Linn Benton Community College

WR 121 Fall 2019

## Instructor Information and Availability

Instructor: Lani Davidson

E-mail address: davidsl@linnbenton.edu

Office hours: T 12:00-1:00, TH 6:00-7:00 online

Office number: BC 123

## Course Information

Course name: WR 121

CRN: 25892

Scheduled time/days: T/TH 3:30-4:50

Number of credits: 3

Classroom(s): BC 205

## Course Materials

Required:

* *They Say, I Say* 4th edition
* Free Canvas account

## Course Description

WR 121 is dedicated to the kinds of reading, writing, and discussion that are expected in college courses. You will explore the craft and process of writing and produce several original essays that demonstrate your abilities in self-examination, critical analysis, organization, and development. Our primary focus will be on skills required across disciplines (namely, the ability to understand and respond to a text, to develop and defend your own ideas, and to integrate sources with your own thinking). We will also consider mechanical and grammatical issues, and you will be responsible for observing the rules of standard English in all coursework.

## Student Learning Outcomes

WR 121 students should learn 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.

# Class Policies

## What to Expect from Me

I will respond to every email sent to me and always within 24 hours Monday through Friday and once over the weekend. Keep in mind also that major assignments like essays will be graded within two weeks of the day they were turned in (I try very hard for sooner!). Grades will be available through “Grades” found on the navigation bar in Canvas.

## What I Expect from You

This is a demanding course that will require hard work, dedication, and self-direction. You need to take control of the learning experience and expect to do a great deal of independent work. You must take responsibility for pacing yourself and keeping up with assignments. Log onto Canvas regularly and talk to me if you are confused or having difficulties with any aspect of the class or the technology. My goal is to make sure you learn, but I cannot achieve this goal unless you are an equal partner in this experience.

Additionally, since this is a 3-credit course, it requires 3 hours of class time a week, and you should expect to devote several additional hours (2-3 hours for each hour in class) outside of class time doing independent reading, researching, and writing—that adds up to ***6-9 hours a week*** completing your work for this course. This may seem like a lot of time, but you need to keep in mind that this is an advanced writing course that will help you gain the important writing skills needed to be successful in college.

## Grading

Your course grade will be determined by the following assignments. Notice that the final paper is worth a quarter of your grade and you must receive a passing grade on the paper to pass the class. Additionally, failure to turn in any of the three essays will result in failure of the course.

* Essay #1 – 20%
* Essay #2 – 25%
* Essay #3 – 30%
* Reading Responses – 20%
* Attendance and participation – 15%
1. Essays **(75%)**

There will be three major essays in the term, and they will focus on the main academic writing genres, such as argument and analysis. I will explain the particulars of each essay as we move through the term. The final essay will be the common final assignment for all WR 121 classes at LB.

1. Reading Responses **(20%)**

This is a weekly assignment that will probably look a little different each week, but the goal will always be to help you deepen your understanding of and critical thinking about the readings assigned that week. Sometimes you’ll write a summary, sometimes I’ll provide questions for you to answer in a super short essay, and sometimes I’ll ask you to annotate a text.

1. Attendance and Participation (**15%)**

Students can miss 1 full week of class without incurring a penalty to your final grade. Life happens, people get sick, and this policy should allow students to rest and heal without spreading germs. After 2 absences, each further absence will penalize the final grade by 3%.

I will assign you a participation grade at the middle and end of the term. I’ll calculate the grade based on how well I know your voice and what you think about the issues discussed in class. If you are uncomfortable being very vocal in class (keep in mind that *no one* can get by without talking in class at all), come see me during office hours to make sure I know your voice and your thoughts.

### In my class, only exceptional work receives an A grade. Good work receives a B, and average work receives a C. Deficient work will be awarded a D or an F. You will be provided with a rubric for every writing assignment in our class so that you know exactly what is required of you and what I expect to see at each level of grading. You are encouraged to use this rubric to grade yourself before you turn in an assignment to me—especially since I will be using the same rubric to calculate your score.

### Grade inflation is a serious problem in education, and in recent years I have revised my grading practices to combat this inflation. Please review these articles or talk to me for more information:

### <http://www.usnews.com/opinion/blogs/economic-intelligence/2013/12/26/why-college-grade-inflation-is-a-real-problem-and-how-to-fix-it>

### <http://chronicle.com/article/To-Stop-Grade-Inflation-Just/132415/>

### <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/angelina-massoia/the-new-normal-the-proble_b_6146236.html>

### Let me be clear: *it is absolutely possible to get an A in this class!* 25% of my students last term got As. However, simply completing all of the requirements for the class does not guarantee you an A, and a B is also a good grade for my course—41% of last term’s students got Bs.

Final Grade Calculation:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Letter Grade | Percentage | Performance |
| A | 90-100% | Excellent Work |
| B | 80-89% | Good Work |
| C | 70-79% | Average Work |
| D | 60-69% | Poor Work |
| F | 0-59% | Failing Work |

### Late Assignment Policy

# Late assignments will be docked 5% for each day that they are late. Every student gets 3 extensions that each grant an extra 4 days to work, but you must email me *before* 24 hours before the due date to let me know you’re using an extension.

