LINN BENTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Albany Campus  

COURSE SYLLABUS: WR121 ENGLISH COMPOSITION  
Winter 2009

Instructor: April Carothers  
Office: SSH 204  
E-mail: april.carothers@linnbenton.edu  
Class Time: Tues/Thurs 1- 2:20 pm  
CRN# 36430  
Sec. 20  
Location: IA 232

0ffice Hours: 12 to 1 pm Tuesday and Thursday, or by appointment  
Office Phone (call only during office hours): 541.917.4835

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Covers processes and fundamentals of writing expository essays, including structure, organization and development, diction and style, revision and editing, mechanics and standard usage required for college-level writing. Placement determined by pre-enrollment testing (CPT). Prerequisite: Placement in WR 121 is determined by pre-enrollment testing (CPT) or by passing WR 115 with a grade of “C” or better. Students may challenge their mandatory placement, with an advisor’s approval, by signing a self-placement form through their counselor.

RULE # 1: Don’t Panic! Your success means a lot to me. If you have any concerns or know you will need to miss a class, just let me know. Email works great too.

My goals for you for the course: gain confidence, gain skill in writing for college, begin to see the messages of others (written, visual, spoken, online, etc.) from a critical point of view with awareness of how and why that message was shaped.

Required Text:  

Other Texts: Online tools on instructor page and a good dictionary and thesaurus.

GRADING IS BASED ON FINAL EXAM (30%) AND THE FOLLOWING (70%):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Essays (30 pts, 30 pts, 40 pts)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Peer Review Sessions. (5 pts each)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation (5 pts a day)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>215</td>
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CLASS REQUIREMENTS:

WRITING: During the course of the term, you will write three formal graded essays, typed, double spaced, 12 point font, 1-1.25” margins, shared with peers, then revised and turned in with all drafts in a peechee style folder. Late essays lose 2 points. We will also do shorter informal, messy, ungraded writing assignments each day in class. Note that I will only record these, not evaluate them. We will also do various online assignments.

Keep all of your returned work and do NOT give me your only copies. Maintain a folder or notebook in case I fail to record a grade. This is for your pleasure and your protection.

REWRITING: If you don’t like the grade you receive on a paper, you can make changes and resubmit for more points. Make sure you include the original, graded essay along with your revised version.

If you think you have a disability of any kind that will impact you at college, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS). ODS may be reached from any LBCC campus/center by email – ODS@linnbenton.edu or by
Proposed Course Schedule

Rule #1: Do Not Panic
Rule #2: Do not suffer in silence. When in doubt, ask me, email me, contact me.

Readings and essays are due the day they are listed. All else is done in class.

Week One
Jan. 5 Introduction, write to me.

Jan. 7 Skim Ch. 1. Reading texts. Audience, purpose, context, media. “Librarian’s Lament” 45 in class.

Week Two: Composing texts
Jan. 12 Reading: “Heroism and Horror” 80-81. “She’s very Charlie” 90. In class: Ch. 2. Pg. 52, choose one, 20 min. write.


Week Three: Identity
Jan. 19 Reading: “The Veil” 110. In class: 20 min. write (exposition). Prompts: anything under the “Consider” boxes in Ch. 3.


Week Four: Places & Environment
Jan. 26 Essay 1 Due
Reading: “Where the Avatars Roam” 212 and “From Grapes of Wrath” 232. Skim Ch. 4.

Jan. 28 MLA workshop. Reading: “On the Road” 236.

Week Five: Politics & Advocacy


Week Six: Media
Feb. 9 Essay 2 due. Reading: “Telling War’s Story” 280. Skim Ch. 5.

Feb. 11 Reading: “Now on Google” 353. In class, 20 min. write (opposing viewpoint). More Ch. 5.

Week Seven: Tech & Science
Feb. 16 Essay 3 peer feedback. Skim Ch. 6, especially pages 362-365.

Feb. 18 Reading: “Does virtual reality need a sheriff?” 379 “This is your brain on video games” 381. More Ch. 6. Sign up for conferences. [Purpose of conference: tell me about essay 3 and any problems you are having.]

Week Eight: Style, Design, Culture
Feb. 23 Reading: “The McMansion” 418 “Head Case” 421. Skim Ch. 7. In class, choose any “Consider” prompt.

Feb. 25 NO CLASS: Begin Conferences, reg. class time. See instructor page for times.

Week Ten Conferences all week: no class
March 2 and 4: Check instructor page for times.

Week Eleven
March 11 Finish practice final.

Week Twelve: Finals Week March 15-19
Final exam, BOTH DAYS: Monday at noon, and Tuesday at 11:30. One hour overflow on Tuesday.

Important Dates At A Glance:

Essay Due Dates:
- Peer draft Essay 1: Jan 21
- Portfolio 1: Jan 26
- Peer draft Essay 2: Feb 2
- Portfolio 2: Feb 9
- Peer draft Essay 3: Feb 16
- Portfolio 3: March 9

NOTE: Portfolios contain all work for each essay, the warm up, rough draft, peer feedback, & final draft.

A NOTE ON PLAGIARISM:
Plagiarism is when you fail to give credit to ideas or information that didn’t spring from your own brain. It can happen by accident, or purposely. If you are caught plagiarizing on purpose, it can mean expulsion. It’s fairly easy with today’s technology to find free essays to lift off the net, and it’s just as easy for instructors to detect these. Essays presented as your own that are NOT your own will be given a ZERO grade. Why do students do it? Desperation, laziness? It’s not worth it! If you have any problems, contact me, please! I’m here to help. I honestly want to read what YOU have to say, not some stranger.