**WR 121 English Composition**

***Fall 2020***

**Instructor: Sarah Mosser**

**Course Delivery: This course is located on Moodle. You can access Moodle through the MY LB tab on linnbenton.edu**

**Office Hours: Office hours are available via Zoom or phone on request.**

**Email:** **mossers@linnbenton.edu**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Welcome** to our writing class.  This course is designed to prepare you for the fundamentals of academic writing and will serve as a foundation for your college writing career in a variety of disciplines. We’ll study critical reading strategies; the *process* and *fundamentals* of essay writing, including invention strategies; rhetorical structures/strategies; techniques for organizing, developing and revising; and the elements of style.

Good writing is hard work and incredibly satisfying.  Good writing involves prewriting, writing, and rewriting.  Our aim in WR121 is to develop and master our own process of writing, of critical reading, and of critical thinking.

I’m looking forward to working with you this term.  I will always try to be enthusiastic, honest, fair, and inspiring.  I will expect you to be interested, consistently present and prepared, engaged, and a contributor to class discussion forums. With our teamwork, by the end of the term, you can expect to be a better writer.  I hope that you will also learn to enjoy and value your own writing.

**WR 121 LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. *Analyze the* *rhetorical needs* (audiences, purpose, and subject) of a variety of academic and practical writing assignments.
2. *Apply critical thinking strategies* (knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, evaluation) in response to the rhetorical needs of an assignment.
3. *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.
4. *Locate, evaluate, and integrate* *high-quality information and opinion* in response to the rhetorical needs of an assignment.
5. *Craft sentences and paragraphs* that communicate ideas clearly and effectively using words, sentence patterns, and writing conventions to make writing clear, credible, and persuasive.

**WR121 OBJECTIVES**

* Write with confidence.
* Discover, develop, and use your own best reading and writing processes.
* Work on writing projects with confidence both collaboratively and independently.
* Organize and write a well-structured and effectively persuasive essay.
* Analyze a subject, research a topic, present an argument, and write an essay presenting your views.
* Write under pressure.
* Write for specific audiences and specific purposes using accepted conventions.
* Clearly and effectively express your ideas.

**COURSE ASSESSMENT**

**ESSAYS**

* Essay #1: *Rhetorical Analysis (50 points)*
* Essay #2: *Informative/Research Essay (70 points)*
* Essay #3: *Persuasive* (100 points)
* Essay #4: *In Class Essay: WR121 Final Exam Practice* (50 points)

**ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

* Annotated Bibliography for Essay #2 (50 points)

**Class Discussion Forums** (100 points)

Each week, you will be participating on a class discussion forum to digest what you have learned and apply it to your particular essay topic. This will give you an opportunity to brainstorm ideas in a low pressure setting.

On odd numbered weeks (1, 3, 5, 6, and 9), you will compose your original post answering my question that I pose to the class. Your posts will need to be at least 100 words.

On even numbered weeks (2, 4, 6, 8, and 10), you will read through the discussion from the previous week and respond to at least two classmates’ posts. Your responses will need to be substantive, adding to the discussion or posing a question for the original poster.

Each post will be worth 10 points and will be graded for completeness and thoughtfulness.

**Textbook Reading** (100 points)

Each week, you will be assigned readings from one or both of our course textbooks. Some weeks, you will be required to take and post notes on the reading. Other weeks, you might be asked to answer a discussion question. Other weeks you might simply receive points for completion – this will be based on the honor system; however, the content of the reading will be assessed in your unit essays.

**Writing Center Visits** (80 points)

Throughout the term, you will be required to meet with the Writing Center at least two times. You will submit forms to document your visits, but you can decide when you complete your visits. You will find more information on these visits before the first essay is due.

**Participation Assignments**

Throughout the term, there will be various “participation assignments” that will be posted each week. These assignments will cover material that would normally be discussed in an in-person lecture. Instead of uploading 50 minute lectures for you to sit through, I am creating exploration assignments that allow you to engage with and respond to the content. These assignments will be worth between 10 and 20 points each and will be graded on completion and thoughtfulness.

**Textbooks & Materials:**

* They Say/ I Say: The Moves That Matter In Academic Writing. ISBN 9780393631678, By Birkenstein, Cathy and Graff, Gerald, Published 2018
* Little Seagull Handbook with Exercises 3rd Edition. ISBN 9780393602647. By Brody, Michal, Bullock, Richard, and Weinberg, Francine. Published 2016.

**College Resources**

**Library** and **Writing Center** and **ONLINE WRITING LAB (OWL)**

**Office Hours:**Please contact me if at any time you want to meet on Moodle (or phone) and talk about the course. I am happy to discuss any content with you or to discuss assignments or questions.

**Classroom Etiquette:** For all essays, assignments, discussion forums, and emails, please keep in mind that this is an academic context. You are required to always be respectful and professional. On discussion boards especially, any posts that are disrespectful to your classmates in any way will be removed and will receive no credit. You are certainly allowed to disagree, but disagreements must be respectful.

**Plagiarism:** All work that you submit in essays, discussion forums, and any course assignments should reflect your own thoughts and wording except when marked otherwise according to MLA citation standards. Any plagiarized work will be handled with the utmost seriousness and may result in a “0” on the assignments, or an automatic failure in the course. If you are not sure if something in your assignment constitutes as plagiarism, contact me and schedule an office hour session, and we will make sure that all your questions are answered.

**Tips for Success**

* Do your work on time.
* Do your own work.  Plagiarism will result in your failing the assignment and possibly failing the class.
* **Write about what matters to you.**