

WR 115: Introduction to Writing ALP

Instructor: Matthew J. Schmidgall
Office: SSH 215
Email: schmidm@linnbenton.edu

Course Texts:

Texts from the WR 121 portion of the course. Outside readings will be provided as needed.

Recommended materials:

- Writing utensils and paper for in-class assignments
- Flash drive for saving and backing up files (Always back up your work!)

Course Description

WR 115 introduces college-level critical inquiry in academic reading and writing. Students critically read, summarize and respond in paragraph format. Students develop expository essay writing skills, review conventions, and use individual and collaborative writing processes.

WR115 OUTCOMES

1. Write thoughtful, clear, and focused paragraphs and essays for a variety of purposes.
2. Illustrate critical reading by clearly summarizing, paraphrasing, and directly quoting.
3. Distinguish your ideas from others' ideas.
4. Focus a main point and develop this main point clearly and logically using examples and illustrations in a well-organized essay.
5. Revise writing using standard college editing and proofreading conventions (grammar, syntax, spelling, punctuation).

ALP OUTCOMES

The purpose of this section of WR 115 is to enable your success in WR 121. Consider this class a crash course in composition.

ASSESSMENT

- Students will write at least three summary paragraphs and three response paragraphs and two short essays (at least 500 – 750 words). In these writing projects, students will demonstrate mastery of a writing process (pre-writing, shaping, drafting, and revising).
- Students will complete in-class and out-of-class grammar exercises. Mastery of grammar conventions will be assessed within the context of the student's writing.

Attendance / Participation and Time Management:

I expect you to be a team player in reading responses and writing processes. Due to the focus on discussion and exploration of writing, material is often covered in class that is not in your texts. Plan to attend every class session. If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting the missed information from a classmate or during my office hours. Do not send me an email that says "did I miss anything important?"

Organize and plan your time wisely. Allow at least two hours outside class for every hour spent in class. Do your work on time. Please do not email me the night before an assignment is due and say "so I procrastinated and feel bad. Can I have an extension because I was honest?"

Complete readings and writing assignments before coming to class. Bring your textbook to every class.

Peer Considerations

During the course of WR 115, we will address a wide range of contemporary social conflicts. For some members of our class, these issues may seem distant and far away. Other students will find that they struggle with those issues on a daily basis. Treat each issue we discuss with respect, and be aware that there are many people who have strong feelings. Our class will not be a grand crusade for The Truth, nor will we minimize viewpoints that on their face seem wrong or faulty. We listen, consider, and respond. Empathy is key.

Additional Guidelines:

- Word-process (type) final revised short assignments and essays.
- Turn in rough drafts and peer comments (workshop notes) with polished, revised essay assignments.
- Do your work on time. Our class is organized around extensive revision. You will frustrate your peers if you a) skip review day or b) show up without a paper. I will ask you to leave if you come to class without a paper on peer review days.
- Do your own work. Simply put: do not plagiarize (using someone else's work as your own without proper in-text citations and documentation).
- Though I will not accept papers written for other classes, you will be writing papers in the WR 115 portion of ALP that will directly contribute to WR 121.

Campus Resources

Writing Center and OWL (Online Writing Lab)

Writing Center Assistants and Writing Peer Tutors will provide assistance (not copy editing, not correcting) with specific paragraph and essay assignments.

Grading

Your final grade for WR115 (100%) will be composed of your class grade (70% of Final Grade) and WR 121 Final Exam (30%).

Class grade breakdown

80pts = Short Writing Exercises and Grammar/Style Worksheets

20pts = 2 Rough Drafts and Peer Review (Major essays)

100pts = Essay One Final Draft

100pts = Essay Two Final Draft

* Remember that deductions for absences, tardiness and late work will also factor in to your final score.

Note that there are 300 possible points attainable in class. These points will compose 70% of your final grade.

Late policy

Late Writing Exercise assignments, in-class worksheets, and peer review sheets will not be accepted unless you have communicated with me before the assignment is due. Please email me in advance (at

least 1 – 2 days) to let me know you will be turning an assignment in late. For essays One and Two, the first day of lateness will result in a full letter grade penalty, 1/3 for every business day thereafter.

Papers more than a week late will not be accepted unless you have a documented medical emergency or have spoken with me before the paper was originally due. I am generally more flexible with this policy in ALP classes, but because the course is worth 6 credits, with 6 credits worth of work, falling behind almost always snowballs into failing the course. Always touch base if you feel stuck or overwhelmed.

Emergency Escape Lever

If you find that ALP is overwhelming for reasons that are not possible to remedy, there is an option to focus on the WR 115 portion of the class to salvage a passing grade. This will entail not attending the WR 121 portion of the class (unless you really want to), and you will take the WR 115 final exam instead of the WR 121 final exam. We will do our best to avoid this outcome.

Academic Dishonesty, in any form, is not tolerated. Any plagiarism or use of someone else's writing (including sentences or phrases), information, or ideas without proper attribution and citations – intentional or accidental – may result in an F on the paper or for the course.

Regarding Self-Plagiarism

Do not submit any papers you have written for another class or instructor even if you, yourself, were the one who wrote the paper. Please speak with me if you have any questions or would like clarification on what constitutes self-plagiarism.

Regarding Email

One of the primary ways we'll stay in contact is through email. Though not graded, emails are important and will be expected to be professional. I do my best to respond to emails Monday through Friday, but I typically do not check my email over the weekend. Complex questions are best saved for office hours (listed at the top of the syllabus, but also by appointment).

Official Stuff from the College

Incompletes

If you have completed approximately 80 percent of the course work by the end of the term but are unable, for reasons that are generally not your fault, to complete the rest, I will grant you an incomplete. Please keep in mind that the WR 115 final is worth a full 30% of your grade--incompletes are not commonly offered and are reserved for unique situations.

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 there's anything I can do to improve your learning environment. If you think you might have a disability, but you are not sure, contact Disability Services, 917-4789.

LBCC Non-Discrimination Policy

Everyone is welcome at LBCC, regardless of whether they are black, white, Latino, native, gay, straight, Christian, Muslim, Jewish, male, female, transgendered, married, disabled, a veteran, a non-English speaker, an immigrant, or any number of other categories not listed here. What is more, LBCC sees our differences as a source of strength and an important part of education.

Writing Center

From invention to revision, beginning to end, the LBCC Writing Center can help you take your writing to the next level. Please feel free to drop in during regular hours to work one-on-one with a Writing Assistant. In addition to your draft, bring your assignment 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.

Regarding this Syllabus

This syllabus may evolve as the needs of the class change. You will be notified if any changes are made.