**WR121: ENGLISH COMPOSITION Spring 2017**

CRN 47101 | IA 242 | 2:30-3:50 p.m. TTh

**Instructor:** Suzi Steffen **Office:** IA 218

**Office Hours**: 1:30-2:25 pm TTh; by appointment otherwise

**Cell phone:** *Google voice* 503-451-0228

You may call or text this number if you need to get in touch with me, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. MWF. I will reply as soon as I can! Please include your name (*I’m Ericafrom WR 121*)

**E-­mail**: steffes@linnbenton.edu or suzi.steffen@linnbenton.edu

*I check email at least once every weekday between 8 and 5 and will do my best to respond within 24 hours. If you have an emergency, email me and then* ***back that up by also texting****.*

This is an introductory course meant to both expand your knowledge of good essay form and your confidence in your ability to create concise, clear, and cohesive college essays. We’ll look at several different forms of essays and look at/discuss/take apart many great pieces of writing in order to learn how the heck we can do that stuff ourselves.

Please expect to do **an average of 6 hours of work** outside of class each week. Some weeks will have more than 6 hours of work; some weeks will have less, but the average should be 6 hours.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** At the completion of WR121, successful students should 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.

**PREREQUISITE:** Placement in WR121 is determined by pre-­enrollment testing or by passing WR115 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 a counselor. Before entering WR121, students are assumed to have basic competence in grammar, mechanics, sentence structure and in developing related ideas in a unified, coherent paragraph and/or short essay. These skills may be reviewed in WR121, if needed.

**MATERIALS**: One of our **required textbooks** - *Little Seagull* -is available for purchase (new or used) or rental in the LBCC bookstore. The book is also available for short-term loan on reserve at the main campus library and is available in the main campus Writing Center. The **other required textbook**, *Oregon Writes*, is available **online** for free as an Open Access textbook. (You may download and print it as well, also for free.)

* Kepka, Jenn. *Oregon Writes: Open Writing Text*. Open Oregon Educational Resources, 2017 It’s available online for reading and download (for free!) at https://openoregon.pressbooks.pub/oregonwrites/
* Bullock, Richard, Michael Brody, and Francine Weinberg. *The Little Seagull Handbook with exercises*. Second Edition. Norton: New York, 2014.

**Other Materials:**

* Paper and pen/pencil
* Folder/s to turn in final essays with their drafts
* Stapler and staples (*yes, it is a* ***very*** *good idea to buy your own mini-stapler and carry it*
* LBCC (or OSU) e­mail account
* Regular access to a computer with a writing program and internet access. *NOTE: A smartphone does not qualify as a computer for WR 121 purposes.*
* A jump drive/memory stick and/or a Dropbox account and/or a Google Drive account

**ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY**: All work submitted must be your own and must be original to this class. If you copy OR paraphrase from an outside source without citation, copy from or collaborate with a classmate on an explicitly individual assignment, ask anyone else to complete your written work for you, or recycle old work of your own to complete a new assignment, this is a violation of academic honesty. Violations of this nature and plagiarism will result in failure of the assignment and possible failure of the entire course. I will pursue every case of plagiarism to the fullest extent.

I may use software called TurnItIn to check for plagiarism. Your major essays may be submitted using this online tool, and both you and I will be immediately alerted to any passages that are taken directly from other sources. The process for using TurnItIn will be discussed in class.

Most plagiarism and cheating occurs because a student is pushed against a deadline and turns to a quick, dishonest solution instead of being honest about his or her problem with the instructor. **Please talk to me if you find yourself in such stress that cheating seems like a solution.**

**COMMUNICATION WITH INSTRUCTOR**: Contact me immediately if you are having difficulties in class. I check and respond to my LBCC e-­mail at least once a day, every weekday, and I will reply to your message as soon as I am able. Any changes in assignments, due dates, class meeting schedule, etc., will be announced via e­mail, in addition to being announced in class (when possible). Please make sure that you either regularly check your linnbenton.edu email or have forwarded LB messages to an address you use. Note that LBCC policy, for your security, is for instructors to respond only to LBCC or OSU email addresses, not Gmail or Yahoo or MSN or your own server addresses.

When writing an e-­mail to *any* instructor, please include your name and the time/days of your class (*Dear Suzi* or *Dear Ms. Steffen, this is Tobin from your 11 am WR121*). Please do not call me “Mrs. Steffen.” Email sent without a signature most likely won’t receive a response via email; in addition, messages without text that are sent with attachments will most likely end up in my spam filter. Definitely **try texting if you have a short message**. Always ID yourself in a similar way. *Hi Suzi this is Allie from 1 pm WR121*, for instance.

