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| SYLLABUS: WR 121 English Composition  FALL 2018 |

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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: | Online during finals week. |
| FIRST PRINCIPLES: | * Everyone can come to appreciate, if not absolutely love, the works of William Shakespeare * 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: | It is my hope that our journey into the works and life of William Shakespeare will be both informative and transformative for all of us. As we explore the history, plots, characters, tensions, and language in and behind the plays of William Shakespeare, we will naturally open up doors within ourselves. This class invites us to walk through those doors and explore Shakespeare with the sense that we are not only learning about “the greatest writer in the English language,” but that we are also learning about ourselves and becoming better thinkers in the process.  Our approach to these plays invites us to discuss not only our personal reactions to the work but also to pause and reflect on how these plays remain relevant to our world and our lives today.  Reading Shakespeare for the first time can present challenges. Here’s our first lesson in learning how to read Shakespeare: We’re going to have a lot of help. Actors prepare for their roles for years! They have meditated on and discussed the motivations for their characters’ actions deeply. Our approach through Shakespeare will be aided by a variety of audio and video materials that will help us drive toward a clear understanding of, and hopefully an enthusiasm for, the works we will read.  There’s one important thing to remember in this class: you and I are on the same team!  Here’s how the above description appears in our catalog. Same class. Mine is just more fun:   * Studies major plays of Shakespeare, including the structure, characterization, setting and imagery employed in selected comedies, tragedies, histories and poems. Note: Need not be taken in sequence. Recommended: College-level reading and writing skills (WR 121) are strongly recommended for success in this course. |
| **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. |
| ENG 201 LEARNING OUTCOMES | 1. Describe how the early to middle tragedies, comedies, histories, and other works of William Shakespeare explore the human condition. 2. Interpret Shakespeare's work through critical reading. 3. Participate in activities that encourage personal awareness, growth, and/or creativity through the experience of Shakespeare's plays on the page, shared reading, and a variety of media. 4. Write and speak effectively about their own and others' ideas as they relate to the themes, history, and cultural impacts of Shakespeare's early to middle work. |
| 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?  *Read the difference in the amount of work and dedication closely.*  Students in pursuit of the C grade will complete the following at the C level:   * core material (lectures, videos, audio, quizzes, etc.) * read, analyze, and discuss 3 of Shakespeare’s plays at C level * 1 midterm exam (C level) * 1 final exam (C level)   Students in pursuit of the B grade will complete the following at the B level:   * core material (lectures, videos, audio, quizzes, etc.) * read, analyze, and discuss 4 of Shakespeare’s plays at B level * creative project * write 5 to 7 page research paper with citations at B level * conversation with instructor regarding creative project paper (B level) * 1 midterm exam (B level) * 1 final exam (B level)   Students in pursuit of the A grade will complete the following at the A level:   * leadership role in groups and forums -- often requiring several more posts per discussion * core material (lectures, videos, audio, quizzes, etc.) * read, analyze, and discuss 5 of Shakespeare’s plays at A level * write 7 to 10 page research paper with citations at A level * conversations with instructor regarding paper (A level) * creative project (A level) * conversations with instructor regarding (A level) * 1 midterm exam (A level) * 1 final exam (A level)   Missing assignments will receive a zero in the gradebook, drop your contract to the C level, and if not turned in can lead to a failing grade in the class.  NOTE: All of this is as accurate as possible at the time of this writing. I will always be available to help you reach the goal you have chosen. |
| Midterm and Final: | These exams will include multiple-choice, short-answer and short-essay responses that will allow you to feature the depth of your reading and thinking as you have joined our explorations of the plays. Please bring a blue book to class.  Please do not make the mistake that this is a high school course in Shakespeare and that the reading of an “Easy Shakespeare” type translation, or worse, a plot summary, will be all you need to read. Our class is focused on the texts of Shakespeare’s work. We are interested here in using our minds to decode his language, rhythms, and meanings. An easy translation and a plot summary might be a place to turn if you are stuck, but your best preparation for our exams will be found in reading the text while listening to an audio version which the class shall provide. I recommend reading acts or scenes out loud to yourself or with friends. Pick parts and have fun. Argue about what a line means. Argue about how a certain piece of language can be said in multiple ways and how different readings change the meaning. Reading Shakespeare is a work out for the brain. |
| SKILLS | • Work in teams through reading groups and peer editing workshops  • Provide critical response to peers’ work  • Develop your responses to Shakespeare’s plays  • 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.  You are of course welcome to visit any of our local bookstores and binge on all the Shakespeare books you can find. |
| 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 and assignments 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. Late papers will also cause your contract grade to drop to the next lowest grade -- except in the case of students already contracted for the C grade. |
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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. |