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| SYLLABUS: WR 121 English Composition |

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| INSTRUCTOR: | Chris Riseley |
| OFFICE: | North Santiam Hall 211-- no face to face visits during quarantine |
| OFFICE HOURS: | We will be in touch as needed via phone, text and Zoom, I plan to be as available as I can during the hours from 9:00am and 5:00pm Mon-Fri |
| TELEPHONE: | 541-250-1652 -- This is my private cell for use during quarantine only. You are welcome to text and call me here between 9:00am and 5:00pm Mon-Fri. |
| E-MAIL: | chris.riseley@linnbenton.edu |
| WR121 PREREQUISITE: | College Placement Test and/or grade of “C” or higher in WR115 |
| Final Exam Times: | WR 121 exams will be Monday, noon – 12:50 p.m., and Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. **Students must test both days.** NOTE: New systems for our holistic grading process will be released by week 4 of the term. |
| FIRST PRINCIPLES: | * I believe that you are ALREADY a writer! * Attitude is everything! * We do this together. You will have partners in class and you will have partners in the Writing Center. * We succeed when we are engaged and willing. * Be engaged.   + What does genuine engagement look like?     - Completing assignments.     - Asking questions.     - Taking this course seriously.     - Visiting office hours to get help or just to talk * We learn best by bringing our genuine selves to whatever we do * Be curious * Take risks * Be respectful * Be curious -- wait, did I already say that? Oh yeah, I did. I’m saying it again because guess what: it is absolutely essential to becoming a better writer |
| COURSE DESCRIPTION: | Welcome to our writing class. I firmly believe that this class is among the most practical of classes you will take during your college career. The skills you develop in this class will help you as you apply for jobs, woo potential significant others, and get refunds for bottles of spaghetti sauce that were hiding marinated insects. This last situation actually happened to me. I have photos. I sent my letter to Ragu and they responded immediately with coupons for free bottles of Ragu. It was something of a refund, and it came to me because I know the skills that we cover in this class.  This class helps you find your own writing process as I share with you the useful bag of tricks all writers need to keep their audiences interested while they make their specific points. I’ll give you strategies for drafting, organizing and revising your essays until they sparkle.  The key here is practice: you’ll encounter writing practice in a variety of situations and for several different purposes, but you’ll never be on your own. I’m always available to help you peek at your own writing through my pair of possibly more experienced eyes.  There’s one important thing to remember in this class: you and I are on the same team!  Here’s the way the above description appears in our catalog. Same class. Mine is just more fun:   * Focuses on college-level expository writing and critical thinking. Improves fluency with elements such as thesis, support, organization, basic research/citation, and conventions of language. Utilize processes such as critical reading, prewriting, drafting, peer feedback, revision, editing, and reflection. Asks students to employ these elements and processes while considering the audience, purpose, and genre of a given writing task. |
| **LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM:** | Moodle.  You will be guided to many other websites during this term but the bulk of our interaction will happen within Moodle. If you ever have any questions, remember that I am available by text 40 hours a week for your success. |
| WR 121 LEARNING OUTCOMES | 1. *Analyze the* *rhetorical needs* (the interaction of audiences, purpose/outcome, and subject) of a variety of academic and practical writing assignments.  2. *Apply appropriate levels of critical thinking strategies* (knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, evaluation) in response to the rhetorical needs of an assignment.  3. *Implement appropriate rhetorical elements and organization* (introduction, thesis, development and support, rebuttal, visuals, narration, conclusion, etc.) in response to the rhetorical needs of an assignment.  4. *Locate, evaluate, and integrate* *high-quality information and opinion* in response to the rhetorical needs of an assignment.  5. *Craft sentences and paragraphs* that communicate their ideas clearly and effectively using words, sentence patterns, and writing conventions to make their writing clear, credible, and persuasive. |
| COURSE ASSESSMENT | WR 121 Final Exam: All LBCC WR121 students take a common exit final exam, an essay you will compose in response to a given topic. Your essay will be read by a team of English Instructors and holistically scored. This final essay counts 30% toward your final grade for WR121. |
| FALL 2020  CONTRACT  GRADING: | Students in this class will contract for an A grade, a B grade, or a C grade.  This is an important decision for you to make, so please read carefully.  This policy is enacted because we realize that during our current pandemic, students’ lives have become increasingly complicated, and we want to place you more in charge of your time. How much time, effort, energy, and enthusiasm will you be capable of bringing to your work in this class?  Students in pursuit of the C grade will complete the following at the C level:   * weekly required readings and quizzes * watch videos as required and quizzes * C level forum participation * 1 Summary Assignment * 1 Review Assignment * 3 major essay assignments at least 3 pages long, each including   + first, second and final drafts   + visits with our Writing Center via Zoom and/or OWL options   + peer review process * Holistic Final Exam   + This process includes practice tests.   Students in pursuit of the B grade will complete the following at the B level:   * weekly required readings and quizzes * watch videos as required * B level forum participation * 3 Summary Assignments * 3 Review Assignments * Today I Learned Assignment with B level benchmarks * 3 Sun Magazine Assignments * at least 2 telephone or Zoom sessions with instructor * 3 major essays assignments at least 6 pages long, each including   + first, second and final drafts   + visits with our Writing Center via Zoom and/or OWL options   + peer review process   + Research papers will cite at least 6 articles. * Holistic Final Exam   + preparation includes practice tests.   Students in pursuit of the A grade will complete the following at the A level:   * work with other students to help them develop as writers and thinkers * take a leadership role during draft workshops and forums * meet all assignment deadlines * weekly required readings and quizzes * watch videos as required * A level forum participation as a leader * 5 Summary Assignments * 5 Review Assignment--1 per week first 8 weeks * Today I Learned Assignment -- A level benchmarks * at least 4 telephone or Zoom sessions with instructor * 3 major essays assignments at least 8 pages long, each including   + first, second and final drafts   + visits with our Writing Center via Zoom and/or OWL options   + peer review process   + Research papers will cite at least 10 articles. * Holistic Final Exam   + preparation includes practice tests. |
