating will result in an immediate F for the course. You may not claim sentences written by others as your own, and you may not reuse written assignments produced for other classes. All quotations, ideas, or paraphrases must be properly cited. Please ask if you are unsure about your use of sources.

Discussion Board

Periodically, I will ask students to share their research progress on the discussion board. I will also ask students to respond to each other's posts with constructive suggestions and thoughtful questions.

Research Paper

By the end of the course, students will have produced a ten-page, double-spaced research paper with a works cited page.
Updates to the Syllabus

This syllabus may be amended from time to time. Please make a note of the changes as I announce them.

Disability Statement

Students with disabilities are protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you are a student with a disability and feel you may require academic accommodations, please contact Learning Support Services (LSS) as early as possible to request accommodation for your disability. The timeliness of your request will allow LSS to promptly arrange the details of your support. LSS is located in Melrose Hall, Lower Level. The contact number is 503-883-2562. We also encourage students to communicate with faculty about their accommodations.

Grade Distribution

- Article Analysis (Forum 1).................................................................5%
- Prospectus (Forum 2)........................................................................5%
- Phone conferences (Forum 3)............................................................10%
- Database Assignment (Forum 4).......................................................5%
- Annotated Bibliography (Forum 5)......................................................10%
- Outline (Forum 6)............................................................................10%
- Rough Draft (Forum 7).....................................................................10%
- Peer-Editing Exercise (Forum 8).......................................................10%
- Reflective Questions (Forum 10).......................................................5%
- Final Draft (Forum 11).....................................................................30%

Extra-credit opportunity:

Rough-draft self-evaluation, Forum 9: 10 points

Schedule of Assignments:

Week 1 (Week of Sept. 6)
Understanding the Purpose and Methods of Academic Research:
Read the assigned articles and complete the article analysis. Details will be provided online.
Week 2 (Week of Sept. 12)
Article analysis due (Post to Forum 1: Article Analysis on our discussion board)

- Developing a Topic: Read *The Curious Researcher*, pgs. 5-10 and 23-31
- I will post an announcement with a schedule of phone conferences.
- Choose 3 possible research topics. These topics will be discussed during our phone conference.

Week 3 (Week of Sept. 19)
Phone conferences with me. We will discuss your 3 possible research topics.

Week 4 (Week of Sept. 26)
Prospectus due (Post to Forum 2: Prospectus)
Read Chapter 2 of *The Curious Researcher*.
Contact the Linfield research librarian and set up a phone conference for week 5. More information will be provided online.

Week 5 (Week of Oct. 3)
Post the day and time of your appointment with the research librarian to "Forum 3: Phone Conferences." During your phone conferences with the librarian, you will use the databases to find articles for your research. *You will need a computer with internet access for this conference. Be prepared to spend 30-45 minutes online with the librarian.*

Week 6 (Week of Oct. 10)
Database assignment due (Post to Forum 4: Database Assignment)
Topic: Annotated bibliography

Week 7 (Week of Oct. 17)
Annotated bibliography due (Post to Forum 5: Annotated Bibliography)
Read Chapters 3 and 4 in *The Curious Researcher*.
Outline assignment

Week 8 (Week of Oct. 24)
Outline due (Post to Forum 6: Outline)
Rough-draft assignment

Week 9 (Week of Oct. 31)
Rough draft due (Post to Forum 7: Rough Draft)
Read Chapter 5 and Appendix A in *The Curious Researcher*.
Peer-editing assignment
Week 10 (Week of Nov. 7):
Peer-edits and responses due (Post to Forum 8: Peer-editing Workshop)
Assignment: Revising Rough Drafts

Week 11 (Week of Nov. 14)
Phone conferences with me to discuss the revisions.

Week 12 (Week of Nov. 21)
Thanksgiving Break. Keep working on your revision!

Week 13 (Week of Nov. 28)

Week 14 (Week of Dec. 5)
Reflective questionnaire. Post to Forum 10: Reflective Questions.

The final draft must be posted under "Forum 11: Final Drafts" by Friday, Dec. 16, at midnight. No papers will be accepted after Dec. 16th.