**Writing 121: English Composition**

Linn Benton Community College

Winter 2023

Online

**Instructor**: Becca Owen owenb@linnbenton.edu

**Office Hours:** 11 AM-12 PM Wednesdays by email or Zoom conference

**CRN:** 31504

**Course Description:** As a study of academic writing, this course is designed to make you a better reader, writer, and thinker. We are going to explore a variety of viewpoints within complex issues, through critical reading, thoughtful discussions, and the completion of several well-reasoned essays.

**Prerequisite:** WR 115 English Composition or equivalent with a grade of ‘C’ or better.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Students who complete WR 121 will be able to:

Anticipate and identify the needs of their audience in a variety of academic writing situations. Use rhetorical elements (such as introduction, thesis, development and support, rebuttal, narration, and conclusion) to organize and clarify their writing. Practice foundational research methods by finding, evaluating, incorporating, and citing appropriate sources. Write in clear, effective language.

**Course Overview:** Writing 121 focuses on college-level writing, reading, and thinking. Students will use the conventions and skills of college-level writing, including research and formal citations, to produce compositions including essays and at least one other genre, for a variety of purposes and audiences. The class will introduce multimodal composing strategies. Students will analyze, respond to, and make use of college-level texts. They will consider and reflect upon their own participation and the many ways and reasons compositions are created.

**Required Materials:** This is a fully online course, so consistent internet access for Moodle, email, and Zoom is necessary. There are no required textbooks; we’ll be utilizing *The New York Times* and library databases as well as open educational texts for our reading material.

**Course Structure:** This is going to be a fully online section of WR121; what this means for you is that your work will be completed online via discussion board and assignments uploaded to Moodle. All coursework will be due on Sunday nights by 11:59 PM.

Please begin by reading the announcement pinned at the top of our Moodle page! I’ll post an announcement each week to talk you through the upcoming assignments. I’ll email you this announcement as well.

The class is divided into eleven modules, one to correspond to each week of the term including finals week. Rather than working ahead, complete all the reading, discussion, and assignments in each module. This will help us all keep on track!

We may have several Zoom sessions throughout the term. These will be optional, and I’ll be happy to post the recording for you to view when you are able. The Zoom meetings would happen on Mondays at 1 PM.

**Attendance:** I recommend that you check in on this class at least a few times a week to engage with the course material and your classmates on the discussion board. Your work for each week of the class is due by 11:59 PM on Sunday night. Please try and complete assignments, especially those discussion board posts, early in the week to prevent a flood of rushed responses and activity right before the weekly deadline on Sunday nights.

If something comes up, **email is the best way to reach me:** owenb@linnbenton.edu **.** If you have any questions or concerns about your progress in this course, please arrange a time to speak with me—we can do this via email or Zoom.

**Class Participation:** Your writing in this course will take place in a conversation – a conversation that includes fellow students, the instructor, and course readings. Reading and responding to reading is an important aspect of college-level courses. In order to improve the way that you apply reading to writing, some of our writing assignments will involve responding to different essays. These types of discussions can happen online via Moodle discussion forum.

**Late Work:** You have a week to complete each module’s activities. Everything is due each Sunday night at 11:59 PM. I don’t accept late discussion boards or rough drafts. Weekly discussion board activities and rough drafts may not be made up. For all other assignments uploaded to me for grading, you will have one week from the due date to turn in any late work. **All assignments turned in after the due date will be reduced by one letter grade.** If something comes up, just let me know. Keep me in the loop! We can always work something out for final drafts of your essays or writing logs that are more than one week late.

**Coursework:**

**Graded Essays:**

“The Beauty of Being a Misfit” (2-3 pages)

Op-doc Analysis (2-3 pages)

Problem/Solution Argument (4-5 pages)

Final Reading Quiz (\* see below)

**Final Reading Quiz:** For both the practice and the real final exam, you will have to write an essay about an article you read.

Both exams are three-hour exams. They can be taken any time during a 48-hour block. Once you start the exam, you must finish in the time allotted. More on this as the quarter progresses!

**Readings & Assignments:** There will be ten online reading & writing discussion assignments. Each is worth 20-25 points. These will occur on Moodle’s discussion board; you will need to craft your original post and respond to at least two of your classmates for full credit by Sunday at 11:59 PM. Some of these might be responses to our reading material, some might be peer reviews (where you post your rough draft of an essay and then respond to your fellow writers’ work), and some might be general brainstorming.

Throughout the term, I’ll ask you to upload some questions/answers about various articles, argument techniques, short films, or anything else that comes up and is relevant to our class time together. Think of this like the activities you might do in class—it’s informal, but necessary. These will be worth 5-10 points each.

These writing logs, essays, and questions/answers will be uploaded to me. The discussion board activities happen on the discussion board. If you need help navigating Moodle, please let me know—or reach out to LBCC tech support for more guidance. They are here to help you navigate this brave new online world!

