

## Writing 121: College Composition I – Fall 2018

**Instructor:** Bjorn Smars

**CRN\*:** 25253

**Class Time:** TR 1:00-2:20PM

**Classroom:** North Santiam Hall 206

**E-Mail:** [smarsb@linnbenton.edu](mailto:smarsb@linnbenton.edu)

**Office Location:** IA 231-A

**Office Hours:** Thursdays 12-1PM, 4-5:30PM & by appointment

**Office Phone:** 541-917-4699 ext. 4296

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\*If you are in ALP, make sure you are registered under the following CRNs: **26412** (WR121) and **26408** (WR115)

### **Required Textbooks:**

Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say/I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (with 2016 MLA update). Both used and new are acceptable.

### **Other Required Materials:**

- Paper and pen/pencil
- Folder/s to turn in final essays with their drafts
- Stapler and staples (*yes, buy your own mini-stapler and carry it with you!*)
- LBCC email account
- Access to Canvas by Instructure (free to sign up)
- Regular access to a computer with a writing program and internet access. *A smartphone does not qualify as a computer for WR 121 purposes.*
- A good college dictionary & thesaurus

**Course Description:** WR121 covers the 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.

### **WR121 Learning Outcomes:**

- *Analyze the rhetorical needs* (the interaction of audiences, purpose/outcome, and subject) of a variety of academic and practical writing assignments.
- *Apply appropriate levels of critical thinking strategies* (knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, evaluation) in response to the rhetorical needs of an assignment.
- *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.
- *Locate, evaluate, and integrate high-quality information and opinion* in response to the rhetorical needs of an assignment.

- *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:**

You will have the opportunity to demonstrate these outcomes by accomplishing the following tasks:

- Two Essay Cycles (includes a Formal Writing Assignment, a First Draft, and a revised Final Draft)
- Various writing exercises, collaborative/peer review workshops, and essay postscripts.
- 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.

### **GRADE BREAKDOWN**

**Essay Cycles x2:** 50% of Course Grade (25% per Essay Cycle)

- **Formal Writing Assignment:** 5% of Course Grade
- **First Draft:** 5% of Course Grade
- **Final Revised Draft:** 15% of Course Grade

**Various Writing Assignments:** 20% of course grade

**Final Exam:** 30% of course grade

### **HOW TO SUCCEED IN WR 121**

- Come to class every day. Participate.
- Check your LBCC (and/or OSU) email.
- Communicate with me.
- Keep up with your homework.
- Write about things that matter to you!
- Do any extra credit that is offered.
- Make this class fun for you!

### **SKILLS WE WILL PRACTICE AND DEVELOP IN WR121**

- 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

### **EXPECTATIONS**

**Attendance:** Your attendance is mandatory - we need you here every day. But I understand that we all have lives. If you must miss a class: send me an email or text *before* the class you can't attend, and then make sure that you communicate with *someone else* (not me! a fellow student!) in the class so that they can help you understand what we covered. **Three** unexcused absences throughout the term will *not* affect your grade; a **fourth** absence will lower your overall course grade by one letter grade—from an A to a B. The same will happen with every absence after that. Please come talk to me if you miss more than five class periods throughout the term.

**Disruptions:** I will not use my cell phone during class, and I expect that you won't either. This goes for texting, Snapchat, WhatsApp, etc. Be sure that you have your phone in airplane mode **and put away in a bag or pocket** by the time class begins. Frequent disruptions will result in points deducted from your overall score and may result in your being asked to leave the classroom and not return to class until you've met with me and possibly the dean.

**24/7:** Texts - yes! text! - and email are the best ways to get in touch with me. I will respond within 24 hours, which might not be soon enough if you aren't thinking ahead, so do that. When you text, please explain who you are ("I'm Maddie, in your 121 class").

**Communication:** You should get into the habit of responding to your instructors' emails. Be sure that you're regularly checking your LBCC email. Questions? Consult the following link: [linnbenton.edu/lbcc-email](http://linnbenton.edu/lbcc-email)

**Canvas:** You will be required to use Canvas for most assignments. Please create a (free) account by the end of Week One. We will discuss Canvas during the first couple of weeks of the course, but if you have any problems with it, please ask another LBCC student in our class to help you, or plan to meet with me (during my office hours is the best options) as soon as possible.

**Accommodations Due to Documented Disabilities:** If you are a student with a documented disability, you may be eligible for accommodations through the Center for Accessibility Resources (MKH 105). For more information, please call (541) 917-4789.

**LBCC Board of Education Statement on Diversity:** We believe that the LBCC community is enriched by diversity. Everyone has the right to think, learn, and work in an environment of respect, tolerance, and goodwill. We actively support this right regardless of race, creed, color, sexual orientation, or any countless ways in which we are diverse.

**LBCC Comprehensive Statement of Nondiscrimination:** 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.

**Office Hours:** Sometimes I hold my office hours in the coffee shop, café, or somewhere else on campus. I'll let you know in advance. Come talk to me - I'm happy to help you work on any aspect of your essays. We can find another time if my office hours don't work with your schedule.

**Homework:** Expect to spend 2 hours outside of class for every hour that we spend in class. That means about an hour of homework a day, though it changes from week to week depending on where we are with the major essays. If you are unable to submit an assignment due to a problem with Canvas, please send me an email *before* the assignment is due. In this email, please explain your problem and either attach a digital copy of your assignment to the email **OR** tell me you will bring a physical copy of your assignment to our next class meeting (and then do so).

**Hard Work Clause:** As you are a college student, I expect you to work hard on your writing and to learn as much as you can about writing in a college setting. However, working hard *does not* guarantee you will earn a higher grade. You are always welcome to challenge a grade if you feel I have been unfair in my grading, but know that I *will not* accept the excuse "I worked really hard!" or any related excuse as sufficient evidence for reconsidering a grade.

As your instructor, I will try to provide useful, constructive feedback on your written assignments. Since there is no "right" way to write an essay, I will try to be as transparent as possible about *how* I grade your writing. If you ever have questions or concerns about my comments or feedback, I encourage you to ask questions and to have a conversation with me about it.

**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 WR 121.

**Revisions:** In both essay cycles, you will be expected to submit a first, *complete* draft of your formal essays. These drafts will be read by me *and* by **two** of your peers. Your peers and I will give comments and feedback on your work, and you will provide comments and feedback on their essays in return.

After receiving feedback, you will be asked to significantly **revise** your first draft for a polished, final draft. When revising your essays, your job is to revise your thinking and the way you present your ideas within your writing. You will reshape, extend, complicate, or substantially clarify your ideas – or relate your ideas to new things. The quality of your revision will make up a significant part of your assignment grade, so it's worth taking the time to do it well.

**\*\*Note:** You *won't* just correct or touch up your writing. Revisions must somehow respond to or consider seriously your colleagues' (and my) assessment in order to be revisions.