

WRITING 121 – Winter 2017
CRN 31503 – TR 11:30-12:50 in IA 242

Instructor: Dr. Stephen Rust, PhD
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Course Description

As a study of academic writing, this course covers processes and fundamentals of writing expository and narrative essays, including structure, organization and development, diction and style, revision and editing, mechanics and standard usage required for college-level writing. Through critical readings, class discussion, short lectures, several well-reasoned essays, and other in-class and homework assignments we will explore a variety of viewpoints within complex issues and you will gain skills in researching, drafting, composing and editing essays in preparation for college-level coursework and professional writing.

Required Texts and Materials

- *They Say, I Say: With Readings* (3rd Edition), published by W.W. Norton
- *The Little Seagull Handbook* (2nd Edition) published by W.W. Norton
- Type and format all work in Microsoft Word and save on a secure USB or web drive
- Paper, pencil/pen, and a folder to save ALL of your assignments, notes, handouts, etc.

Learning Outcomes

As a result of taking WR 121 and successfully completing all assignments, students will be able to:

1. *Analyze the rhetorical needs* (the needs of their audience in relationship to the assignment) for academically-oriented writing assignments.
2. *Apply appropriate levels of critical thinking strategies* (knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, evaluation) in their written assignments, with a focus on factual, analytical, and evaluative writing.
3. *Implement appropriate rhetorical elements and organization* (introduction, thesis, development and support, definition, narration, comparison, conclusion, etc.) in their written assignments.
4. *Locate, evaluate, and integrate high-quality information and opinion* appropriate for college-level informational, analytical and evaluative assignments.
5. *Craft sentences and paragraphs* that communicate their ideas clearly and effectively using words, sentence patterns, and writing conventions at a college level to make their writing clear, credible, and precise.

Prerequisites: Placement in WR 121 is determined by pre-enrollment testing (CPT) or by passing WR 115 or ENL 115W (Introduction to College Writing for ELLs) 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.

What I Expect from You

I expect you to succeed in this class. To do that you will need to complete all reading assignments, shomework, and essays on time and to the very best of your ability. I expect you to come to class prepared, awake, sober, and fully-engaged. Bring your books to class. Turn off your phone before class or sit by the door if you are waiting for an emergency call/text and need to step outside to answer. Ask questions, engage in discussion, and be prepared to work in groups with any and all class members. Bring an open-mind, a positive attitude, and act at all times as a professional.

What You Can Expect from Me

I will respond to your questions and concerns as clearly and sincerely as possible and am always happy to talk about any aspect of the class. I will be on-time to class and office hours and respond to emails within 48 hours. I will provide you with the same level of instruction as students I have taught at Oregon State University and the University of Oregon. I will listen to you and treat you with the utmost respect. I will grade fairly and provide detailed feedback

Attendance and Late Work

Attendance will be taken daily. Frequent absence will impact your ability to complete in-class assignments and earn participation points and thus will impact your overall course grade. Frequent tardiness equals absence. If you miss class, check with a classmate to see what you missed and send me an email, preferably before the class. Reading Responses and other homework assignments accepted up to 1 week late at a 50% penalty. I do not typically accept late essays unless you contact me prior to a missed deadline to explain the situation and make arrangements for catching up in a timely manner, typically at a 40% penalty.

Academic Honesty

All work submitted in this course must be your own and written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (for quotations, paraphrases, and ideas) must be properly documented. Please consult *The Little Seagull Handbook* for a definition of plagiarism and information on documentation. Violations in academic honest will result, at minimum, in a failing grade on the assignment and depending on the severity of the violation may result in course failure.

Sustainability

To reduce paper consumption, please feel free to print all documents double-sided and to use recycled paper whenever possible. Expand page margins to reduce white space and avoid waste.

LBCC Disability Services

LBCC is committed to inclusiveness and equal access to higher education. If you have approved accommodations through the Center for Accessibility Resources (CFAR) and would like to use your accommodations in this class, please talk to your instructor as soon as possible to discuss your needs. If you believe you may need accommodations, but are not yet registered with CFAR, please go to <http://linnbenton.edu/cfar> for steps on how to apply for services or call 541-917-4789.

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. For further information see Board Policy P1015 at <http://po.linnbenton.edu/BPsandARs/>

LBCC Diversity Commitment Statement:

Linn-Benton Community College recognizes and affirms difference and variety as integral to an inclusive representation of humanity and the educational community. To thrive as an academic institution, LBCC fosters a learning and working environment that encourages multiple perspectives and the free exchange of ideas. LBCC expects all who work, study or teach at the college to be committed to these principles which are an essential part of our focus, goals, and mission.

Incompletes

Incompletes will not be awarded in this course except under extraordinary circumstances and only with the approval of the English Department chair.

Course Work and Grading

Your final course grade will be based on the following percentages (A = 90+%, B= 80+%, etc)

30% - Homework, Presentations, and Class Participation

40% - Two Major Essays

30% - Final Exam

Participation

In addition to actively participating in class discussions you will complete one-two group presentations during the term. This is not a speech class so these will be low-key and you can use notes or other aids. I assign presentations because they help you professionalize, develop your own voice as a writer, and engage with your classmates as part of a discourse community.

Also, you are **required** to make use of the LBCC Writing Center at least once during the term outside of class. From initial ideas to final drafts, the Writing Center can help you take your writing to the next level. You can drop in during regular hours to work one-on-one with a Writing Assistant or submit your writing online at bcc.writingcenteronline.net and receive feedback within 1-2 business days. For more information, head to <http://linnbenton.edu/learning-center/writing-center> . Writing center visits must be completed at least one day before any major assignment is due, no exceptions. Make sure to get your tutor to sign and stamp your work as proof of your visit. Finally, You may visit the writing center two additional times during the term for a 2% extra credit boost to your final course grade (i.e. a final course grade of 88%, a B, would become a 90%, an A).