**Quizzes:** We will have three quizzes this quarter, and they will cover the reading material assigned in class.

**Grading:** Each essay must fulfill the minimum page count and must be submitted on Moodle. Rough drafts are extremely important—when a rough draft is due, please post a complete draft on the discussion board for peer reviewing. You will also upload your rough drafts to me, too. So, when your final draft is due, you will have feedback to help you edit accordingly. Editing is the most important and often overlooked step in the writing process, so I will grade your essays on the improvement I see from rough to final draft. To receive a final grade on an essay, I have to see evidence of editing—the final essay must be improved from the rough version. If you miss your rough draft due dates, you can always submit your work to the LBCC Writing Center to get feedback.

**Grading Scale:**

Essays: 50%

Final Exam: 30%

Online discussions, quizzes, short assignments, and participation: 20%

**A=100-90 B=89-80 C=79-70 D=69-60 F=59 and below.**

Missing any of the essay assignments may result in an F.

Your points will be divided by the total possible points (900-ish?), and this percentage number will translate into the 4.0 scale.

**Academic Honesty:**

Academic honesty is an indispensable value as you acquire knowledge and develop skills in college. You are expected to practice academic honesty by not cheating, plagiarizing, or misrepresenting your coursework in any way. Students are ultimately responsible for understanding and avoiding academic dishonesty whether such incidences are intentional or unintentional. Evidence of plagiarism results in an F with no chance to rewrite. A second instance of plagiarism results in an F in the class.

The value of your degree depends on the quality of work you produce. Claiming another person’s work as your own devalues your college experience. When you use research or quotations in your writing, please remember to properly credit its source. It’s also possible to plagiarize yourself—**do not submit work completed for another class. I will give you a zero on the assignment and I will ask you to pick a new topic.**

Here is LBCC’s administrative rule on academic honesty; please read it carefully! <https://www.linnbenton.edu/faculty-and-staff/administrative-information/policies/board-policies-and-administrative-rules/7000-series-student-services/administrative-rule-no-7030-02-academic-integrity.php>

**Moodle**: Important course materials—such as assignment instructions, class agendas, and your grades—will be posted on our course site on Moodle. An easy way to get to Moodle is to start at the [LBCC homepage](http://www.linnbenton.edu/), and then click on the yellow Moodle logo at the top right. Alternatively, you can go directly to [the sign-in screen](https://identity.linnbenton.edu/). If you’ve never logged-in to Moodle before, you will first have to claim your account at<https://identity.linnbenton.edu/>. If you have any problems logging, please contact the Student Help Desk; they can be reached at 541-917-4630 or student.helpdesk@linnbenton.edu.

**LBCC Student Email**: Please make sure that you check your student email regularly throughout the term. Should I need to contact you, I will be emailing your student account. You can find information about accessing your LBCC email here: <http://www.linnbenton.edu/roadrunner-mail>

**The LBCC Writing Center**: The LBCC Writing Center (WH-200) is a fantastic free resource for students. You can make up points for missed rough drafts here. Get more info about the WC here: [http://www.linnbenton.edu/learning-center/writing-center](https://www.linnbenton.edu/current-students/study/learning-center/writing-assistance/)

**The LBCC Library**: The LBCC library is located on the first floor of Willamette Hall. Get more information here: <http://library.linnbenton.edu/home>

**Center for Accessibility Resources (CFAR)**: 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.

**Non-Discrimination Policy**: Everyone in the LBCC community has the right to think, learn, and work together in an environment of respect, tolerance, and goodwill, and we will honor that right in our classroom.

**Public Safety/Campus Security:** In an emergency, call 911. Also, call LBCC Campus Security/Public Safety at 541-926-6855 and 541-917-4440.

**Course Schedule:**

For the most up-to-date due dates and schedule info, as well as more personalized descriptions of your coursework, please visit the Announcements and To-Do lists! I will write at least one weekly announcement to talk you through each week's coursework explanations. Think of it like the lecture portion of the class. Check it every time you log in!

**Week One: January 9-15**

 Introductions discussion board

Diagnostic Essay

 **Week Two: January 16-22**

Rough Draft #1: Misfit essay

Lives discussion

 **Week Three: January 23-29**

Peer Review #1

MLA refresher

**Week Four: January 30-February 5**

Final Draft of Essay #1 due

Bias, Credibility, Reliability Discussion

**Week Five; February 6-12**

Rhetorical Situation

Rough Draft of Essay #2 due

**Week Six: February 13-19**

Peer Review Essay #2

Brainstorm Problem/Solution ideas

**Week Seven: February 20-26**

Final Draft Essay #2

Gathering sources, evaluating sources

Building Essay #3 activities

Citations practice

**Week Eight:  February 27-March 5**

Rough Draft #3 due

Zoom conferences as needed

**Week Nine: March 6-12**

Peer Review #3

Final Practice Exam

**Week Ten: March 13-19**

Essay #3 Final Draft

Annotated Bibliographies

**Final Exam during Final Exam Week: dates TBD**