| SKILLS | • Work in teams through reading groups and peer editing workshops  • Demonstrate each of the steps in your writing process (developing, drafting, revising, and editing)  • Provide critical response to peers’ work  • Develop your responses to readings  • Focus, develop, and organize your thoughts in writing  • Evaluate your own work using commonly accepted standards for thoughtful writing  • Follow standard grammatical conventions for academic writing  • Integrate outside sources using MLA or APA standards |
| Textbooks & Materials: | This term you will receive links to materials during class.  USEFUL TEXTS THAT HAVE BEEN WITH THIS COURSE IN THE PAST:  • They Say, I Say. Graff, Birkenstein, Durst  ISBN978-0-393-93274-7. 2009. Publisher: Norton.  • The Little Seagull Handbook. Bullock and Weinberg. ISBN: 978-0-393-91151-0. Publisher: Norton  • A good college dictionary  • One jump drive, disc or CD for work in the computer lab, a pocket folder, and a binder for  your class work |
| College Resources | Library  Writing Center and ONLINE WRITING LAB (OWL) |
| **Attendance and Time Management:** | ***Come to this class.*** You’ll notice from the first day of class that we work together a lot. We’ll be getting into groups to explore key concepts and then breaking into different groups to share what we’ve learned. We’ll be working one on one and in small groups on simple assignments and more challenging ones. I like to keep this course fun, informative and practical. Missing a meeting of this class is like buying a ticket to Disneyland and then going out to sit in your car in the hot parking lot all day. But I understand that we all have lives. If you must miss a class: send me an e-mail before the class you can’t attend, and then make sure that you communicate with someone else in the class so that he or she can help you understand what we covered. Remember that we’ll spend two hours outside of class working on our writing for every hour we spend in class.  Up to three unexcused absences will not affect your grade. In fairness to the students who come to all the classes, a fourth absence will result in one lower letter grade. The same will happen with each absence after. I would like you to come and see me if you must incur a fifth absence or more. |
| Tips for Success | Make this class fun for you. Crack yourself up as you practice your writing. Crack up your friends. Take risks.  Teach me how to make this class as fun and engaging as an online college level writing class can be.   * Come to class prepared and read/write assignments before class. * Do your work on time. * Always have your materials at hand. * Do your own work.   + *Plagiarism (using someone else’s work as your own without proper intext citation and documentation) will result in your failing the assignment and failing the class.*   Write about what matters to you. |
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| **LATE WORK POLICY** | After many years of being both a student and teacher, I have learned that getting our assignments in on time is best for us as students and for me as your teacher. This is the most ideal situation and it is the most fair one for all of the members of our class. We have deadlines and everyone meets the deadlines.  I realize that life can interfere with a deadline, but more often than not it is not really something important and unforeseen that interferes with our ability to turn in an assignment on time. Very often it is simply a lack of focus on time management that causes a paper to be late. I feel like it isn’t fair to other students in the class if late papers are awarded the same points as papers that were turned in on time. The maximum score that late paper can receive is a C. Turning in any assignments late will default your contract grade to C regardless of previous efforts. Make sure to connect with me if you foresee challenges in turning assignments in on time.  Late Papers can receive a grade no higher than a C and will be offered zero notes or feedback. To get feedback you will have to bring the paper to a regularly scheduled office hour. |
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|  | **Disability Statement:**  You should meet with your instructor during the first week of class if  · You have a documented disability and need accommodations,  · Your instructor needs to know medical information about you, or  · You need special arrangements in the event of an emergency.  If you have not accessed services and think you may need them, please contact Disability Services, 917-4789.  **Nondiscrimination Statement:** LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws. |
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| Distractions  (not really relevant to online versions of this course) | There will be times when students need to take notes and really concentrate during this course. It is our responsibility to keep our environment as free from distractions as possible. For this reason food is not allowed in the classroom. Please eat before or after class.  Of course all personal technological devices should be silenced during class. There might be times when you absolutely must be available to take a phone call. I understand that. If such a day arises, please sit in one of the chairs nearest the door and place your phone on vibrate. Take your call outside the classroom. |
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| Revisions | Students will work with writing specialists and their instructor to bring their grades on their paper in alignment with their contract grade. In some cases this may be impossible and students may have to reconsider their contract grade so that it aligns with the scores they are receiving on their papers. |
| Theme | Let’s succeed together. |