Writing 123 Syllabus
Research Writing
Spring, 2003

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Office Hours: MWF: 11 a.m. –12 p.m. & TR: 1–2 p.m.
Class Time/Place: TR 11:00 a.m.-12:20 p.m. Tues: T: 213; R: LRC-210
CRN: 40058

Course Description
Hello and welcome to all of you. Writing 123 will introduce you to the process of writing a research paper. You’ll pick a topic that really interests you and spend time with it, ask an interesting question that has more than one answer, break down that question into sub-questions that you can research, and decide what the best answer is. You’ll learn how to find and use sources and how to shape the raw information you find there into an organized, articulate, college-level essay.

During the first half of the term, you’ll learn how to generate a topic and thesis of your choice, how to find sources in the library and on the net, how to take notes, document, and draft a research paper. Then, during the second half of the term, as teams, you’ll learn how to revise several drafts, how to edit and polish one another’s work in workshop conferences, and how to develop your work into the best possible research essay you can.

Jump Start Opportunity
You can earn up to 10 points extra credits for viewing one or all of the following videos. You will need to write a short (1-2 page) report that summarizes what you saw and also gives your critical assessment. These three videos are on overnight reserve at LBCC’s main library:
- INTRODUCING THE RESEARCH PAPER (VIDEO)
- WRITING THE RESEARCH PAPER: SELECTING AND NARROWING A TOPIC
- WRITING THE RESEARCH PAPER: TAKING NOTES

LEARNING OUTCOMES: When you’ve successfully completed WR 123, you should be able to:
- Use the MLA format for proper documentation methods
- Write an informative and analytical essay
- Use primary and secondary research resources critically to bring depth and support to your essay
- Develop research methods and a research plan
- Develop strategies for writing longer papers
SKILLS: To reach our learning outcomes, you’ll need to master the following skills:

- Critical reading
- Subject analysis
- Essay writing and the use of MLA standards
- Collaborative teamwork
- Time management
- Substantive revision

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS: You will have the opportunity to demonstrate our learning outcomes by accomplishing the following tasks:

- Workplan/Calendar .................. 15; credit/no credit
- Resource List .......................... 25; credit/no credit
- Tentative Outline ..................... 20; credit/ no credit
- Tentative Introduction ............... 10; credit/ no credit
- First Draft ............................. 50; credit/ no credit
- In-class exercises ..................... 70
- Summary/Response ................. 4 @ 25; 100
- Second Draft .......................... 50
- Peer Review (25 points each draft) . . 50
- Final Draft ............................ 200

All assignments must be typed or word-processed, using MLA format. That means conventional margins, pagination, and 12-point Palatino font for hard copy or Optima font for electronic copy.

I urge you to submit your essays electronically. E-mail them to me at terrance@peak.org as attached documents in Microsoft WORD format only and in Optima 12 font. These essays are due by midnight on Friday due dates. You will get them back sooner than written essays (which are also due earlier, in class), and have the opportunity to get more feedback on them.

Your Final Draft should contain

1. A table of contents.
2. A finished versions of your essay with all drafts.

It will be graded on these criteria:

1. Thesis;
2. Analysis;
3. Coherence;
4. Completeness;
5. Organization;
Grading
A= 90% of points and papers at 90% or better.
B= 80 % of points and papers at 80% or better.
C= 70% of points and papers at 70% or better.
You can’t get a grade just on points—you your writing quality must match your grade.

A = You perform consistent and excellent work on time. You come to class having read the material actively and thoughtfully. Your writing makes insightful connection between the literature and the issues involved.
B = You show consistent work, but you may not have always understood the literature and your writing might not express clarity all the time. Minor errors impede the writing.
C = Also means consistent work, but you have occasionally struggled with the reading and your writing shows recurring errors. You missed an occasional assignment.
D = You fall behind, miss an assignment, and attempt to turn in work late. You attend class irregularly and do not contribute to class or group work.
F = You complete less than 2/3rds of the work. Most students fail because they stop trying or don’t seek help before it’s too late.
Y = Means you complete so little work (less than 25%) that there is no basis for a grade.