Please remember when you’re writing an email to any instructor that you’re often dealing with people who love the English language (and other languages as well). Punctuation, even when used incorrectly, and capitalization, plus a slightly formal tone for most instructors and professors, will get you far.

**TECHNOLOGY**: This class will make extensive use of computer writing programs and internet research. In addition, I will communicate with the class via email, and we will often use Google Docs. I may require response or submission via these media. Familiarity with and access to a reliable email address and the internet is required to succeed in this class. **Please do not use Pages or the .pages extension to turn in papers!**

**Knowledge of a computer writing program is required for success in this class.** Microsoft Word is the supported word processing program at LBCC, and you may use it at any of the library or lab computers. If using a word processor may be a challenge, consider taking one of LBCC’s five-­week Business Technology courses before/during Writing 121. **You should always send me files that are .doc, .docx or .rtf files** - please no .pages or PDFs! Thanks.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

The following class-related activities and assignments make up 70% of your final grade:

**Essay #1:**

Informal outline (or prewriting) 5 points

First full draft 10 points

Peer responses (2-3) 10 points

Final draft 200 points = 225 points total

**Essay #2:**

Informal outline (or prewriting) 5 points

First full draft 10 points

Peer responses (2-3) 10 points

Final draft 200 points = 225 points total

**Essay #3:**

Outline 10 points

Annotated bibliography 15 points

First full draft 15 points

Peer response (2-3) 10 points

Final draft 200 points = 250 points total

**Summary assignment** 50 points

**Practice final** 100 points

**Daily work:** hw; in-class activities 100 points

**Commitment grade**  50 points

**Total = 1000 points (A = 900-1000, B = 800-899, C = 700-799, D = 600-699)**

**The above assignments make up 70 percent of your final grade, and the final exam (taken on Monday and Tuesday of finals week) is the other 30 percent.**

**THE FINAL EXAM** will be explained in class. It will require you to complete an assigned reading and respond in writing during the first two days of Finals Week. You will be required to cite provided sources within your paper.

**FORMATTING**: All assignments must be typed and submitted using APA or MLA format. Example of these formats appear in the *Little Seagull* textbook. Rough drafts are unacceptable for classroom submission. The draft should be at its polished best before you present it to your peers or your instructor. I will discuss papers and assignments before their due date, in class.

**LATE WORK:** Late papers and assignments receive an automatic one-­letter grade deduction. No assignments will be accepted after one week. **Computer failure is never an excuse for a late paper.** Plan ahead and save often. If you are in many classes with written assignments, please consider investing in an off-­site backup program (like Dropbox.com, which allows 1GB of free space online) that will protect your work against crashes, viruses, fire, and theft.

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:** Your attendance and participation in our class is vital not only to your own learning but to that of your classmates, who will benefit from your input. In-­class work, including quizzes and peer editing, that you miss while absent **cannot be made up**. Those students who do not bring a complete draft to peer editing days may be asked to make better use of their time by completing their paper elsewhere during our class time. Exception: ***Please don’t come to class sick!***

Find a “study buddy” or preferably several early on, and exchange phone numbers or email addresses so that you can communicate about assignments and other class issues, especially if one of you needs to miss class. When you have missed class, it is up to you to obtain the notes and assignments handed out that day. Work due must be submitted at the beginning of class to be counted “on time.”

**THE LBCC LIBRARY**

The LBCC library is located on the first floor of Willamette Hall, and it also has a wonderful website with lots of databases that we will be using. The library has several databases for research articles that you can access both on and off-campus. Get more information here: https://library.linnbenton.edu/

**THE CENTER FOR ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES**

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.

**WRITING CENTER:**

From initial ideas to final drafts, the LBCC Writing Center can help you take your writing to the next level. The **Writing Center** is on the second floor of Willamette Hall in the Learning Center on the Main campus. You can drop in during regular hours to work one-­on-­one with one of the supportive Writing Assistants or to make 30-minute appointments (those are limited in number). In addition to your draft, please bring your assignment and any questions you have.   
  
You may also submit your work to the **Online Writing Lab**, which may be one of the best options for those of you who don’t have a good way to get to the Main Campus. The Writing Center is open 9 am-5 pm M-F. You can find info about the Online Writing Lab here: <https://www.linnbenton.edu/current-students/study/learning-center/writing-assistance/online-writing-lab-owl> One disadvantage of the online writing lab is that you need to email your paper to them the day before you want it back, but one advantage is that you’ll then be in good shape in terms of time management!

**LBCC COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT OF NON-­DISCRIMINATION**: 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 <http://po.linnbenton.edu/BPsandARs/)> Board Policy P1015