Please keep in mind that a technical problem with your own software, hardware, or Internet connection is not a genuine emergency or excuse. For this reason, I suggest you ALWAYS back-up your work in another location other than your home computer and, at the same time, know what other computer you can use in case that your system is down. For example, you can always use the computer labs at Clark College, but if these are not convenient for you, consider other options. Can you get to your work computer, the public library, a friend’s house who has computer access? Give yourself a backup! If your technical problems have to do with Canvas, please contact me or the eLearning Department as indicated under eLearning Help below.

## Classroom Policies

### Class Conduct

In our physical classroom, we will discuss difficult and controversial topics, and so students need to be able to disagree politely. Arguments can and should be backed up with quality evidence whenever possible, and if a student is getting worked up about a topic, he or she should step out of the classroom for a moment to calm down. Name-calling, yelling, and rudeness will NOT be tolerated.

### Cell Phones

I take cell phone usage in class very seriously. If I catch you on your phone during class, I will ask you to sing “I’m a Little Teapot” with the actions in front of the class and put your cell phone on the whiteboard until class is over.

### Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the theft of another's words or ideas. It results from dishonesty, carelessness or a combination of both. Be honest and careful. Document your sources; attribute ideas to their owners. DO NOT purchase or download a paper from the Internet. It is VERY easy for an instructor to identify and track plagiarized works! If you are having problems with an assignment, talk with me rather than resort to a tactic that could jeopardize your academic and professional future. **Plagiarism will result in failure of the course, and I will forward your name to the Dean of Students who may elect to eject you from the college or place you on probation.**

### MLA Guidelines

Format your paper following **2016 MLA** guidelines. The general guidelines are as follows:

* Essays must be typed and double-spaced.
* You must use standard 12-point font (Times New Roman) and 1-inch margins on all sides of the page.
* The left margin must be justified and the right unjustified.
* You do not need a title page. Type your name, my name, the class, and the date in the upper left corner of the first page of the essay.
* Do not add extra line spaces between paragraphs.
* Number each page and include your last name before the page number.
* All essays should have a correctly written works cited page. All entries must conform to MLA format.

Look at this website for more help: <https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html>

# College Policies

## LBCC Email and Course Communications

You are responsible for all communications sent to your LBCC email account. You are required to use your LBCC provided email account for all email communications at the College. You may access your LBCC student email account through Student Email.

## Disability and Access Statement

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 the 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 visit the [**CFAR Website**](https://www.linnbenton.edu/cfar) for steps on how to apply for services or call (541) 917-4789.

## Statement of Inclusion

To promote academic excellence and learning environments that encourage multiple perspectives and the free exchange of ideas, all courses at LBCC will provide students the opportunity to interact with values, opinions, and/or beliefs different than their own in safe, positive and nurturing learning environments. LBCC is committed to producing culturally literate individuals capable of interacting, collaborating and problem-solving in an ever-changing community and diverse workforce.

## Title IX Reporting Policy

If you or another student are the victim of any form of sexual misconduct (including dating/domestic violence, stalking, sexual harassment), or any form of gender discrimination, LBCC can assist you. You can [report](https://linnbenton-advocate.symplicity.com/public_report/index.php/pid073717) a violation of our sexual misconduct policy directly to our Title IX Coordinator. You may also report the issue to a faculty member, who is required to notify the Coordinator, or you may make an appointment to speak confidentially to our Advising and Career Center by calling 541-917-4780.

## Public Safety/Campus Security/[Emergency Resources](http://www.linnbenton.edu/public-safety-emergency-planning%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank):

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

From any LBCC phone, you may alternatively dial extension 411 or 4440. LBCC has a [public safety app](http://lbccpublicsafety.mobapp.at/landing/Desktop%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) available for free. We encourage people to download it to their cell phones. Public Safety also is the home for LBCC's Lost & Found. They provide escorts for safety when needed. Visit them to learn more.

# Campus Resources

## Tutoring

Learning Annex offers drop-in help, and the Learning and Career Center offers one-on-one consulting by appointment for writing assignments from all courses. For more information: (541) 757-8944, ext. 5101

# Changes to the Syllabus

I reserve the right to change the contents of this syllabus due to unforeseen circumstances. You will be given notice of relevant changes in class through a Canvas announcement or through LBCC e-mail.

# Class Calendar or Schedule

Print the calendar or class schedule on its own page, preferably the last, so that students can easily find this resource.

* Week 1: Topic
* Week 2: Topic
* Week 3: Topic
* Week 4: Topic
* Week 5: Topic
* Week 6: Topic
* Week 7: Topic
* Week 8: Topic
* Week 9: Topic
* Week 10: Topic
* Final: Date, Time and Location

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week | Readings | Activities | Due dates |
| 1 | * Tuesday: Chapter 1
* Thursday: Chapter 2
 |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |  |
| 5 |  |  |  |
| 6 |  |  |  |
| 7 |  |  |  |
| 8 |  |  |  |
| 9 |  |  |  |
| 10 |  |  |  |
| Final |  |  |  |