**WR 115-B01**

**English Composition**

CRN: 30771 Instructor: Kaely Horton
Mon/Wed 9:30-10:50 AM Email: hortonk@linnbenton.edu

Classroom: BC-246 Phone Number: 541-917-4565

Office: BC-102C Office Hours: Monday 11-12

 “A word after a word after a word is power.” ― Margaret Atwood

“This is how you do it: you sit down at the keyboard and you put one word after another until it’s done. It's that easy, and that hard.” ― Neil Gaiman

**Course Description:**

Welcome to WR 115, a workshop and discussion class in introductory writing. In this class, we will:

* Practice a variety of techniques for writing and revising paragraphs and essays
* Read a rich assortment of essays to develop your critical reading skills and enhance your writing
* Review and use strong study skills, grammar and mechanical skills, and collaborative skills throughout the term

**Learning Outcomes for WR 115:**

With successful completion of this class, you will be able to:

* Write thoughtful, clear, and effective expository paragraphs and essays for a variety of purposes.
* Read critically; paraphrase, summarize, and directly quote from readings.
* Write clear, focused, and well-organized summary and response paragraphs using

 in- text citations.

* Focus a thesis and develop this thesis clearly and logically using examples and

 illustrations in a well-organized essay.

* Revise writing using standard college editing and proofreading conventions

 (grammar, syntax, spelling, punctuation).

* Enjoy confidence in your own writing.

**Required Texts and Materials:**

1. *Models for Writers, Short Essays for Composition,* 11th edition, Rosa & Eschholz
2. A notebook that you can use as your Term Journal. The specifics of this notebook are up to you (spiral? moleskin? cool picture on the front?). It just needs to be something you can write in and submit to me periodically throughout the term.
3. Regular access to your LBCC email account and to the internet

**Course Assessment/Grading:**

Your grade in this class will be based on two essays, four summary and responses, a term journal for in-class writing, and a final exam. The breakdown is as follows:

* Essay #1: Literacy Narrative = 15% (150 points)
* Essay #2: Response Paper = 15% (150 points)
* 2 Summary/Responses @ 50 points each = 10% (100 points)
* Term Journal = 20% (150 points)
* Participation = 10% (100 points
* Final exam = 30%

Term Journal:

Every class period, you will be given a writing prompt in class and about 10-15 minutes to respond to it in your Term Journal. I will collect your journals every two weeks throughout the term (the dates are listed on the schedule) and return them the next class day with feedback.

This project is intended to offer you a chance to practice regular, low-stakes writing. Your journal is a place where you can brainstorm essay ideas, respond to readings, practice writing and revision strategies discussed in class, or experiment with different types of writing. I encourage you to try new things, take risks, and go outside your comfort zone in your journal.

Participation: The best definition I ever heard for participation was “being where you are, when you are”—in other words, being involved and invested in what is happening in the present moment. This can mean a number of things: listening actively, contributing to class discussions, choosing to be highly invested in your essay topics and research, offering thoughtful feedback to classmates, or challenging yourself to go beyond your comfort zone and experiment in your writing and thinking. Regardless of how you may feel about writing, I encourage you to find some aspect of this class you can connect with, care about, and participate in wholeheartedly.

Final Exam:Every WR 115 class at LBCC has a final exam that is worth 30% of the course grade. This exam consists of two 50-minute sessions in which you write and revise a summary and response based on a prompt. **I will not be grading the final exam.** Throughout this term, I will be working to help you prepare for this exam.

**Course Policies:**

Formatting Essays: Essays should be typed, double-spaced, and stapled.

Late Work: While I would prefer that you always submit work on time, I would rather receive a late essay than no essay at all. Therefore, I will accept late work up to a week after the due date, with 10% of the grade deducted for each class period the assignment is late.

Attendance: While I do not grade specifically on attendance, your term journal and participation grades are likely to suffer from repeated absences. If you must miss more than a week’s worth of class, come talk to me in advance. Otherwise, plan to attend regularly and on time.

Office Hours: I encourage everyone to visit me during office hours throughout the term. Feel free to drop by to introduce yourself, discuss ideas, or talk about essay drafts. If you can’t make it to the normally scheduled times, I am happy to make an appointment.

Classroom Etiquette: Please respect the limited time we have together by refraining from potentially disruptive activities (texting, talking, Facebook, sleeping, eating, etc.). Unless otherwise noted, all electronic devices should be turned off in class.

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism of any form is not tolerated in this class. Violations of academic honesty will result in failure of an assignment or failure of the course.

**University Policies and Resources:**

Disability Services: If you have a documented disability, I will help you in any way I can.  Talk to me during the first week of class.  If you think you might have a disability, but you are not sure, contact Disability Services at 917-4789. [Here is a lot more useful information about Disability Services and LBCC's disability policies.](http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/disability-services)

LBCC Non-Discrimination Policy: 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. In other words, everyone is welcome at LBCC.

The LBCC Writing Center: I highly encourage you to go to the Writing Center at least once during the term. Whether you struggle with writing or excel in it, the LBCC Writing Center is there to support you at any stage of the writing process, from brainstorming to revising. In addition to your draft, bring your assignment sheet and any questions you have. You may also submit your writing online at lbcc.writingcenteronline.net, where you will get a personalized response within 1-2 business days.

**Tips for Success:**

* **Communicate frequently with me** via email, office hours, or after-class questions. If you are strugging, have questions, or run into a problem, do not hesitate to contact me.
* **Start assignments early!** Even if you are just freewriting, brainstorming, or outlining, you will be that much further ahead and have that much more time to revise.
* **Come to class on time and prepared**. Do the readings ahead of time. You will be a much less stressed, more successful student—not to mention that you’ll also enjoy the class a lot more.
* **Participate, participate, participate.** Don’t be afraid to speak up in class discussions to offer your opinion, ask questions, or bring up a new point. Get involved in class activities. Learn the names of your classmates. Commit to the class.
* **Don’t get discouraged** if you run into a reading you have trouble understanding, a writing assignment that stumps you, or a concept you are struggling to master. This is a normal and healthy part of the writing and learning process(es).
* **Do** ask for help if you need it.
* Always bring your term journal, your textbook, and your notebook/pencils with you to class. **Come to class ready to write.**
* **Write about what matters to you.**

*Here’s looking forward to a fantastic term!*