Please Note: your work for WR 123 will earn points based on;
1. the thoughtful quality of your writing and research,
2. the logical organization of your writing,
3. the clarity and conciseness of your writing,
4. the correctness of your documentation, (citations and bibliographies),
5. the care of your proofreading, and
6. the timeliness of your assignments.

Meet your deadlines: assignments and drafts turned in late will be awarded a maximum of 70%.

Things to Keep in Mind:
• PICK A TOPIC YOU CARE ABOUT. Aim for a 3,500 - 4,500 word paper (12-15 typed pages).
• Complete assignments and reading on time.
• Use the MLA conventions
• Include in your sources a balance of resources. Aim for five sources (books, magazines, journals, interviews, internet, etc.).
• Remember when you submit your final draft to include:
  o all rough drafts
  o notes
  o printouts of information pulled from the internet
  o photocopies of articles copied from magazines, newspapers, etc.
TENTATIVE SPRING SCHEDULE  
(SUBJECT TO REVISION, WITH NOTICE)

Week 1  
     *Read Introduction (1-20) for next day.*
     
     Look up  
     [Summary/Response](#) on the web site.

R    **DUE: S/R #1: 1-12.** Discuss Introduction and course expectations. Exercise #1 & 2 
     (in class) We divide into teams that will share assignments and feedback.
     
     *Read Chapter 1 (21-76) for next day.*

Week 2 Chapter 1  
T    **DUE: S/R #2: 32-76. Library Tour**

R    Exercise 1.1, 1.2 in class(10 points each). Begin Exercise 1.5  
     *Read Chapter 2 (77-118) for next day.*

Week 3 Chapter 2  
T    **DUE: S/R #3: 77-96**

R    Workplan/calendar due; exercise 2.1 in class. Find and print two articles on your topic  
     (20 points) **Hand these assignments in on Friday in my office.**  
     *Read Chapter 3 (119-158) for next day.*

Week 4 Chapter 3  
T    **DUE: S/R #4: 119-158**

R    List of potential resources; exercise 3.3 in class (10 points).  
     *Read Chapter 4 (167-206) for next day.*

Week 5 Chapter 4  
T    **DUE: S/R #5: 167-197** Exercise 4.1 in class (10 points).

R    Conferences; exercise 4.2 in class (10 points).  
     *Read Chapter 5 (1207-234) for next day.*
Week 6 Chapter 5
T Exercise 5.2 (10 points) Read Appendix A (MLA)
R Team Meeting. Come prepared with an outline and copies for your group.
   Tentative outline and introduction due. Exercise 5.4 (10 points)
   Team Meetings

Week 7 Draft 1 Due
T Team Meeting. Draft 1 Due. Bring a draft with copies for your group.
   Conferences and peer reviews. Write, revise, polish.
R Team Meetings Workshop and peer review draft 1. Conferences and peer reviews.
   Write, revise, polish.

Week 8 Draft 2 Due
T Team Meeting. Draft 2 Due. Bring copies for your group. Conferences and peer
   reviews. Write, revise, polish.
R Team Meeting. Bring copies of your annotated bibliography.
   Conferences and peer reviews. Write, revise, polish.

Week 9 Final Draft Due
T Oral Presentations. We share our papers with each other. Be ready to give a
   brief talk about your paper during this week’s classes.
R Oral Presentations.

FINAL DRAFT DUE Friday with rough drafts, outlines, notes, etc.

Week 10
Wait and Worry; I’ll have your papers graded by the time assigned for the final.

Week 11
No final examination.

NOTE:
Again, I urge you to submit your essays electronically. E-mail them to me at
terrance@peak.org as attached documents in Microsoft WORD format only and in Optima 12
font. These essays are due by midnight on Friday due dates. You will get them back sooner
than written essays (which are also due earlier, in class), and have the opportunity to get more
feedback on them.
Electronic submissions must be attached files that are named with your last name and the assignment in the subject line. For example: Smithwr123essaydraft; Reedwr123second draft; etc.