Homework

You are responsible for completing all assigned readings before class on the days indicated on the schedule. Homework assignments will be listed on the syllabus or explained in class when and if they are required and must be turned in on time to earn full credit. I do not generally quiz you over readings but maintain the option of using quizzes if necessary to stimulate discussion.

Major Essays:

Major essays in this course are written in portfolio cycles. Your first version (e.g. **1.1**), will be commented on, revised, and resubmitted (e.g. **1.2**) for a final grade. To benefit from instructor and peer comments, both .1 and .2 versions are to be complete, on-time, and written in formal, academic prose. Because this course relies on revision, final versions of essays will not be accepted until earlier versions are completed. Major essays must be typed, double-spaced and in **12-point Times New Roman font** with one inch margins. Title each essay and put your name and a page number on every page. Follow MLA guidelines, which are outlined in *The Little Seagull Handbook*. Detailed guidelines and rubrics for each essay cycle will be provided in class and posted to my faculty page.

For **Essay 1** you will compose a “They say / I say” style essay in which you summarize the viewpoints of two authors and then respond to those viewpoints by providing your own perspective on the topic. This essay cycle will consist of a) a group presentation on a specific aspect of writing – thesis, organization, evidence, style, and templates, b) a 3-4 page first version for peer review and instructor/tutor feedback and c) a 3-4-page final version for grading and feedback.

For **Essay 2** you will reflect on the state of the planet’s environment by writing a first person narrative essay on some aspect of the topic of sustainability. You will build off selected readings from a *Sustainability* casebook developed by our friends in the writing program at the University of Oregon. This essay cycle will consist of a) working in a group to lead a class discussion over assigned readings, b) an essay proposal and annotated bibliography of four sources, c) a 4-5-page first version for peer review; and e) a 4-5 page final version page for grading and feedback.

Final Exam

All students enrolled in WR 121 at LBCC take a common final exam. The exam consists of two one-hour tests on Monday of finals week from 12:00-12:50 and on Tuesday from 11:30am-12:20pm. Location TBA. Bring two blank exam books. On Monday you will be given two questions. You will choose one question and have 50 minutes to draft your short essay response. Your draft will be turned in at the end of the period. On Tuesday, you will revise, edit, and proofread your essay. You may use a dictionary. If possible, we will have access to a computer classroom for the final. All work for this class will help you prepare for the final, including the major and minor essays. Extra time will only be allowed if you have a documented learning disability or if English is not your native language. Your final will be graded by another English Department faculty member using a 6 point scale. For sample essays and more details about the final visit: <https://www.linnbenton.edu/current-students/student-support/instructional-departments/english/writing/about-the-wr121-final>

COURSE SCHEDULE

(Subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class and posted to my instructor webpage.)
Complete all readings and assignments before class on the days indicated below.

Week One: Introductions and Expectations

Tuesday Introductions, Syllabus Review, Begin Pretest

Thursday Read: *Little Seagull* p. 6-29 before class, Finish Pretest, Visit to the Writing Center

Week Two: Entering the Conversation

Tuesday Read: *They Say* p. 1-28
Due: p. 14 #1 and p. 28 #1 & #2

Thursday Read: *They Say* p. 30-67
Due: p. 50 #1 and p. 67 #1

Week Three: Distinguishing What You Say from What They Say

Tuesday Read: *They Say* p. 68-90
Due: p. 75 #1 and p. 90 #1

Thursday Read: *They Say* p. 92-118
Due: p. 101 #1 (using the Readings chapters)

Week Four: Organizing and Clarifying

Tuesday Read: *They Say* p. 121-137
Due: p. 128 #1 and p. 137 #1 & #2

Thursday Read: *Little Seagull* p. 37-47
Due: Group Presentations on Keys to Great Writing

Week Five: Composing, Revising, Completing

Tuesday Read: *They Say* p. 139-159
Due: Essay 1 first version for peer review

Thursday **Due:** Essay 2 final version

Week Six: Composing Sustainability

- Tuesday Readings for this unit can be found on my instructor website
Read: Sustainability Readings: Foundations
Due: Response 1 (See the Essay 2 Guidelines for instructions)
- Thursday Read: Sustainability Readings: Transportation, **Group 1 Presents**
Due: Response 2

Week Seven: From Local to Global

- Tuesday Read: Sustainability Readings: Green Consumerism, **Group 2 Presents**
Due: Response 3
- Thursday Read: Sustainability Readings: Social Justice, **Group 3 Presents**
Due: Response 4

Week Eight: Narratives of the New Normal

- Tuesday Read: Sustainability Readings: Climate Change, **Group 4 Presents**
Due: Response 5
- Thursday Read: *Little Seagull* p. 58-61
Due: Essay 2 first version for peer review

Week 9: Rebuilding, Revising, Reflecting

- Tuesday **Due:** Major Essay 2 Final Draft
- Thursday Catch up day

Week 10: Review and Final Exam Prep

- Tuesday Final Exam Review Day
- Thursday Final Exam Prep Day

Finals Week: Success!

- Monday Final Exam Part 1: 12:00-12:50pm, Location TBA – Bring two Blue Books
- Tuesday Final Exam Part 2: 11:30am-12:20pm, Location TBA

For detailed information on the WR 121 final exam see the description in the syllabus above and visit: <https://www.linnbenton.edu/current-students/student-support/instructional-departments/english/writing/about-the-wr121-final> Make sure to click on the links on the left hand side of the webpage for information on model essays, and strategies for success.